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The New York Times Shirin Neshat and Mikhail Baryshnikov Among Praemium Imperiale Winners

By ANDREW R. CHOW SEPT. 12, 2017



The artist Shirin Neshat is among five recipients of the Japan Art Association's Praemium Imperiale award.

The dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov and the visual artist Shirin Neshat are among the five winners of this year's prestigious Praemium Imperiale award given by the Japan Art Association.

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This award, for lifetime achievement, carries a prize of 15 million yen (approximately \$137,000) and will be presented at a ceremony in Tokyo on Oct. 18. Each recipient is from a different country: In addition to Ms. Neshat of Iran and Mr. Baryshnikov, who is Russian American, the other winners are the Ghanaian sculptor [El Anatsui](#), the Spanish architect [Rafael Moneo](#) and the Senegalese musician [Youssou N'Dour](#).

All five artists are highly decorated in their fields. Ms. Neshat [won](#) the Silver Lion at the 2009 Venice Film Festival for “Women Without Men,” her film directorial debut. Mr. Moneo won the Pritzker Prize for architecture in 1996. Mr. Baryshnikov, one of the most celebrated dancers ever, leads the [Baryshnikov Arts Center](#) in New York.

The associated Grant for Young Artists, awarded to a nonprofit that encourages young people in the arts, was given to Zoukak Theater and Cultural Association, a Beirut-based theater [collective](#) led by [Maya Zbib](#).

The Praemium Imperiale, given annually since 1989, aims to celebrate artistic fields not covered by the Nobel Prize in Literature (though Bob Dylan was [the first musician](#) to win it last year). Previous American recipients include Martin Scorsese, Frank Gehry and Cindy Sherman.