



Prix Littéraire
Bernard Heidsieck
Centre Pompidou

Press release

September 2023

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Winners of the International Bernard Heidsieck – Centre Pompidou literary prize 2023

Thursday, September 7, 9:30 pm, level -1
As part of the Extra! festival

The jury of the International Bernard Heidsieck - Centre Pompidou Literary Prize has selected the winners **Charles Pennequin (France)** and **Jiří Valoch (Czech Republic)** for this 2023 edition. The prize is supported by Archivio Conz, Berlin, a collection of Lettrism, concrete poetry and Fluxus.

Two awards were presented during the evening :

- The honorary prize, which rewards an author for the remarkable aspect of his or her work as a whole, was awarded to **Jiří Valoch**, a major and historical figure of action poetry.
- The Bernard Heidsieck – Centre Pompidou literary prize of the Year 2023, which honors an author for his or her literary creation outside of books, was awarded to **Charles Pennequin**.

Jury members :

President

Frederic Acquaviva, sound artist and composer,
specialist in twentieth-century literary avant-gardes
2023 jury members

2023 jury members

Thomas Millroth (writer and art critic)
Cia Rinne (poet)

Permanent members

Jean-Max Colard (Centre Pompidou)
Mica Gherghescu (Bibliothèque Kandinsky
-Centre Pompidou)
Nathalie Heidsieck (daughter of Bernard Heidsieck)
Michaël Batalla (Centre international
de poésie de Marseille)
Hubertus von Amelunxen (Archivio Conz)



The Bernard Heidsieck - Centre Pompidou literary prize was created in 2017 as part of the Extra! festival of living literature, with the support of the Fondazione Bonotto, and since 2022 with the support of Archivio Conz. This international literature prize intends to honor and reward multiple and diverse forms of creation and dissemination of literature, often other than books: sound poetry, performance, performed lecture, reading, film-poem, radio creation, exposed literature, digital literature, etc. Placed under the aegis of the poet Bernard Heidsieck (1928-2014), a true pioneer of sound poetry, this literary prize of the Centre Pompidou thus asserts its great singularity.

Honorary Prize 2023: Jiří Valoch

Since 1964, Jiří Valoch has been creating visual and conceptual poetry, photographic concepts, text installations and conceptual drawings. In awarding him the Prix d'Honneur Bernard Heidsieck-Centre Pompidou, the jury is underscoring the importance of this work of visual and conceptual poetry, which began to take shape in the mid-1960s in the Czechoslovakia, then under the sway of the Communist regime, on the bangs of the European and New York networks of conceptual art, of which he was nevertheless an integral part. And we hope that the Prize will contribute to the enlargement of his international reputation.



Jiří Valoch (1946, Brno, Czechoslovakia, lives in Ludikov, Moravian Kars) is an artist, curator, collector and one of the most important donateurs in the czech contemporary art history. He graduated in Czech and German studies and aesthetics from the Faculty of Philosophy at the Masaryk University in Brno (1965-1970), with a thesis on the development and typology of visual and sound poetry.

In 1964, he started out his visual poetry with creation of non-semantic and purely visual aesthetic structures, returning to semantic meaning starting from 1970, nevertheless with extreme reduction of word content.

Since the late 1960s, he complemented the medium of typewriting with new forms of expression – sparsely used drawings, artists' books and photography. At the beginning of the 1970s, he produced intimate photo-pieces, worked with textual interventions in negative and positive photographic film reels.

In 1970, he also realized collective land art realizations. He left photography as a medium in 1975, the year he also published his first monograph *Poesia Visiva* (in the Beniamino Carucci publishing house in Rome). By the end of the 1960s Valoch got closely engaged with conceptual art. He took part in the Fluxus movement, was in close contact with the authors of the Italian *Poesia Visiva* movement, participated in the events of the cultural radical platform CAYC (director: Jorge Glusberg, Argentina).

In 1968, he held the exhibition «Computer Graphic», the fifth presentation of computer art in the world and the first in Eastern Europe. The same year he participated in the New Tendencies movement in Zagreb.

In 1974, he participated as a curator in realization of the unofficial one-day exhibition «The White Space in the White Space» (authors: Stano Filko, Miloš Laky, Ján Zavorský). From 1968-1972 he was a member of the Klub konkrētistů (Concretists' Club). Among his salient curatorial efforts are the exhibitions of Stanislav Kolíbal, Eva Kmentová, Karel Malich, or Milan Knížák which he was able to organize during the political thawing of the 1980s in the Brno House of Arts.

From 2002, he has been working as an independent curator, following the work of the then youngest generation of artists in the field of post-conceptual art and geometric abstraction.

In 2002 he donated a large part of his collection to the National Gallery (4,000 works of art), and in 2014-2017 he handed over his archive and collection to the Moravian Gallery in Brno (estimated size of the collection is 15,000 items).

The donation to the Moravian Gallery in Brno and the creation of the permanent exhibition «ART IS HERE: New Art after 1945» contributed significantly to the establishment of conceptualism and new forms of art in the context of Czech museum and gallery institutions.



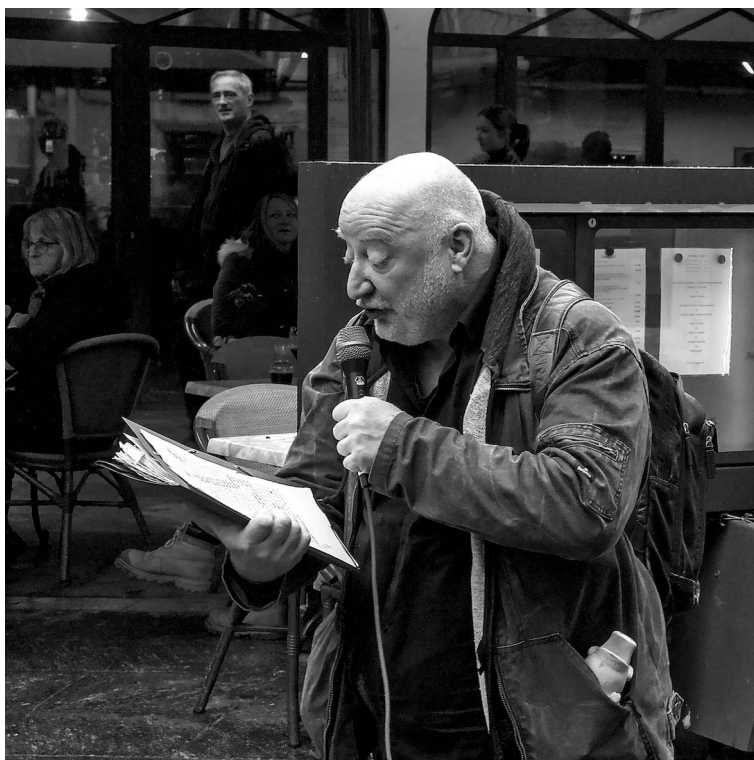
Jiří Valoch, *Dream*, 1974,
b-w vintage photography (series of 3),
18x13 cm, unsigned, published
in *Jiří Valoch's* first monography,
Poesia visiva, Roma, 1974
Exhibition 05/07/2022 Gandy
Gallery. Courtesy of the artist
and Gandy gallery

Jiří Valoch's archive and collection,
Moravian gallery, 2023

Prize of the Year 2023: Charles Pennequin

Charles Pennequin (b. 1965, Cambrai, France) is a French writer and poet known for his reading-performances. Pennequin also produces drawings and videos and since the 1990s, has mainly published poetry. He has given numerous performances in France and internationally, and has contributed to a number of poetry magazines (Nioques, Poezi proleter, Facial, Java, Ouste, TXT, among others). Pennequin's latest book *Petite bande* was published by P.O.L in May 2023.

The jury sought to honor the contribution of a unique, expressive, and outspoken presence in the French and international literary scene—an author with a diverse body of work spanning various forms such as texts, readings, public performances, drawings, and more. This literary creation remains untouched by fleeting literary trends but owes its existence entirely to the unwavering determination of its creator



Charles Pennequin,
in a performance in the city of Céret
(France), 2022 © Thierry de Lavau



Practical information

The 7th Bernard Heidsieck-Centre Pompidou International Prize for Literature has been presented on Thursday, September 7, 2023 9:30 pm on the opening night of Extra!, the Centre Pompidou's festival of living literature.

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