



## **FAIRY TALES 2020 WINNERS ANNOUNCED: TOP ENTRIES OFFER TALES OF WARNING AND HOPE DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES**

(NEW YORK, NEW YORK — April 09, 2020) — Blank Space has announced the winners of the seventh annual 'Fairy Tales' competition. With submissions from over 65 countries, the award-winning entries explore current events and the creative process through wonderfully crafted short stories and artwork.

The winners were chosen by a jury of more than 20 leading architects, designers and storytellers, including Alison Brooks, Marc Tsurumaki, Dwayne Oyler, Jenny Wu, Gail Carson Levine, and Arthur Mamou-Mani, among many other distinguished judges.

**“As our actual lives have become increasingly surreal,” says Jury Member Marc Tsurumaki, Principal at LTL Architects, “these stories’ engagement of both the inherent darkness and optimism of the Fairy Tale became particularly resonant.”**

Since its inception in 2013, the annual Fairy Tales challenge has attracted thousands of participants, and winners have gone on to develop their stories into successful Kickstarter campaigns, short films, comic books, and exhibitions.

This year’s jury selected three prize winners and 11 honorable mentions:

**First Place goes to Tamás Fischer and Carlotta Cominetti of VIRGINLEMON for their story “The Year Without a Winter”.** Tamás Fischer, from Hungary, and Carlotta Cominetti, from Italy, are co-founders of VIRGINLEMON, a production company for architectural imagery and animation. Both Tamás and Carlotta love architecture and are passionate about spaces, forms and materials. In search of the right way to express this passion of theirs, they worked at various architectural studios. Soon after they met each other in 2013, they decided to try something on their own. The point was to create a space where they could link up with other architects and exchange different ideas and points of views, as they wanted their daily jobs to find new and interesting ways of communication through images, 3D illustration and Animation.



*“We wrote our story thinking about the moment when the world has to stop and people have to change their habits to avoid the collapse and to protect themselves from an unfamiliar event, like a very strong and sudden climate change. We now realise how our story can look like the situation the world is experiencing today: waiting, boredom, loneliness, regrets, social media as the only way out. But what we really wanted to highlight is how emergency situations can lead to a real turning point. Difficult situations lead people to think more and use their creativity differently. Since this pandemic started we have been talking about a life changing event, which is exactly the subject of our story. Our lives will change, but for the better..”*

- Tamás Fischer and Carlotta Cominetti

**Second Prize goes to Aleksandr Čebotariov and Laura Kuršvietytė, for their story “SYMBIOSIS”.** Laura is currently working as a 3D artist in a Brussels-based studio and has recently started enjoying this field more and more as a way to express some architectural or not so architectural, more dreamy thoughts, though she studied architecture. Originally she is from Lithuania, from where she pulls her deepest inspirations and where her constant search for nature is rooted. Aleksandr is from a small village in Lithuania, growing up close to nature. After finishing his architecture studies, he moved to Brussels, where he works now.

*“Our fairytale is a naive attempt to address the issue of different kinds of crises we are experiencing - not only ecological, but social and existential as well. In the routine of everyday life, based on capitalism, we tend to lose ourselves to our jobs, our forests to fields and commerce. We forget our capabilities, such as senses, of our natural organisms, and many other things. We were mostly inspired by The Swamp School, a Lithuanian pavilion at the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale, where we volunteered, its creators Nomeda and Gediminas Urbonai, and after that living in an urban environment of Brussels stimulated our thoughts, collected in Venice.”*

- Aleksandr Čebotariov and Laura Kuršvietytė



**Third Prize goes to Albert Orozco and Edward Rivero for “Lloronas of Juárez”.** Albert Orozco is an architectural designer based in Los Angeles, California who dedicates himself to exploring projects that reflect issues of the environment, racism, immigration, and identity. His current work interweaves Mexican-American histories, mythologies, and geographies with architectural design to orchestrate scenographic stories that critique colonial architecture. Specifically, he hopes to create more collaborative spaces between artists, scholars, activists, and designers to imagine more ecologically sustainable spaces for historically dispossessed communities. Edward Rivero is a learning scientist interested in the intersections of learning, power, and designing with technologies. His current work examines the narratives and ideologies that emerge in the design processes of children from non-dominant communities in tinkering programs. Through participatory design-based research, Edward also works with the educator and teen-facilitators in the after-school tinkering program to design discussions that historicize technologies, digital, and making activities.

*“Lloronas of Juarez” is a narrative of the ongoing violence against migrants, specifically women and children, that is enacted through national borders by settler-colonial states. Through an intersectional analysis, we leverage protest art, historical narrative, and landscape urbanism to re-imagine what the ecologies around the Mexico/U.S. border can become if we move toward more relational ways of connecting to the land. Specifically, our project critiques racist immigration policies, gendered ideologies, and xenophobic logics that converge in the design and construction of borders and prisons. We call attention to the urgency of abolishing detention centers that imprison migrant communities throughout the United States through a story of struggle and resistance portrayed by the protagonists of the story. We hope to dream in solidarity with migrants, immigrant rights activists, critical scholars, artists, designers, as well as other community organizers, who continue to resist empire-building toward the development of a future without borders..”*

- Albert Orozco and Edward Rivero

The Jury awarded 11 honorable mentions to: Diego Grisaleña Albéniz and James Mitchell, Amit Avni, Anton Markus Pasing, Eric & Eva de Broche des

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Combes, Liang Jiawei and Wu Wei, Marie Walker Smith, Ioanna Sotiriou & Maria Tsiligianni, Therese Leick & Wilhelm Scheruebl, Stefano Stecchelli, Carlo Occhipinti, Ilaria Caraffi, Francesco Bacci, and Carlo Canepa of To Nowhere Studio, Lindsay Harkema, and Suada Dema.

The winning stories and honorable mentions can be read in full on Blank Space's website at: [www.blankspaceproject.com](http://www.blankspaceproject.com).

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The 3 winning entries can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/39N7zSD>

The 11 honorable mentions can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/2ReMiLi>

For any questions please email Anna Creatura at: [anna@blankspaceproject.com](mailto:anna@blankspaceproject.com)

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#### **WINNERS AND HONORABLE MENTIONS**

1st: Tamás Fischer and Carlotta Cominetti of VIRGINLEMON for **“The Year Without a Winter”**

2nd: Aleksandr Čebotariov and Laura Kuršvietytė for **“SYMBIOSIS”**

3rd: Albert Orozco and Edward Rivero for **“Lloronas of Juárez”**

#### Honorable Mentions:

- Diego Grisaleña Albéniz and James Mitchell for **““H.A.N.D, I DO””**
- Amit Avni for **“Back to Eden”**
- Anton Markus Pasing of Remote Controlled Studio for **“USO-03 unit A\_Upstream Strategic Outposts”**
- Eric & Eva de Broche des Combes for **“7121 Lonzo”**
- Liang Jiawei and Wu wei for **“Ghostly Presence”**
- Marie Walker-Smith for **“Rothiemurchus 2098”**
- Ioanna Sotiriou & Maria Tsiligianni for **“Mickey’s Mechanical House”**

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- Therese Leick and Wilhelm Scheruebl for “**breath**”
- Stefano Stecchelli, Carlo Occhipinti, Ilaria Caraffi, Francesco Bacci, and Carlo Canepa of To Nowhere Studio for “**Post-reality framework**”
- Lindsay Harkema for “**Active Ornament**”
- Suada Dema for “**Purgatory**”

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#### **JURY**

- Alison Brooks (Alison Brooks Architects)
- Marc Tsurumaki (LTL Architects)
- Jenny Wu (Oyler Wu Collaborative)
- Dwayne Oyler (Oyler Wu Collaborative)
- Beatriz Colomina (Architectural Historian)
- Mecky Reuss (Pedro y Juana)
- Ana Paula Ruiz Galindo (Pedro y Juana)
- Gail Carson Levine (Author)
- Arthur Mamou-Mani (Mamou-Mani LTD)
- Manuelle Gautrand (Manuelle Gautrand Architecture)
- Lorena Cano Acosta (Fairy Tales 2019 Winner)
- Nicolas Mendoza Ramos (Fairy Tales 2019 Winner)
- Alexander Walter (Architect & Bustler)
- David Basulto (ArchDaily)
- Sarah Curry (AIAS)
- Adam Fogel (AIAS)
- Matthew Hoffman (Blank Space)
- Francesca Giuliani (Blank Space)
- Anna Creatura (Blank Space)

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#### **A THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS**



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### **ABOUT BLANK SPACE**

Blank Space is an online platform for architecture, founded in 2013 by Matthew Hoffman and Francesca Giuliani. Matthew is an architect who believes architecture can be more interesting, more fun and more social. Francesca is a journalist who believes that communication is omnipresent, and that good communication helps great ideas change the world.

Through competitions, publications, and projects, we uncover the true power of architecture by creating new opportunities for design to engage the public.

We like to think of Blank Space as an office for thought provocation, challenging architecture to rethink its role in society by speaking about things everybody can relate to, in a language understandable to all.