

BÉTONSALON —  
CENTRE D'ART  
ET DE RECHERCHE

ÉTABLISSEMENT CULTUREL DE  
LA VILLE DE PARIS  
PERNOD RICARD FELLOWSHIP  
VILLA VASSILIEFF



Pernod Ricard  
Mécénat



View of the Studio Pernod Ricard at Villa Vassilieff - Pernod Ricard Fellowship, 2016 © Aurélien Mole

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***Announcing selected artists for the 2019 Pernod Ricard Fellowship***

From March 2019 to February 2020

Pernod Ricard and Villa Vassilieff are delighted to announce the selected 2019 Pernod Ricard Fellows: **Patricia Belli, Ingela Ihrman, Mimi Cheron Ng'ok, Michelle Wun Ting Wong**

The 2019 Pernod Ricard Fellows were selected by an international Artistic Committee composed of :

Colette Barbier (Director, Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, Paris, France)  
Bernard Blistène (Director MNAM CCI — Centre Pompidou, Paris, France)

Mélanie Bouteloup (Director, Bétonsalon — Centre d'art et de recherche & Villa Vassilieff, Paris, France)

Diana Campbell Betancourt (Artistic director & Head curator Dhaka Art Summit, Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Maria Lind (Director, Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden)

Miguel A. López (Co-director, TEOR/ética, San Jose, Costa Rica)



Patricia Belli next to her installation *Fénix*, 1996, II Salón Internacional de Estandartes (ES96), Tijuana, © Patricia Belli

Patricia Belli, born in Nicaragua in 1964, is a visual artist who uses diverse media, with an emphasis on the crossing of the mechanical with the natural to generate meanings about balance. Her work is dedicated to exploring the haptic perception of the public and from there, reactions linked to subjectivity, imbalance, chaos and harmony. In 1986, she completed a BA in visual arts at Loyola University of the South, in New Orleans. Ten years later, she obtained a degree in Arts and Literature from UCA, Managua. Patricia Belli subsequently won a Fulbright scholarship to pursue a Master of Fine Arts at the San Francisco Art Institute, which concluded in 2001. Upon returning to Nicaragua in 2001, she founded the Space for Artistic Research and Reflection, EspIRA, an organization for the sensitive and critical training of emerging artists which has had a decisive influence on the present and future of the Central American youth. Belli exhibits regularly in Central America, South America, the United States and Europe. A retrospective anthological exhibition, by curator Miguel López, has traveled to San José, Managua and Guatemala City between 2016 and 2017.

With the aid of Pernod Ricard Fellowship, Patricia Belli will be creating sound installations, which will explore the idea of social unrest. She aims to convey the crossover of the political and the psychological via mechanical systems. From hurricanes to revolutions, Patricia Belli will be researching the universe's laws and symbols. Balance, instability, and power will be investigated through ceramic sculptures and their precarious movement; such movements will in turn activate recordings of documentary sounds. Patricia Belli's project is inspired by Nicaraguan protestors, making up 70% of the population, being massacred by the government for defending their civil liberties. Her latest work, *Desequilibradas*, is an installation made up of 12 bobo- doll-upside-down-heads on the ground, which, when kicked by the public, return to their original position, releasing sounds associated with current Nicaraguan social unrest. During her stay at Villa Vassilieff – Pernod Ricard Fellowship, Patricia Belli's installations will focus on the symbolic language of war and revolution, attempting to understand these phenomena through their mythologies.



Ingela Ihrman, © Ronnie Ritterland / Sveriges Radio

Ingela Ihrman, born in 1985, is an artist based in Malmö. She studied at Konstfack, Stockholm and graduated with an MFA in 2012. Her practice moves freely between performance art, installations, and writing. Costumes and staged situations are reoccurring elements in her presentations, bringing creatures into life while giving birth or blooming. Her work is characterized by tactile craft techniques and poetic absurdism, and borrows from amateur theatre, as well as from science. Limiting norms, notions like loneliness and belonging, and relations between different life forms are discussed within her work. Ihrman's recent solo exhibitions include *Varm soft*, Kristianstads konsthall (2018), *The Inner Ocean*, der TANK, Institut Kunst, FHNW Academy of Art and Design, Basel (2017), and *Future Flourish* at Tensta konsthall, Stockholm (2016). She participated in *Omnejd*, Lunds konsthall (2018), *Metemorphoses - let everything happen to you*,



Castello di Rivoli, Turin (2018), the 11th Gwangju Biennale, The Eighth Climate (What does art do?) (2016); The Swamp Biennial, Art Lab Gnesta (2016); Survival K(n)it 7, Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art, Riga (2015) among others. Ihrman made set design and costume for IMMUNSYSTEMET, a dance performance by Rosalind Goldberg, Sandra Lolax and Stina Nyberg (2017). She is currently working on a theatre play with director Maja Salomonsson that will premiere at Ögonblicksteatern in Umeå, autumn 2018.

Ihrman's project for the Pernod Ricard's Fellowship will depart from the artist's relationship with her stomach. During her research, the artist aims to expand her knowledge of metabolism, bacterial flora, and the so-called "bowel brain" (the nervous system of the intestines). She is particularly interested in the Swedish term "orolig mage" (stomach with agony), which refers to both a worrying mind and upset intestines. For her project, the green algae *Ulva intestinalis* will function as a link between the intestinal flora and the flora of the sea – a slippery path back into the water, where the algae hold the ability to bind the sun's energy. Over time, the sunlight converted by the plant metamorphoses into fossil fuels. One of the aims of Ihrman's project is to see if the reserves of energy in the stomach can be as highly valued as the layers of crude oil in the interior of the earth. The artist desires to put nature and anatomy in conversation, exploring the idea of time, light, and algae playing part in forming the soft fat of the stomach, as well as fossil fuels. The artist intends to work with marine biologists, permaculture specialists, as well as with traditional and alternative medical scientists.



Mimi Cherono Ng'ok, © Mimi Cherono Ng'ok

Mimi Cherono Ng'ok Mimi Cherono Ng'ok was born in Nairobi, Kenya in 1983. Currently based in Nairobi, she studied Photography at the University of Cape Town, graduating in 2006. Her work explores intimacy, loss, memory and the sentimental. Her influences include her good friend Paul Maheke, Dineo Seshee Bopape, and the Muppet show. She loves whales and elephants. For the Pernod Ricard Fellowship, Cherono Ng'ok will continue her research on a missing Kenyan student from the 70s and the gaps present in historical records. In 2017, as a Magnum Foundation grantee, the artist produced a zine based on the student's disappearance, containing images sourced from the Mohammed Amin Archive in Nairobi, as well as weather reports, collages of old archival images and text; creating a story of absence. For the second chapter of the project, she wishes to tell the story via writing, cinema and sound. From a script to a soundtrack, Cherono Ng'ok aims to prepare for the production of a short film expanding on her research. During her stay in Paris, the artist intends to visit historical archives containing images and films from different countries in the global South for the period of 1971-1979, as well as meeting with artists, historians, writers and filmmakers.



Michelle Wong, Researcher, Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong, China

Michelle Wun Ting Wong, born in 1987, is a Researcher at Asia Art Archive based in Hong Kong, interested in the history of recent art in Asia. Her research interests are in histories of exchange and circulation through exhibitions and periodicals. Wong holds a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Music, from Wellesley College, Massachusetts, USA and a Mellon Masters of Arts in Art History from Courtauld Institute of Art, London, UK. Her projects include the Hong Kong Art History Research Project with the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the Ha Bik Chuen Archive Project, the undergraduate course developed in collaboration with Fine Arts Department, The University of Hong Kong, and “London, Asia”, a collaborative project with Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. Wong is part of “Ambitious Alignments: New Histories of Southeast Asian Art”, a research program funded through the Getty Foundation’s Connecting Art Histories initiative. She was also Assistant Curator for the eleventh edition Gwangju Biennale, South Korea.

Michelle Wun Ting Wong works with ideas around how histories and narratives are constructed, and how stories are told and retold. She believes that the notion of exchange can challenge the dominant art historical narratives, which are often driven by national borders. For the Pernod Ricard Fellowship, Wong will be researching artists, who shared links with Asia and left traces in archives in Paris. The researcher is particularly interested by Marc Vaux’s archive and the archive of Atelier 17. Wong will be collaborating with Ming Tiampo, Professor of Art History and Director of the Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture at Carleton University in Ottawa, whose work on “Global Asias” is also centred around Atelier 17. Wong also intends to put the archives of a Paris-based photographer Marc Vaux (1895-1971) and a Hong Kong-based artist Ha Bik Chuen (1925-2009) into conversation. The works of both artists are undergoing processing by public institutions (by Centre Pompidou and Asia Art Archive respectively), and Wong is curious to explore the different approaches taken by the institutions with regards to access, sharing and ownership.

#### Villa Vassilieff & The Pernod Ricard Fellowship:

Villa Vassilieff - Pernod Ricard Fellowship is an art center located in a historic alleyway of the Montparnasse neighborhood. Villa Vassilieff was established in the old studio of Marie Vassilieff, a Russian artist close with Picasso, Modigliani and important figures of the European avant-garde of the twentieth century. Today, Villa Vassilieff is an exhibition and coworking space supported by Pernod Ricard. Intended to promote the international art scene, Villa Vassilieff is a place of conviviality linked with the Parisian cultural life where international artists and researchers are hosted in residency through the Pernod Ricard Fellowship.

The Pernod Ricard Fellowship is a residency program founded in 2016 as a result of Pernod Ricard’s historic commitment to

artists. A one of a kind residency, the Pernod Ricard Fellowship allows for an extensive research period without any obligation for the creation of artwork. It also offers the residents tailored appointments in the biggest Parisian cultural institutions.

The Pernod Ricard Fellowship in brief :

- 4 international artists or curators selected per year
- 3 months residencies in a historic studio renovated for the occasion
- Access to unexplored resources
- A 20,000 euros grant
- A prestigious artistic committee composed of directors of museums and international art centers
- An exceptional network of collaborators
- Tailored support

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Former and ongoing Pernod Ricard Fellows (2016,2017, 2018):

Andrea Ancira (curator and researcher, Mexico), Ernesto Oroza (artist, USA/Cuba), Zheng Bo (artist, China), Sojung Jun (artist, South Korea), Ndidi Dike (artist, Nigeria), Koki Tanaka (artist, Japan), Samit Das (artist and art historian, India), Mercedes Azpilicueta (artist, Argentina), Beto Shwafaty (artist, Brazil), Nikolay Smirnov (artist, geographer, curator, Russia), Yto Barrada & Mohamed Larbi Rahhali (artists, Morocco) and Newell Harry (artist, Australia).



The 2019 Pernod Ricard Fellowship artistic committee, Bernard Blistène, Mélanie Bouteloup, Maria Lind, Diana Campbell Betancourt, Colette Barbier, Miguel A. López, © Villa Vassilieff – Pernod Ricard Fellowship

