



FOR: DIGITAL GRAFFITI AT ALYS BEACH

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JES VAN ZEE WITH ORLANDO-BASED AOA WINS 'BEST OF SHOW' AT DIGITAL GRAFFITI

The 11th annual international digital arts festival awarded \$10k in prizes

(ALYS BEACH, FL; May 24, 2018)—Celebrating 11 years of projection in Alys Beach, FL, held May 18-20, 2018, [Digital Graffiti](#) announced "Participation" by [Jes Van Zee](#) of [AOA](#), Orlando, FL as "Best of Show." The festival sponsored by [Christie](#) welcomed 25 artists from around the world to Northwest Florida's Scenic Highway 30A in South Walton County to showcase original digital artwork on the pristine white walls of Alys Beach's homes.

"The judges' selection of Jes Van Zee's work "Participation" as "Best of Show" underscored her use of interactive technology to break up and create new layers of associations and meaning, literally in the street," says Digital Graffiti curator Brett Phares. "The judges saw her piece as exemplar, especially in the way it welcomed and stirred those in attendance to interact with it."

The list of winners includes:

- Best of Show (\$5,000 prize): Jes Van Zee of AOA, Orlando, FL, "Participation"
- Curator's Choice (\$2,000 prize): [Vinay Khare](#), Pondicherry, India, "Chaos in String Theory"
- Special Recognition (\$1,000 prizes):
 - [Luzena Adams](#), New York, NY, "Alpha Omega"
 - [Cesar Yague](#), Alhaurín el Grande, Spain, "softporn"
 - [Sean Capone](#), New York, NY, "The Sky Report"

"AOA and I are incredibly honored that the curatorial staff selected "Participation" as "Best of Show" out of all of the pieces featured at the festival," says Jes Van Zee. "As an artist, I am incredibly lucky to receive such support from my organization, who are proud that this work was seen and acknowledged at Alys Beach. With the support of the resources at AOA, we were able to present the best possible vision of this piece to the audience and artists at Digital Graffiti. Being surrounded by immersive projections and talented artists at this beautiful location was nothing short of inspiring. We look forward to applying to next year's festival with a new, interactive projection that is already in the works."

In his pick for Curator's Choice, Phares says, "For Curator's Choice, I want to highlight certain work as the future of Digital Graffiti, and those artists who are practicing their art at a deeper level. Vinay Khare represents this for me, and I am very happy to help further his craft and his art."

A panel of art and industry experts led by Phares served as the jury for the festival and selected the winners. The panel included Florida State University College of Communication research associate and adjunct instructor Lucia Fishburne, journalist Evan Narcisse, executive director at New Orleans Film Society Fallon Young, Christie Digital media server solutions manager Geoffrey Platt, and director & creative technologist Jeff Grantz.

In addition to the juried competition, a select group of artists who participated in this year's Visiting Artist Residency were invited to create large-scale pieces at Digital Graffiti: 2017 "Best of Show" winner, [Kameron Neal](#) of Brooklyn, NY; Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) Motion Media Design department chair [John Colette](#), Savannah, GA; and [Emilia Forstreuter](#) of Berlin, Germany, who won special recognition for her project "Yonder" in the 2016 festival.

For more information about the festival, please visit digitalgraffiti.com.

ABOUT DIGITAL GRAFFITI

Digital Graffiti at Alys Beach is an innovative and dynamic event that celebrates the many possibilities found at the intersection of art and architecture. During the three-day event, dozens of digital artist finalists from around the globe are invited to showcase their original work and vie for cash prize awards in a juried art competition. Utilizing the latest technologies, the finalists' art is projected throughout the town on its iconic white walls, transforming Alys Beach into a vibrant canvas of light. For more information, visit digitalgraffiti.com.

ABOUT ALYS BEACH

Offering an unrivaled sense of escape, Alys Beach is an emerging community nestled along Northwest Florida's Scenic Highway 30A. Drawing inspiration from Bermuda and Antigua, Guatemala, Alys Beach's stark white walls and private courtyard homes create a harmonious, urban environment characterized by calmness and simplicity. When complete, a short walk through town will take one from the gorgeous white sand along the Gulf coast, through a thriving town center filled with a variety of shops and restaurants, along pathways lined with neighborhood parks, pools, and event spaces, culminating on a 20-acre nature preserve to the north with trails and boardwalks winding through cypress wetlands. For more information, please visit alysbeach.com.

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