

# Press Release

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TO CREATE

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## Bianca Jagger to Present Freedom to Create Prize



The Freedom to Create Prize is pleased to announce that renowned human rights advocate Bianca Jagger will present the main award at its prize ceremony on 25 November.

Bianca Jagger, Founder and Chair, Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation, is delighted to support the Prize, which uses art to promote social justice and inspire the human spirit in places of despair and destruction: "Throughout history, artists have recorded and denounced the abuses and horrors of their time, from the graphic depiction of war atrocities in Francisco Goya's Disasters of War to the simplicity of Andy Warhol's image of an empty electric chair. Artists can exert great influence on people's hearts and minds; they show us both the world's beauty, and its horrors; each time an artist is censored our society moves

further away from enlightenment."

Richard Chandler, Founder and Chairman of R.F. Chandler, a private investment group that organizes the prize, praised Bianca Jagger's passion for human rights and social justice. He said her presence signified the power of the Prize in celebrating and defending artists on the frontlines.

"The Freedom to Create Prize celebrates the power of art to fight oppression and heal broken societies. With her long history of supporting human rights initiatives we're delighting that Bianca Jagger is involved with the Prize this year."

This year international artists shortlisted for the Main Prize include Mohsen Makhmalbaf, the celebrated filmmaker and official overseas spokesman for 2009 Iranian presidential candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi, Western Saharan singer Aziza Brahim, Yemeni-based former war photographer Karim Ben Khelifa, Burmese refugee women's group, The Kumjing Storytellers and Afghani installation artist Sheenkai Alam Stanikzai.

The prize will be judged by a panel of high profile artists, opinion formers, and human rights experts including leading international human rights lawyer and jurist on the UN's Internal Justice Council Geoffrey Robertson QC; composer and founder of West-Eastern Divan Orchestra Daniel Barenboim; co-founder of global diplomatic group, The Elders, and founder of Indian women and micro-finance

movements Dr Ela Bhatt; BBC arts correspondent Razia Iqbal; *Time Out* founder and chair of Human Rights Watch Tony Elliot; award-winning Anglo-Indian artist Sacha Jafri; New York-based arts lawyer Peter Stern; artist Ana Tzarev; and Zimbabwean playwright Cont Mhlanga, winner of the inaugural Freedom to Create Prize in 2008.

Winners for the Main, Youth and Imprisoned Artist Prize categories will be unveiled on 25 November at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

1,015 artists from 110 countries entered the Prize, which carries US\$125,000 in prize money.

**Notes to Editors:**

There are three prize winners in the Main Prize category, who will share a prize pool of US\$75,000.

The first place prize of US\$50,000 will be split equally between the winner of the award, and an organisation nominated by them to further the cause that their work has highlighted. The second place prize of US\$15,000 will be similarly divided equally between the winner and their nominated organisation. The US\$10,000 third place prize will be shared the same way.

The Youth Prize is open to artists who are under the age of 18. The US\$25,000 prize will be divided into two. The winner(s) will receive US\$10,000. The remaining US\$15,000 will be given to an organisation nominated by them to further the cause their artwork has highlighted.

The final category, the Imprisoned Artist Prize, focuses on artists who are imprisoned as a result of their art and the role of their work in highlighting injustice. This prize differs slightly from the other categories, in that the panel will place less emphasis on the artist's work and more on the personal risks incurred by them, the message conveyed through their work and its impact. A single prize of US\$25,000 will be directed towards securing the artist's release, advocating on behalf of them and their cause and offering support to their family.

**The Freedom to Create Main Prize finalists:**

Aziza Brahim, world musician, Western Sahara  
Karim Ben Khelifa, photographer, Yemen  
Mohsen Makhmalbaf, filmmaker, Iran  
Sheenkai Alam Stanikzai, installation artist, Afghanistan  
The Kumjing Storytellers, performance art troupe, Burma/Thailand

**The Freedom to Create Youth Prize finalists:**

The AOS Angels, performance troupe, China  
Genesis: Sarajevo, dance group, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Poiamboi Veeyah Koindu (The Orphan Boys of Koindu), dance group, Sierra Leone  
Super Buddies Club, theatre, Swaziland

**The Freedom to Create Imprisoned Artist Prize finalists:**

Lapiro de Mbanga, singer, Cameroon  
Maziar Bahari, filmmaker, Iran  
Saw Wei, poet and installation artist, Burma

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**About Freedom to Create:**

Freedom to Create ([www.freedomtcreate.com](http://www.freedomtcreate.com)) is an initiative that seeks to improve lives by addressing society's ability to support and sustain creativity. The initiative focuses on those societies in greatest need. For creativity to flourish, it's critical to have certain foundations in place – things like education, trust, and freedom of expression. The Freedom to Create initiative concentrates on these

foundations. Through our ArtAction arm ([www.artaction.com](http://www.artaction.com)), we support arts-driven projects that try to strengthen those foundations where they are weak. Through our annual Freedom to Create Prize ([www.freedomtcreateprize.com](http://www.freedomtcreateprize.com)), we celebrate artists who are beacons of inspiration for social change working in the most challenging conditions around the globe. Collectively our efforts seek to drive future prosperity by enabling creativity to flourish.

Freedom to Create is backed by R.F. Chandler ([www.rfchandler.com](http://www.rfchandler.com)), a Singapore-based private investment group with more than 20 years' experience investing in emerging markets.

Support Freedom to Create Prize by joining the Facebook group: Freedom to Create Prize.