

Achtung: Sperrvermerk bis Freitag, 10. Januar 2014, 14:00 Uhr

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## **'Keeping Past and Future in View'** **The 2014 Goslar Kaiserring goes to Wiebke Siem**

GOSLAR. Wiebke Siem has been chosen to receive the 2014 Goslar Kaiserring, one of the most prestigious of contemporary art prizes. The news was announced today by the Mayor Goslar, Oliver Junk, at the traditional New Year reception in the Kaiserpfalz. The 59-year-old sculptress and object-artist, who lives in Berlin, will be presented with the Kaiserring in Goslar on 11 October 2014.

In their citation, the Kaiserring jury described Wiebke Siem as an artist who was in equal measure both very human and very intellectual. "Often we assume this to be a contradiction, especially in an artist. Siem's sculptures have an enormous aura or presence. In spite of their in some ways familiar character, they make it very clear that they are art. Objects at which we can only be amazed. Their strength lies in the way they mix different languages: the familiar and the unfamiliar, the known and the unknown. They are deeply uncanny. Siem has never made compromises in her art, either in its execution or in its aims. Her achievement consists in creating new objects, in an age of dematerialization, which speak to us and in the process keep the past and the future in view,' the jury's citation continued. Wiebke Siem is very pleased at the award, and feels 'greatly honoured'.

### **Wiebke Siem**

The artist was born in Kiel in 1954, and studied at the Hochschule für bildende Künste (College of Visual Arts) in Hamburg. In the 1990s, she got to know work groups in which she translated and defamiliarized everyday things such as clothes, toys, wigs, hats and bags into oversize abstract objects made of wood or cloth. In later works Siem often went back to childhood impressions for her inspiration. She questions social role images while at the same time making reference to the history of art. Siem's works have been displayed both at home and abroad, for example in the Guggenheim Museum, New York, the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, and the Kunsthalle Hamburg. In 2009 the Neues Museum in Nuremberg staged an extensive exhibition of her works ('Die Fälscherin' [The Faker]). In 2013/14 she was awarded a scholarship to work at the International Artist House Villa Concordia in Bamberg.

### **Goslar Kaiserring**

The Goslar Kaiserring is one of the most prestigious modern art prizes worldwide. It has been awarded since 1975. The first winners were Henry Moore, Max Ernst and Alexander Calder. They were followed by such pioneers of contemporary art as Joseph Beuys, Gerhard Richter, Nam June Paik, Christo, Cindy Sherman and Jenny Holzer. Wiebke Siem's predecessors as winners in recent years include Matthew Barney, Andreas Gursky, Bridget Riley, David Lynch and Olafur Eliasson.