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EUROPEAN MUSEUM ACADEMY AWARDS

At a colourful ceremony held at Den Gamle By (The Old Town), Aarhus, Denmark the results of the Micheletti Award and the DASA Award were announced.

THE MICHELETTI AWARD was presented to CHAPLIN'S WORLD BY GRÉVIN, Coursier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland. The name of Charlie Chaplin is known throughout the world, and his life can be divided into three sections. He was born into poverty in the East End of London in 1889 and abandoned with his half-brother, later earning a living as a vaudeville artist. After emigrating to the U.S. at the age of 21 he became a worldwide icon, considered to be one of the most important figures in the history of the film industry. He was a comic, director, a gifted musician and dancer – he wrote, directed and edited all his later films himself – and started United Artists. In the McCarthy years of the 1950s he was forced out of the U.S. and spent the rest of his life in the mansion where the museum has been housed since 2015. Exhibits cover the three parts of his life, with a strong emphasis on storytelling through experience, with explanations and some interactives. The storytelling element does not shy away from the difficulties of Chaplin's life and his humanitarian and social ambitions, as well as the perfection he demanded in his film work. Chaplin was a very outspoken left-wing thinker, speaking out against racism, greed and war and many of his opinions can be seen directly and indirectly in his films.

The judges said: Our warmest congratulations go to the whole team. For a museum on the subject of film and popular culture to include so many aspects of 20th-century history is rare. The museum goes far beyond the traditional famous person storytelling and puts all aspects of Chaplin's life into perspective against a general historical background. The exhibits are of exceptional quality, both technically and in engaging the interest of visitors. The economic model, including exploration of businesses and events, is an interesting one, which could provide guidance for other museums. Chaplin embodied the history of the 20th century in an outstanding way and details of his life and views continue to fascinate visitors. An excellent visitor experience is backed up by commendable use of projections of outstanding quality combined with well-researched historical detail.

THE DASA AWARD this year goes to the STATE MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY CHEMNITZ (SMAC), Germany. The listed historic monument designed by Erich Mendelsohn (1930) was originally one of the department stores of the Schocken company. Expropriated by the Nazi in 1938, after the war it was part of the Kaufhof chain until 2001. It was transformed by the Saxony State Office for Archaeology in 2014 to become the archaeological museum of the region. The exhibitions focus on how a specific region has changed over a period of 300,000 years of human history, illustrating how the territory of the modern Free State of Saxony has evolved, through the influence of humans and against the background of the environment and climate, from a natural landscape first into an agricultural landscape and eventually into a modern cultural landscape. As well as fulfilling its primary purpose, the SMAC makes an important contribution towards confronting the darkest period of German history in its historical overview of the history of the building and its owners. The exhibition is conceived and designed by Atelier Brückner. Design does not impose or compete with the objects, but it is cleverly developed and adds to the visitors' experience.

The judges said: This is one of the most interesting archaeological museums of recent years, thanks to the clear concept, the explanation/storyline and the excellent design. It is praiseworthy that the museum does justice to the exceptional architecture and history of the building in which it is housed. In its exhibitions there is a balance between the curators' knowledge and the designer's implementation and display design. Its meticulous and beautiful scenography makes the presentations accessible to all generations. The exhibitions stimulate visitors to explore the space, to discover the great variety of interactive media, the beauty of the objects on show, and to learn about mankind and the environment in prehistoric times and beyond. Its emphasis on excellence and the importance of lifelong learning makes it a worthy winner of this year's DASA Award.

LIST OF FINALISTS FOR THE 2017 EUROPEAN MUSEUM ACADEMY AWARDS

Micheletti Award Finalists

- Kazerne Dossin, Museum, Memorial and Research Centre on Holocaust and Human Rights, Mechelen, Belgium
- War Childhood Museum, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Estonian National Museum, Tartu, Estonia
- Museu de História Natural da Ciência: Galeria da Biodiversidade, Porto, Portugal
- Chaplin's World By Grévin, Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland

DASA Award Finalists

- Tirpitz, Varde Museums, Varde, Denmark
- Musée Wurth, Erstein, France
- SMAC Staatliches Museum für Archäologie Chemnitz, Germany
- Rijksmuseum Boerhaave, Leiden, The Netherlands
- Museum of Communication, Bern, Switzerland

THE EUROPEAN MUSEUM ACADEMY (EMA) is a non-profit Foundation established to reflect museums at the international level, to promote research on museography and museology as a high cultural activity, to provide constructive criticism and promote discussion on new exhibitions and museums, and to diffuse museological knowledge and ideas among members of the profession. It aims to promote the conception and development of new as well as of traditional museums as tools of social change. The Micheletti Award is organised to illustrate best museum practice, in co-operation with the Micheletti Foundation. Thirty-eight countries are currently represented within the EMA organisation. www.europeanmuseumacademy.eu.

THE LUIGI MICHELETTI FOUNDATION (Fondazione Biblioteca Archivio Luigi Micheletti) LMF (established in 1981 in Brescia) is a research centre specialising in 20th-century history. Scientific research covers ideologies of the 20th century, wars, the ambivalence of technical progress, industrialization and labour, conspicuous consumption, the origin of environmentalism. The ideological, social and material contemporary history, led by international researches and conferences, is linked to a rich collection: writings, postcards, photos, posters, videos, audio documents, but also objects, furniture and machines. It is in this context that the **musil – Museum of Industry and Labour** – was created, in order to focus on the recovery of productive plants and whole urban areas. www.fondazionemicheletti.eu; www.musilbrescia.it; www.luigimichelettiaward.eu; www.luigimichelettiaward.eu

DASA WORKING WORLD EXHIBITION (DASA Arbeitswelt Ausstellung) DASA in Dortmund covers the past, present and future worlds of work in an area of about 13.000 m², with 12 exhibition units and three-dimensional exhibits. It is the permanent educational facility of the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Care (Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin) and informs the public about the world of work, its status for the individual and society, and the importance of tailoring work to human requirements. The relationship between people, work and technology is demonstrated and explained in a variety of ways in the exhibition. The central theme is to establish human values at work, such as good health and dignity. DASA focuses on people and their physical, intellectual, social and cultural needs. www.dasa-dortmund.de

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