

WdKA Bachelor Research Award 2021 Jury Statement

Jury members:

Marina Otero Verzier, architect, director of research at Het Nieuwe Instituut and head of the social design MA at Design Academy Eindhoven.

Alice Twemlow, lector design at the Royal Academy of Art and associate professor in Leiden University's Academy of Creative and Performing Arts, design critic, curator and educator.

Rutger Wolfson, director of public debate venue Arminius, former director of International Film Festival Rotterdam and curator.

Jojanneke Gijsen, secretary (WdKA)

Simon Kentgens, chair (WdKA)

The jury was impressed by the quality and diversity of the reviewed research projects. All graduation projects clearly demonstrate a high level of dedication and rigour. The jury was presented a wide range of artistic research approaches from auto-ethnographic and archival research, oral history, embodied research, to speculative and material design practices. The jury was particularly impressed by the craft and storytelling components of the reviewed works, implemented through the use of film, photography, visual essays and performances. For the jury, these nominees, each in their own way, have made sharp and intelligent choices in how they use framing, sound, and narration to express their thoughts and views. The jury also noticed this year's strong emphasis on research into personal origins and identities.

Artistic research, as the jury understands it, is research conducted through and by means of an artist's or designer's practice. Therefore, the jury examined the research theses in close conjunction with the final graduation presentations. The reviewed projects clearly show that the level of artistic research in Willem de Kooning's BA graduation projects is increasing every year. At the same time, the jury observed that students could be more self-aware of their work being research and of the significance of their research practice.

Looking at the jury criteria for the Willem de Kooning Academy Research Award, four nominees stood out, each of them in relation to a different set of these criteria. These four nominees represent four different perspectives on artistic research. The jury insists that there is not a singular way of practicing artistic research and saw equal value in these four approaches. The jury does neither want, nor is able, to place these projects in a hierarchical order. It has therefore decided to give the BA Research award to four nominees, and divide the prize money equally among the four winners.

We'll therefore name the winners in alphabetical order:

[Arif Abdillah](#) – "Science Around Us"

Arif's work is not easily defined in contemporary arts and design discourses. Its multiplicity of interests, ambitions and mediums, defies existing categories. In this graduation project, research is a long-term effort, a practice of perseverance, a continuous process of becoming - both personal and in ways of working - and a relentless commitment to telling stories.

[Minsun Kim](#) - "The Faraway Nearby"

Minsun's work is characterized by an obvious engagement with theory. She approaches her entire project as research and her research as a work of art. The jury was impressed by the editing choices and narrative strategies in her video works, blending theory and practice through a spoken enactment of an essayistic text.

[Ali \(Alice\) Lucchinelli](#) - "Chosen Family Business"

Ali's research makes an eloquent connection between theory, in particular auto-theory and queer theory, and embodied and situated practices. Their work on photography as a medium is entangled in struggles for representation. The decisions that guide the research and its public presentation are critically rigorous, show self-awareness, and a deep and humbling concern with caring for the community that participates in their process.

[Oriane Palacio](#) - "Los Que Faltan – recuerdos de ausencias"

Oriane used her graphic design practice to develop a method by which she graphically analyzed her data set and elicited original insights. She uses interviewing as a method of oral history. This results in a thoughtful and beautifully designed documentation in which processes and media are deeply intertwined. The jury admires the ambition of Oriane's project and her engagement with three languages in a multinational reading of documents .