

Presseinformation

Announcement of the 2018 Kyoto Prize Laureates

Neuroscientist, Mathematician, Artist

Kyoto/London, June 18, 2018. The Inamori Foundation is pleased to announce the laureates of the 2018 Kyoto Prize, an international award presented to individuals who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of humankind. The Kyoto Prize Presentation Ceremony will be held in Kyoto, Japan on November 10.

Each laureate will receive a diploma, the Kyoto Prize medal (20K gold), and prize money of 100 million yen (approx. 770.000 €). This year's Prize goes to the following three individuals: Dr. Karl Deisseroth, a US neuroscientist and Professor and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator at Stanford University, Dr. Masaki Kashiwara, a Japanese mathematician and Project Professor, Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences at Kyoto University, and Ms. Joan Jonas, an artist and Professor Emerita at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Karl Deisseroth for Advanced Technology is the youngest laureate ever in the history of the Kyoto Prize.

Dr. Karl Deisseroth focused on microbial light-activated proteins such as channelrhodopsin of green algae and spearheaded “optogenetics” – a new methodological discipline in which neurons can be activated or inhibited on the millisecond scale using light. This achievement has revolutionized the field of systems neuroscience enabling causal study of neuronal assembly activity and resulting function, beyond correlational studies.

Dr. Masaki Kashiwara established the theory of D-modules, thereby playing a decisive role in the creation and development of algebraic analysis. His numerous achievements – including the establishment of the Riemann-Hilbert correspondence, its application to representation theory, and construction of crystal basis theory – have exerted great influence on various fields of mathematics and contributed strongly to their development.

Ms. Joan Jonas created a new artistic form by integrating performance art and video art, and has evolved her original medium at the forefront of contemporary art continuously. Creating labyrinth-like works that lead audiences to diverse interpretations, she hands down the legacy of 1960s avant-garde art by developing it into a postmodern framework, profoundly impacting artists of later generations.

Press fotos



Dr. Karl Deisseroth

[\(https://www.inamori-f.or.jp/en/media/\)](https://www.inamori-f.or.jp/en/media/)



Dr. Masaki Kashiwara

[\(https://www.inamori-f.or.jp/en/media/\)](https://www.inamori-f.or.jp/en/media/)



Ms. Joan Jonas

[\(https://www.inamori-f.or.jp/en/media/\)](https://www.inamori-f.or.jp/en/media/)

Source: Inamori Foundation



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About Kyocera

Headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, Kyocera Corporation is one of the world's leading manufacturers of fine ceramic components for the technology industry. The strategically important divisions in the Kyocera Group, which is comprised of 264 subsidiaries (as of March 31, 2018), are information and communications technologies, products which increase quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the oldest producers of solar energy systems worldwide, with more than 40 years of experience in the industry.

The company is ranked #522 on Forbes magazine's 2017 "Global 2000" listing of the world's largest publicly traded companies. With a global workforce of over 75,000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €12.04 billion in fiscal year 2017/2018. The products marketed by the company in Europe include printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, and fine ceramic products. The Kyocera Group has two independent companies in the United Kingdom: Kyocera Fineceramics Ltd. and Kyocera Document Solutions.

The company also takes an active interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, a prominent international award, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation — established by Kyocera founder Dr. Kazuo Inamori — to individuals and groups worldwide who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of humankind (converted at approximately €764,000 per prize category).

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