



JONGEREN KLOOSTER

St. John the Theologian icon concourse

Declaration, july 14. 2021

The concourse for an icon for the Jongerenklooster (Young Monastery) provides us with a problem. We made a top-two out of the contributed icons, but could not decide to choose a winner. We decided to award two honorable mentions / prix d'honneur:.

1. The most convincing icon in the eyes of the young monastic community is the one of the old John the Theologian. The apostle as depicted on this icon is really seeking the eyes of the beholder, and asking to relate to it. Exactly what an icon for the Jongerenklooster should do: put the depicted saint in the presence of the beholder, and ask the beholder to relate to him. It is, however, not an option to reward the first prize to this icon. The terms of the concourse specifically ask for an icon of the *young* apostle, in his twenties. This is the crucial 'aggiornamento' of the concourse, and it is of great value to the community of the Jongerenklooster, that exists of people in their twenties.
2. The contribution closest to our goals was the icon of the young apostle saint John, seated at a bishop's chair. Why cannot the young people speak with authority - especially when he is chosen to be an apostle by Jesus Christ himself? Age - keep in mind that our monastic community consists of people in their twenties - is not the only criterion for the wisdom of a person. Also when the pupil John was in his twenties Christ must have seen the eagle coming.
This icon however did not convince us to be such a central icon in the spirituality of our monastery.

The most daring contribution is that of a young apostle John, throwing himself at the chest of Jesus, who clearly is both his friend and his master. The emotional dynamics of this painting is unparalleled by any other contribution to this concourse, and it is at the heart of what we are looking for.

Also this contribution however, is not an option to reward with the prize, since it is merely a *proposal*, not the icon itself. It would not be fair to reward this idea, and have it written as an icon afterwards.

The Jongerenklooster desires to reach the best solution, and so doing the Brotherhood decides to announce the competition again, under the following conditions:

Conditions

The format of the icon is to be 40x60 or 50x60 cm. The icon depicts a bust or sitting figure, either Saint John the Apostle or Saint John in the company of Christ, on a wooden base in the traditional technique of tempera or mosaic, the traditional iconographic type of a young character, but with the possibility of authenticity in terms of composition and with real gilding.

Minimal deviations are possible - freedom in terms of iconography and technique.

The spirituality of the portrayed character of John the Theologian as a young and beloved Christ's companion is a priority and a desired characteristic - since the icon will have its place in our monastery's chapel.

Jury

The choice of the icon will be made by the brotherhood of the monastery and the Reverend Catharinus van den Berg, the elder of the monastery - who in Serbia is represented by prof.dr. Milan Prosen, art historian of the Faculty of Applied Arts of the University of Belgrade.

Prize

Photographs of all competing icons will be presented to the Dutch public by means of social media and press releases. If this results in interest of possible buyers of icons - the winning icon excepted of course - the Jongerenklooster will establish the contact between the buyer and the artist.

Icons that make it through to the final preselection, will be awarded an honorable mention / prix d'honneur. The redemption prize for the selected icon is 1000 (thousand) euros.

Participants

Participants in the competition can be all students of The Faculty of Applied Arts as well as those who have graduated in the past 5 years (about which en evidence might be requested). The deadline for sending a photo of the icon would be 26. of September, 2021, the Feast of St. John's birth. Contact person Professor Milan Prosen milan.prosen@fpu.bg.ac.rs.