

**BENJAMIN NAGY**

**Parallel Vienna | Bildrecht**

**YOUNG ARTIST Award 2025**

**WINNER**

**Benjamin Nagy** receives the **Parallel Vienna | Bildrecht YOUNG ARTIST Award 2025**. This award by Bildrecht follows the idea of PARALLEL VIENNA to raise awareness of the quality of young, emerging art. At the start of the fair, an independent jury of experts selected Benjamin Nagy from among the exhibitors in the ARTIST STATEMENTS - Solo Presentations section as the winner of the **Parallel Vienna | Bildrecht YOUNG ARTIST Award 2025**, which comes with a prize of €3,000 and a solo exhibition at **Bildraum 01**.

**Jury 2025:** Elsa König | Christine König Galerie; Nicole Scheyerer | Cultural Journalist;  
Philipp Pess | Curator WAF Galerie/Artist; Dr. Renée Gadsden | Art Historian, Author;  
Sira-Zoé Schmid | Bildrecht/Artist;

**Jury Statement:**

The name of Benjamin Nagy's installation, which is comprised of two sculptures (2025) called *AM* and *PM*, is *The Weight of Smoke*. Benjamin Nagy's sculptures capture the duality of time and existence through a striking visual representation that invites contemplation. The artwork juxtaposes distinct yet interconnected geometrical forms, used to symbolize the contrasting experiences and emotions associated with the movement of light across space and with the reality of the shapes of shadows. Writing about this work, Nagy says "AM & PM are two lightboxes that capture sunlight streaming through a window at different times of a day. Tracing the contours of light and shadow, these panels freeze a moment even after it has passed. Confronted with both at once, the viewer is caught in a state of temporal asynchronicity, suspended between two moments happening at the same time".

The materials (aluminum, Plexiglas, and LED lights) are simple, and readily available. The effortlessness of the approach is appealing, and invites the viewer to ponder a theme that is universal to the human experience: the passing of time. The lightboxes are precisely shaped and placed in the room in opposite corners in a way that made it seem as if they had always been there. The presentation radiates harmony and envelops the viewer immediately upon entering the space in a profound and complete artistic experience – without the viewer being able to articulate why that is. At the far end of the room is a window, where the light of day illuminates the space, providing a contrast and a commentary to the manmade sources of light. *The Weight of Smoke* could be seen as a Promethean struggle of man with the gods, the heroic attempt that art has made throughout time

to imitate, recreate or triumph over nature. Benjamin Nagy has taken the most elemental material of the visual artist, light, and used it as the medium itself instead of as a tool. Nagy's work has depth and range, because everyone everywhere has a relationship with light and darkness, with days and nights. He has made a work, so to speak, of universal relevance. Benjamin Nagy invites viewers to consider their own daily rhythms and the complexities of human condition.

Without fanfare, Nagy effectively communicates themes of transformation and the cyclical nature of life, prompting viewers to reflect on their own transitions throughout the time of their lives. In a world often dominated by the (perceived) rushing of time, Nagy's work serves as a reminder to pause and consider the significance of both beginnings and endings. The name of the installation is inspired by the film *Smoke* (1995) and refers to the attempt to capture something fleeting and ephemeral. The jury was impressed by the refreshing unpretentiousness of the work, the visually arresting placement of the sculptures in the room, and the subtlety and the intellectual depth that the installation revealed about its creator. This combination of factors is why Benjamin Nagy is the PARALLEL VIENNA | Bildrecht YOUNG ARTIST Award Winner for 2025.

— Dr. Renée Gadsden, for the jury

**BENJAMIN NAGY Artist Statement „The Weight of Smoke“**

**Pavillon 07, 3. Stock, 305, PARALLEL VIENNA 2025**

**[nagy.work/home](http://nagy.work/home)**

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**RUNNER UP: Ju Aichinger** also impressed the jury with her artist statement “to be or not to be (butch)”.

**JU AICHINGER Artist Statement „to be or not to be (butch)“**

**Pavillon 13, EG, 005, PARALLEL VIENNA 2025**

**[juaichinger.com](http://juaichinger.com)**