

Report: Jury Master Research Award

Chair: Vivian Sky Rehberg

Secretary: Sami Hammana

Jury members: Sepake Angiama, Richard Vijgen and Vincent van Velsen

The PZI Master graduates of the academic year 2019-2020, like every other graduate of the same year, had an unusual graduation trajectory. The COVID-19 pandemic meant that several measures had to be instituted, resulting in limited studio and workshop access. Surely, these measures weren't easy in terms of their graduation trajectory. It is also for this reason that the chair, secretary and jury of the PZI Master Research Award would like to start with a sincere expression of admiration for the impressive work of all the PZI Master Research Award nominees.

Jury members Sepake Angiama, Vincent van Velsen and Richard Vijgen spent many hours going through all the manifestations of the graduation work of the following PZI nominees: Paloma García García (Master Media Design: Experimental Publishing), Maïke Klip (Master Design), Ceci Sariol (Master Interior Architecture: Research + Design), Christine Ayo (Master Fine Art), Sonia Mangiapane (Master Media Design: Lens-Based) and Ada M Patterson (Master Education in Arts).

The aforementioned graduates had the opportunity to shortly present their projects and to answer any questions that the jury had. This has been the jury's impression of the work:

Paloma García García

The jury appreciated Paloma's research '*Cartographies of Counter-Speculation*'. The jury felt that the way that the research was conducted was very interesting, especially in the way that several interactive-workshops were held as a way to collectively think through counter-speculations on cartography. The jury did articulate that they felt a specific form of criticality to be missing, especially when talking about the precariousness of certain Rotterdam-based communities. Also, the immediate readability of said maps was questioned. The jury did proclaim that they are in agreement that this is a good project that mobilizes interesting speculative takes on map-making and would like to see further developments on the project.

Maïke Klip

The jury was impressed with Maïke's project '*A Compassionate Civil Servant*', in the sense that Maïke has shown to be willing to work with governmental structures that other artists only comment about. "*To take on the system itself is courageous*", as the jury said was emphasised numerous times. Simultaneously though, the jury also articulated that working within such structures problematizes a critical take on the inner workings of bureaucracy, which they felt was the case in this project. The jury did reinstate their admiration for not shying away from working with these governmental structures.

Ceci Sariol

The jury really enjoyed Ceci's work and research called '*SIM SOCIETY*'. The jury appreciated the presentation of the research project as it became clear how the thesis added a layer of complexity to *SIM SOCIETY*. Ceci has a methodological approach to making her work and it was clearly an original approach to thinking through interior architecture. One of the things that the jury pointed out as being particularly interesting, is that 'Reality' seemed to be the working-material for Ceci. Which added an extra layer of relevance to the project, especially in these current times and possible speculations on collective futures. The jury did point out that they felt that the form of the thesis was affirmative in some ways. All in all, the jury expressed that they were impressed with the fictional format as a way of thinking through complex socio-economic questions.

Christine Ayo

The jury was very impressed with Christine's graduation project, called 'Ikoce'. They observed that Christine is essentially crafting a new language for thinking through the research concern, culminating in a fascinating theory-fictional work that merges reality and virtuality. The jury did have several critical questions concerning the narrator of the work, in terms of what their voice means for the research project. Christine however was able to reflect on the position of her voice as the artist and the role the narrator plays within her film. Conclusively, the jury was unanimously in agreement that the way that Christine relates all these different topics makes it a fleshed out research project. The usage of several different modes of writing, bodies and images becomes a relevant mode of practice, which leads to a certain feeling of urgency.

Sonia Mangiapane

The jury appreciated Sonia's project '*Ambient, Aberrant*', in the sense that the media of photography and light had been explored quite extensively. The way that Sonia related these media-formats to notions of identity and geography was experienced as interesting and insightful. In terms of originality, the jury felt that '*Ambient, Aberrant*' didn't stick out in its thematic consideration, methodology or in its aesthetics. In general though, the jury commented upon the meticulous process that Sonia went through to produce this research project.

Ada M Patterson

This research project is very special in the way that Ada M relates notions of hurricanes, redactions and the caribbean context to each other. The way that the written-thesis form and digital images relate to each other is a savvy way of presenting the research project. As the jury stated: "*a very relevant and timely research project, especially in the manner in which the project touches upon many contemporary developments while being able to connect them in a poetic manner*". Furthermore, the jury was very impressed with the relationship that Ada M makes between notions of queerness and the non-human.

With the danger of sounding repetitive, it is clear from the above: the jury was very impressed with the nominees' work. Based on the criteria stated by the PZI Master Thesis Award the jury, consisting of Sepake Angiama, Richard Vijgen and Vincent van Velsen concluded the deliberation process by unanimously agreeing that Christine Ayo, with the project 'Ikoce' has been the work that left the most impression in terms of research rigour, artistic language and the production of new insights. The PZI would like to congratulate Christine Ayo on being the winning nominee of the 2019-2020 thesis award. Furthermore, the jury hopes that Christine Ayo continues to explore and experiment, touching on theory and its artistic translations in regards to the type of work that was submitted and presented. Congratulations Christine!

Text written by secretary Sami Hammana