

A short history of the Freud Medal

The Freud Medal was designed in 2004. Design and creation: Jan Stoker MD, neurologist/psychiatrist and psychoanalyst at Amsterdam at the Medal workshop from Pier van Leest at Lage Zwaluwe.

The medal has a diameter of 80 mm and is made of bronze and cast and patinated by Bronze Foundry "Binder" in Haarlem.

On the frontside: Image of Sigmund Freud (born May 6, 1856 and died September 23, 1939)

On the backside: 'die Natur' 'voll ist zahlloser Ursachen die niemals in die Erfahrung traten' (Freud)

The Medal can stand in an upright position and is meant to keep in hand like Freud had cherished his antique statues at his desk.

The front and back are shown with inwards drawn lines. The text is from Leonardo da Vinci quoted by Freud in the last chapter of his book: 'Eine Kindheitsherinnerung des Leonardo da Vinci' (1910).

In 2006 the Board of Directors of the Dutch Psychoanalytic Institute (NPI) celebrated Sigmund Freud's 150th birthday with the creation of an annual award for people who made an outstanding achievement in the field of psychoanalysis in the Netherlands, the Freud Medal. At the same time the laureate was invited to hold the Freud lecture for a broadly interested audience about an up-to-date, topic-related theme related to psychoanalysis and to raise public interest for the social, cultural and scientific utility of psychodynamic thinking and working and its applications.

Both the Freud Lecture and the Freud Medal have been made possible thanks to a financial contribution from the Psychoanalytic Funds Foundation.

The Freud Medal has been awarded to:

- 2006 Prof Dr Jan Thiel, psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, professor of psychiatry and psychotherapy, Erasmus University, Rotterdam
- 2007 Dr Iki Freud, psychologist, psychoanalyst, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam
- 2008 Prof Dr Frans de Jonghe, psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, professor of psychiatry and psychotherapy, Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam
- 2009 Prof. Dr. Manfred Kets de Vries, psychoanalyst, professor human resource management and leadership, INSEAD Business School, Fontainebleau, France
- 2010 Professor Dr. Harry Stroeken, psychologist, psychoanalyst, University of Leiden.

In 2017 the Dutch Psychoanalytic Institute celebrated its 100th years anniversary. In 2016 the "Breukvlakken" Foundation, collaborating with the Royal Dutch Academy of Science and Arts, the Dutch Psychoanalytic Association, the Dutch Association of Psychoanalytical Psychotherapy and the Psychoanalytic Funds Foundation took the initiative of revitalizing the Freud Medal award. The national scope of the Freud Medal award was broadened.

An international jury, consisting of Professor Don Linszen (chair), Professor Mark Solms (South Africa), Professor Jan Swinkels, Professor René Kahn (on behalf of the Royal Dutch Academy; UAS) and Dr Rien Van (on behalf of the Dutch Psychoanalytic Institute) awarded the Freud Medal 2017 to Professor Antonio Damasio. In addition to the Freud Medal, € 5000 was awarded to the laureate.