

Jan Middendorp set to receive TDC Medal

The Type Directors Club has announced that Jan Middendorp is the latest recipient of its highest honour, the TDC Medal. The formal presentation will be made at ATypI Paris 2023, taking place in May.



Jan Middendorp. Source: Supplied.

First awarded to Hermann Zapf in 1967, the TDC Medal recognises individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of typography. The honour represents TDC's collective gratitude to those who, by their work and talent, have demonstrated the value of typography in communication, community, and culture.

Sharing knowledge

Middendorp is a widely-acclaimed author, researcher and designer based in Berlin whose body of work include writing and editing numerous well-known books and articles about typography, design and the performing arts. He's also designed printed matter for publishers and non-profit organisations, and worked as a consultant and editor to the type world.



TDC opens 2023 call for Ascenders competition, jurors announced

25 Jan 2023



"I'm in a state of amazement, as well as proud, with this incredible honour," Middendorp said. "Limitless thanks to the TDC."

Born in the Netherlands, Middendorp spent much of his early professional life in Belgium before relocating to Berlin. In the 1980s, he was a critic of the arts, covering theater, dance, video and media art, and later specialized in graphic design and typography. Among his influential books are *Dutch Type*, *Made with FontFont* with Erik Spiekermann, *Hand to Type* and *Shaping Text*.

Unique precision

Middendorp has been a long-time collaborator to design magazines such as *Eye*, *Typo*, *Items* and others, and worked as an editor and consultant for typographic companies including FontShop, LucasFonts and Linotype. He spent nine years as a writer and consultant to MyFonts, where he edited the popular interview newsletter *Creative Characters*.

In addition, he co-curated exhibitions held in Dubai, London, The Hague, Berlin, New York, Beijing, Shanghai and other locations. He recently worked as a book designer and typesetter for Repeater Books in London, founded the informal type company Fust & Friends in Berlin, and spent most of 2018 producing the long-awaited reprint of his *Dutch Type*.

“Jan Middendorp’s writing is unique in its precision and approachability, bringing typography down to a human-interest level without diminishing it. *Shaping Text* is the definitive textbook for anyone interested in the subject,” said Ksenya Samarskaya, managing director, TDC. “In his nearly three-decades writing about type and type designers, his impact shaped the culture and community of the typographic scene on both sides of the North Atlantic.”

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