

NEWS RELEASE

Rolex Arts Initiative Mentors Margaret Atwood, Patrice Chéreau, Gilberto Gil, William Kentridge, Lin Hwai-min, Walter Murch Select Protégés

Six Emerging Artists Will Spend Year of Creative Collaboration

Geneva, 25 May, 2012 – Six of the world's greatest artists have chosen their Protégés for an exciting year of creative collaboration and inspiration under the **Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative**. During 2012-13, Margaret Atwood (literature), Patrice Chéreau (theatre), Gilberto Gil (music), Lin Hwai-min (dance), William Kentridge (visual arts) and Walter Murch (film) will mentor emerging artists in their realm.

The Protégés, all exceptional artists in their own right, were selected by the Mentors after a year-long, global search. They are:

Dance: Eduardo Fukushima (Brazil)

Selected by Mentor Lin Hwai-min (Taiwan)

Brazilian dancer and choreographer Eduardo Fukushima, 28, graduated in communication of the physical arts from the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo in 2011. He trained with many of Brazil's leading figures in contemporary dance and created his first solo piece in 2004. More recently, he was acclaimed for *Between Contentions* (2008) and *How to Overcome the Great Tiredness?* (2009/2010). Both pieces follow a line of investigation that starts from gesture and movement.

Film: Sara Fgaier (Italy)

Selected by Mentor Walter Murch (United States)

Italian film editor Sara Fgaier, 29, studied history of film at Bologna University and taught herself the elements of her profession. Her first editing job was *La bocca del lupo* (*The Mouth of the Wolf*, 2009), the hauntingly poetic, award-winning documentary on which she also worked as archival researcher and first assistant director with director Pietro Marcello. In 2011, she edited Marcello's *Il silenzio di Pelešjan* (*The Silence of Pelešjan*) and Michele Manzolini and Federico Ferrone's *Il treno va a Mosca* (*The Train to Moscow*).

Literature: Naomi Alderman (United Kingdom)

Selected by Mentor Margaret Atwood (Canada)

British author Naomi Alderman, 37, graduated from Oxford in 1996 and received a Master's in creative writing from the University of East Anglia in 2003. Three years later, she published *Disobedience*, a novel about the tensions and accommodations between religion and modern life, for which she won the 2006 Orange Award for New Writers and, in 2007, was named *The Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year. Published in 10 languages, the book was followed by *The Lessons* (2010), which investigates the power and problems of wealth, and the forthcoming *The Liars' Gospel*, a novel about Jesus from the perspective of the Pharisees. She also writes computer games and recently co-created *Zombies, Run!*, a successful iPhone app and audio adventure for runners.

Music: Dina El Wedidi (Egypt)

Selected by Mentor Gilberto Gil (Brazil)

Egyptian singer/songwriter Dina El Wedidi, 24, started composing songs when she was young and during university in Cairo where she studied oriental languages. El Wedidi's songs are infused with

the political concerns of Egypt. From 2007 to 2010, El Wedidi worked as a singer and actress with the El Warsha Theatre Troupe, exploring Egyptian folklore and performing in such unlikely places as a Cairo prison. During this period (2009 to 2010), she also performed classical Egyptian and Arab songs with the Habayebna band, before establishing her own band in 2011.

Theatre: Michal Borczuch (Poland)

Selected by Mentor Patrice Chéreau (France)

Polish theatre director Michal Borczuch, 32, received Master's degrees from both Kraków's Academy of Fine Arts and Ludwik Solski State School of Drama, where he currently lectures. Since 2005, he has been directing plays in Polish theatres and at international cultural festivals, beginning with works by modern Polish playwrights and moving to the classics. He is known for mould-breaking productions that often challenge popular trends and tastes. Among his most recent adaptations are *Brand*, *The City*, *The Chosen Ones* (2011), and *Hans, Dora and Wolf* (2012), inspired by Sigmund Freud.

Visual Arts: Mateo López (Colombia)

Selected by Mentor William Kentridge (South Africa)

Colombian visual artist Mateo López, 33, spent a year studying architecture at Javieriana University but graduated in fine arts from the University of the Andes. His early studies in architecture equipped him to consider drawing in terms of time and space, and three rather than two dimensions. López is known for setting up his studio in public and for using memories of his personal journeys in his work, which is a trademark of his installations. The installation *Viaje sin movimiento* (*Travelling without movement*, 2008-2010) was acquired by New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA).

"Since 2002, the Rolex Arts Initiative has brought together older and emerging artists for a year of creative collaboration," said Rebecca Irvin, head of philanthropy at Rolex. "As a new mentoring cycle begins, we look forward to seeing the conversations that will take place, the ideas that will emerge and the relationships that will be forged. We know that the Protégés – as well as the Mentors – are in for a unique, life-changing experience."

Each Protégé receives 25,000 Swiss francs to support his or her participation in the programme. At the conclusion of the mentoring year, he or she is eligible for an additional 25,000 Swiss francs for the creation of a new work.

Since Rolex founded the Arts Initiative more than a decade ago, some of the world's most exciting emerging artists have been nurtured through the programme by renowned masters. Past mentors are: John Baldessari, Tahar Ben Jelloun, Trisha Brown, Sir Colin Davis, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Brian Eno, Hans Magnus Enzensberger, William Forsythe, Stephen Frears, Sir Peter Hall, David Hockney, Rebecca Horn, Anish Kapoor, Jiří Kylián, Toni Morrison, Mira Nair, Youssou N'Dour, Jessye Norman, Martin Scorsese, Peter Sellars, Álvaro Siza, Wole Soyinka, Julie Taymor, Saburo Teshigawara, Kate Valk, Mario Vargas Llosa, Robert Wilson, Zhang Yimou and Pinchas Zukerman.

Past protégés are: Sahel Al-Hiyari, Antonio García Ángel, Aditya Assarat, Edem Awumey, Nahuel Perez Biscayart, Selina Cartmell, Josep Caballé-Domenech, David Aaron Carpenter, Alejandro Cesarco, Lara Foot, Ben Frost, Nicholas Hlobo, Masanori Handa, Annemarie Jacir, Sang Jijia, Julia Leigh, Federico León, Aurelio Martínez, Josué Méndez, Celina Murga, Susan Platts, Anani Dodji Sanouvi, Junaid Jemal Sendi, Lee Serle, Tracy K. Smith, Jason Akira Somma, Matthias Weischer, Tara June Winch and Maya Zbib.

For further information, please visit rolexmentorprotege.com, or contact:

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