

Appendix II: An Explanation of the 2005 Prince Claus Awards

The Prince Claus Awards

The Prince Claus Awards have recognised the artistic and intellectual qualities of organisations and individuals since 1997. They support innovation, engagement and perseverance in the areas of culture and development. The Prince Claus Fund interprets culture in a broad sense to encompass all kinds of artistic and intellectual disciplines along with science, media and sport.

Humour and Satire

Over the years the Prince Claus Fund has chosen a number of themes that shape its contribution to the relation between culture and development. This year, the Prince Claus Fund has sought examples of humour and satire for its activities and awards. In the Fund's view, humour and satire are not only innovative in their singularity, but also convey quality and a certain degree of social commitment. Humour operates on the premise of distance: a critical distance that is taken from the self-evidence of social life. It is this critical distance from the social order that allows for the opening of spaces of creative freedom in which humour is employed to reflect, criticise or offer relief from the tensions of society. By presenting a distorted – yet often an all-too-real – picture, humour alleviates situations that are marked by tragedy, trauma or despair. It can function as an important vehicle for consolation by making life – even temporarily – a little bit more bearable. Satire – the particular form of humour that confronts, exposes and rebels against the powers that be – could therefore be understood as essentially subversive.

The 2005 Awards Committee

Niek Biegman, chairman, member of the Board of the Prince Claus Fund, photographer, formerly the Netherlands' permanent representative at NATO. He lives in Amsterdam and Janjina (Croatia)

Aracy Amaral, art historian, critic and curator, São Paulo (Brazil)

Sadik Al-Azm, Professor of Philosophy, 2004 Erasmus Award laureate, Damascus (Syria)

Goenawan Mohamad, journalist and poet, Jakarta (Indonesia)

Pedro Pimenta, film-maker, Maputo (Mozambique) and Johannesburg (South Africa)

Claudia Roden, culinary historian and writer, 1999 Prince Claus Laureate, Cairo (Egypt) and London (the United Kingdom)

Mick Pearce, architect, 2003 Prince Claus laureate, Harare (Zimbabwe)/ Melbourne (Australia)

Prince Claus Fund for
Culture and Development

The Prince Claus Fund is a platform for intercultural exchange. Working with individuals and organisations that are mainly located in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Fund organises activities and publications on contemporary themes in the field of culture and development. The Prince Claus Awards form part of this policy.

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