

Press Release 18/11/2025

The artist Karim Boumjimar is the 2025 recipient of the Ulrica Hydman Vallien Foundation's grant, SEK 90,000 and an invitation to develop his artistic dialogue with the possibilities offered by the Orrefors Kosta Boda glassworks, primarily within painting – the area most recently renewed by Ulrica Hydman Vallien herself.

The jury consists of the Ulrica Hydman Vallien Foundation's board:

Hampus Vallien for the Vallien Family

Lina Sjöquist for the Robert Weil Family Foundation

Maria Lomholt for Orrefors Kosta Boda

and

Johanna Sandell Wright, Director of Liljevalchs Konsthall

Hedvig Hedqvist, design critic and author

The grant will be awarded by the foundation's chair, Hampus Vallien, on Thursday, 20 November at 6 PM in connection with the opening of the exhibition "Stockholm Cosmologies" at Liljevalchs, in which Boumjimar is participating.

Jury's motivation:

The elusive boundary between personal and collective responsibility is challenged by Karim Boumjimar, who uses artistic release to highlight complex relationships between nature, climate, and humans. The messages are conveyed on decorated containers and surfaces that brim with vitality and liberating playfulness, while at the same time serving as constructive counterpoints to insufficient insight and empathy regarding vulnerability. It is a swirling storytelling art filled with a multitude of social contexts,

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carrying forward the baton from Ulrica Hydman Vallien's lovingly willful expression.

Ulrica Hydman Vallien (1938–2018) was one of Sweden's most successful and popular glass artist. A colorful artist. She began her career as a ceramicist and gained the opportunity to explore the material in the Glassworks at Åfors in 1971. She combined superb craftsmanship with boundless playfulness. Her characteristic motifs have adorned everything from crystal vases to British jet planes. She left no one untouched and is invaluable to Kosta Boda. As a glass artist, she was a rebel of form, a storyteller whose humor had strong popular appeal and appreciation.

In 2019, the Vallien Family, Orrefors Kosta Boda, and the Robert Weil Family Foundation decided to carry forward Ulrica Hydman Vallien's legacy by founding a foundation in her name. Among its purposes is to annually award a grant to a young, promising, and independently minded artist.

Previous grant recipients are:

Ellen Ehn Åkesson (2019), Sissi Westerberg (2020), Simon Klenell (2021), Masayoshi Oya (2022), and Ilkka Suppanen (2023).

For further information, images, etc. —

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