

**Prince Claus Awards Committee Report
2019 Next Generation Award
June 2019**

The Next Generation Prince Claus Award

The Next Generation Award is presented to an individual under the age of 35 for outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of culture and development. It honours an individual who is a role model for younger generations and whose cultural actions have a positive impact particularly on young people in their society. In keeping with the Prince Claus Fund's guiding principles, the award highlights significant contributions in regions where resources or opportunities for cultural expression, creative production and preservation of cultural heritage are limited.

Procedures

The Prince Claus Fund invites cultural experts from its global network to nominate candidates for the Next Generation Award. Research is carried out by the Fund's Bureau and second opinions are sourced for all nominations. The Prince Claus Awards Committee meets twice a year to consider the information about the nominated candidates and presents its recommendations to the Board of the Prince Claus Fund. The Next Generation Award is presented to the Laureate during the ceremony for the Prince Claus Awards in December at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam in the presence of members of the Royal Family and an international audience. The Next Generation Award is also presented to the recipient at a ceremony in their respective country by the Dutch Ambassador.

2019 Prince Claus Awards Committee

Manuel de Rivero (Chair), Architect and Urbanist, Lima, Peru

Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi, Curator and Visual Artist, Sharjah, Emirate of Sharjah

Sandra den Hamer, Director of the Eye Filmmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Amar Kanwar, Visual Artist and Filmmaker, Delhi, India

Tejumola Olaniyan, Professor of African and English Languages and Literature, Madison, US

Fariba Derakhshani is Programme Coordinator of the Awards and Secretary to the Awards Committee.

Policy and Criteria

The Prince Claus Fund maintains a broad view of culture open to all artistic and intellectual disciplines. The Next Generation Prince Claus Award is presented to artists and intellectuals in recognition of both the excellent quality of their work and their significant impact on the development of young people in their society. It recognises creative work that engages young people in the building of more inclusive, open-minded societies. It honours cultural endeavours that enable youth to explore issues related to gender, diversity and inclusion, and that allow young people to create alternative narratives and see their world in new and different ways. The Next Generation Award is given to individuals based mainly in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Outstanding quality is a *sine qua non* for the Next Generation Award. The quality of a laureate's work is assessed in professional and personal contexts and for its positive influence on cultural and social fields. The Next Generation Award recognises artistic and intellectual qualities,

experimentation and innovation, audacity and tenacity. It seeks to foster inspirational leadership and to enhance the positive impact of cultural expression on societies.

Recommendation for the 2019 Next Generation Award

2019 Next Generation Award

Mónica Ojeda Franco

Ecuador
Literature

Mónica Ojeda Franco (Guayaquil, 1988) is a novelist and poet, whose writings make us confront hidden and perplexing parts of our lives, our sexuality, our complicated mind landscape, not just from a young person's point of view but from a feminist, political, social and psychological point of view. Her intention is to look unflinchingly and to say what cannot be said about taboo subjects, confronting the abominable, the abject and the obscene in contemporary society.

Ojeda has a degree in Social Communication with a minor in Literature (Catholic University of Santiago de Guayaquil, Ecuador) and two Master's degrees (Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona), one in Literary Creation, the other in Theory and Criticism of Culture.

Acclaimed one of the best contemporary Latin American writers today, Ojeda is the author of a poetry collection *El ciclo de las piedras* ('The cycle of stones', 2015), a book of short stories *Caninos* ('Canines', 2017) and three novels. Influenced by writers such as de Sade and Bataille, she works within the horror genre, commenting on it and transcending it. Her treatment of mundane themes, such as family and school life, scare and shock us. The novels are marked by complex and gripping narratives, strong characterisation, swift tempo, humour, and a language that is simultaneously dense and lucid, intellectual and accessible.

Ojeda's first novel, *La desfiguración Silva* ('The Silva disfigurement', 2014) is an unsettling story concerning interchanges between a young artist and his fictional namesake from an older generation. It examines conflicting dualities between literature and cinema, history and story, theft and appropriation, art and crime.

Nefando ('Abominable/odious', 2016) is tense drama centred on interviews with six young people investigating why they included horrifying paedophile images in a video game they created for the deep web. It explores memories of childhood abuse, fear, the body as a battlefield and the limits of morality, as well as art as a means of expression. With multiple narrators and superb command of language, it offers philosophical reflection on language as a weapon to understand and confront the world.

Mandíbula ('Jaw', 2018) is a complex psychological thriller set in a women's college, an intense poetic exploration of fear, power, pain, perversity and sexual desire. It delves into victimhood, unspeakable secrets, cravings and damage in relationships between mothers and daughters, sisters, best friends, teachers and pupils. The fragmented structure features diverse registers and voices, and the richly textured prose is laced with scripts, parenthesis, counterpoints and a multitude of references to everything from classic literature and psychoanalysis to horror movies and the collective online terror stories known as creepypastas.



F o n d s

Mónica Ojeda is honoured:

- for her strong and innovative voice that expresses powerful truths about the troubling environment and experiences of the younger generations;
- for devising a new vocabulary and style to imaginatively convey explicit thoughts in a dynamic and persuasive but calm and non-judgemental way that creates space to think;
- for her unflinching exploration of the underbelly of human existence and perceptively engaging with unacknowledged or denied aspects of human sexuality and psychology;
- for examining fear, pain, vulnerability and perversity within trusted relationships and power structures, and showing how lives are damaged by such traumatic experiences;
- for her inventive reimagining of the novel, refashioning genres and integrating today's media and digital phenomena to articulate the evolving forms and languages of the next generation;
- for redefining writing as a dangerous exercise that uses intense language to produce and reveal experience, expressing seemingly inexpressible truths and restoring intimacy with instinct, the incomprehensible and terror; and
- for boldly mapping out her own aesthetic and intellectual path, and inspiring next-generation writers to fearlessly reshape the literary world.