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Doris Salcedo Wins Inaugural \$100,000 Nasher Prize

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(Photo by David Heald. Courtesy Resnicow + Associates)

Dallas’s Nasher Sculpture Center has announced Doris Salcedo as the first winner of the \$100,000 Nasher Prize. The newly founded award honors influential living sculptors.

For some 30 years, Salcedo has responded to the violence in her home country of Colombia — where the civil war over the past five decades has taken more than 220,000 lives, 80 percent civilian — by creating spaces of mourning. “[T]hrough her use of meaningful, everyday materials, often in unexpected and socially-charged public spaces in her native Colombia and elsewhere around the world, Doris Salcedo has created a body of work that is both aesthetically striking and politically resonant,” said Nasher Sculpture Center director Jeremy Strick in a statement.

Salcedo, 56, said: “The prize helps to acknowledge that in the midst of violence, in the midst of political conflict, there is room for thought and room for producing art that is meaningful to all of us.”

The prize was juried by an international group of artists, curators, and museum directors, including Haus der Kunst’s Okwui Enwezor and Tate’s Sir Nicholas Serota, among others. “In selecting a winner, we wanted to choose someone whose work was not only innovative, challenging, and significant, but also

someone whose work continues to take risks, and address the changing contemporary conditions,” said Serota.

It has been a big year for the Bogotá-based sculptor in the U.S.: her retrospective is on view at the Guggenheim in New York through October 12, following a run at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.

The artist will be commemorated at a gala on April 2, 2016, where she will receive an award designed by architect Renzo Piano.