



Press release

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Friends of MacDonald
The Dutch Connection

2017 Ranald MacDonald Award granted to monumental book *With Our Own Hands*

Architect Narukawa receives Oeuvre Prize for *AuthaGraph World Map*

The Ranald MacDonald Award is an annual, international award granted to work, by debut writers or artists, which is of extraordinary quality – ‘true, good and beautiful’ – and sheds new light on the relations between Asia, Europe and North America. The prize amounts to 5,000 Euros and is annually presented on 11 October aboard a three-master in the port of Amsterdam. In addition, a special oeuvre prize of 2,500 Euros may be awarded.



With Our Own Hands (LM Publishers, Utrecht, 2015), by Dutch ethno-botanist Frederik van Oudenhoven and Austrian geographer and political scientist Jamila Haider, is a truly monumental study, some seven-hundred pages in length. It describes the ways in which the Pamiris of Afghanistan and Tajikistan deal with their food, from the age-old crops they grow to the god-given bread they break. This has resulted in a splendidly designed book in English, Dari-Persian and Tajik, containing innovative typography of Dutch origin and images by renowned photographers. It is the first written documentation of – hitherto orally transmitted – recipes of, and rituals accompanying, the food of an isolated community in the Himalayas. They form an Asian group of people who are to protect what they hold to be good, true and beautiful from far-reaching European and North American influences. *With Our Own Hands* more than deserves to receive the 2017 Ranald MacDonald Award.

‘Perhaps one of the finest books I have ever read’
Frénk van der Linden, *Kunststof, Radio 1*



Japanese architect and engineer Hajime Narukawa developed an innovative world map that he named *AuthaGraph*. It calls into question the mathematics as well as the politics behind the well-known map devised by Dutchman Mercator in 1569. Taking the globe as a starting point, Narukawa proceeded from 96 triangles to a regular tetrahedron, which he then folded out into a rectangle. It not only resulted in a world image allotting continents and oceans the surface area they deserve, but also in a map in which every spot on earth, inhabited or not, could be the center. The map heralds the new global relations that are taking shape. Thus *AuthaGraph* makes it possible to link the melting of Greenland glaciers with the flooding of Tuvalu. It is perfectly suited for integration with databases and has been generally adopted in curricula of Japanese secondary education. The Ranald MacDonald Oeuvre Prize could not have had a finer winner.

‘This peculiar map is more realistic than the map we are familiar with’
Jeanette Kras, *Welingelichte Kringen*

More information about *With Our Own Hands* is to be found [here](#).

And on *AuthaGraph* [here](#).

Frederik van Oudenhoven, Jamila Haider and Hajime Narukawa will all be present at the ceremony and also be available for press contacts.

The ceremony will be held on 11 October aboard *De Nieuwe Liefde*, moored on pier nr. 14, at the rear side of Amsterdam Central Station.

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