

**IGOR ZABEL**  
**AWARD FOR**  
**CULTURE AND**  
**THEORY 2018**

**Grant**

according to the jury's selection

**Oberliht Association**

CHISINAU, MOLDOVA  
WWW.OBERLIHT.COM

The jury has awarded Oberliht Association from Chisinau, Moldova, the Igor Zabel Award Grant in recognition of its ongoing support to the local artistic community and its innovative engagement with projects in the public space.

Oberliht's activities are of extreme importance for the liveliness of contemporary art in Moldova. Since its foundation in 2000, the association has been active in developing interdisciplinary platforms and projects to encourage artistic production by local artists and to initiate the connection between local and international artists and culture initiatives. Reflecting upon the dynamics of social, political and economic transformations of the post-socialist society, Oberliht recognises the importance of developing an independent cultural sector in Moldova and in the broader region. To achieve the association's goal, the members of Oberliht have established various platforms necessary to produce and present contemporary art. Their activities include exhibitions, residencies, informational services, publishing, informal forms of education, as well as collaborations with a range of local cultural actors including students, researchers and activist groups, journalists and mass-media, local public administration, and many others. Furthermore, Oberliht has focused its attention on the transformations of the public space in the post-socialist context and in Chisinau in particular, emphasising how one of the major consequences of these transformations (such as, the non-transparent privatisation of public property and the commercialisation of public space) has been the constant and permanent exclusion of certain social groups. Through a series of projects under the name KIOSK, Oberliht triggered an important series of artistic initiatives with local actors and local population and thus contributed to the participatory urban development and creation of the public space as an experimental, heterogeneous and inclusive space.

The association's collective and self-organisation structure, its social, innovative and direct engagement with the local public space and public issues, make Oberliht the right candidate for the Igor Zabel Award Grant.

**2018 jury members**

Adam Budak – CHIEF CURATOR, NATIONAL GALLERY, PRAGUE

Ana Janevski – CURATOR, MOMA, NEW YORK

Erzen Shkololli – DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ART GALLERY OF ALBANIA, TIRANA