

Exhibition runs 17 April – 4 May, 2020 at Somerset House

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION 2020

FINALISTS, SHORTLIST AND GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED



The World Photography Organisation is pleased to reveal the finalist and shortlisted photographers in the Professional competition for the Sony World Photography Awards 2020. Also included are details of new photographic projects by Sony Professional Grant 2019 recipients. Works by both Professional competition finalists and Grant recipients will go on display as part of the Sony World Photography Awards 2020 exhibition at Somerset House this April.

Now in its 13th year, the Awards' Professional competition rewards a remarkable body of work for technical excellence and a fresh perspective on contemporary subjects. The winner of *Photographer of the Year 2020* will be selected from the group of Professional finalists and announced during the Sony World Photography Awards 2020 ceremony in London on 16 April.

Over 345,000 images from 203 territories were submitted across the 2020 Awards' four competitions and over 135,000 were entered across the Professional competition's 10 categories – the highest number of entries to date. A new Environment category has been introduced this year in recognition of the growing importance of this topic in both fine art photography and photojournalism.

This year's finalist projects engage with a wide array of topics, photography techniques and presentation methods, covering personal subjects and observations, inventive approaches to storytelling and shedding light on little known but critical issues.

Sony World Photography Awards 2020 finalist photographers and projects are:

ARCHITECTURE

Forms and textures are the focus of abstract photographs by **José De Rocco (Argentina)**, featuring vibrant building exteriors in *Formalism*, as well as **Jonathan Walland's (UK)** *Structures*; a minimalist black & white series depicting modern constructions. **Sandra Herber's (Canada)** *Ice Fishing, Lake Winnipeg* presents whimsical images of the colourful ice fishing huts that dot the frozen surface of the lake in winter.

CREATIVE

In *Seeds of Resistance*, **Pablo Albarenga (Uruguay)** pairs pictures of landscapes and territories in danger from mining and agribusinesses with portraits of the activists fighting to conserve them. Using shots of social media posts, chats and Skype or WhatsApp calls, *Kill Me With an Overdose of Kindness* by **Dione Roche (Italy)** examines the way in which relationships and intimacy are lived and expressed online. *Witness Objects* by **Luke Watson (UK)** comprises images of pinhole cameras made using historical objects from the Bosnian War alongside photographs taken with these makeshift cameras of meaningful locations around Sarajevo.

DISCOVERY

In *Invisible Wounds*, **Hugh Kinsella Cunningham (UK)** stains his images in red to communicate the suffering and distress caused by a viral Ebola outbreak in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo while in *The Cave*, **Maria Kokunova (Russia)** uses symbolism and allegory to examine personal trauma. *Cast Out of Heaven* by **Hashem Shakeri (Iran)** looks at the lives of those forced to leave Tehran due to the economic downturn and move into inadequate state-funded housing projects.

DOCUMENTARY

Didier Bizet's (France) series *Baby Boom* examines the reborn phenomena, a lifelike baby doll collected by enthusiasts and used by adoptive parents in preparation and by elderly patients in need of companionship. Poignant portraits of Hongkongers injured during the protests are the focus of **Chung Ming Ko's (Hong Kong)** project *Wounds of Hong Kong*, whereas **Zhang Youqiong's (China)** *From 'Made in China' to 'Made in Africa'* documents workers in the Chinese funded venture, the Ethiopian Oriental Industrial Park, a key enterprise in China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' in Africa.

ENVIRONMENT

Wahala by **Robin Hinsch (Germany)** documents the devastating effects of continued oil spillage and natural gas flaring along the Niger delta river. In *Atlas from the Edge*, **Álvaro Laiz (Spain)** explores the concept of 'natural symmetry' as practiced by the indigenous group, the Chukchi, whose traditional lifestyle evolved according to their mode of subsistence. In *The Future of Farming*, **Luca Locatelli (Italy)**, portrays high tech agrofarming systems from around the world, a possible solution to future food shortages.

LANDSCAPE

Torii by **Ronny Behner (Germany)** features photographs of Buddhist and Shinto temples across Japan, while *New Home* by **Chang Kyun Kim (Korea)**, comprises photographs of Japanese Internment Camps in which thousands of US citizens and residents of Japanese ancestry were imprisoned during the Second World War. *Project 596* by **Florian Ruiz (France)** depicts the barren landscape of Lop Nor, a former salt lake in China previously used as a nuclear weapons test site.

NATURAL WORLD & WILDLIFE

Masahiro Hiroike (Japan) captures the enchanting lights emitted by fireflies in the forests of Tottori, Japan in *Himebotaru* and in *Macro*, **Adalbert Mojzisch (Germany)** uses macro lens technique to provide a closeup view of the intricate colours and patterns of insect and amphibian eyes. *Pangolins in Crisis* by **Brent Stritton (South Africa)** looks at the illegal trade and rescue efforts of pangolins, the world's most illegally trafficked mammals.

PORTRAITURE

In *Passengers*, **Cesar Dezfuli (Spain)** juxtaposes striking portraits of migrants taken in 2016 as they first arrived on European shores with more recent images that better convey their personalities and the transformation they've experienced. *Unsung Heroes* by **Denis Rouvre (France)** presents the portraits and harrowing tales of women who have been victims of violence and in *Ukrainian Railroad Ladies*, **Sasha Maslov (Ukraine)** portrays the women who work as train station guards and explores their social role as a symbol of continuity in a country torn by war and political upheavals.

SPORT

Wrestling has become the number one sport in Senegal and is also a means of social ascendance steeped in tradition and ritual, in *Senegalese Wrestlers*, **Angel Lopez Soto (Spain)** explores these practices through images of young wrestles in training, whereas *Dives* by **Andrea Staccioli (Italy)** presents poetic portraits of athletes in mid-dive at the Gwangju Diving World Championships. **Lucas Barioulet's (France)**, *The Long and Difficult Path of the Mauritanian National Women's Football Team* looks at the challenges and cultural tensions faced by the female players in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

STILL LIFE

Disassembled Memory is a catalogue of photographs depicting the disassembled parts of **Fangbin Chen's (China)** childhood bicycle in an attempt to recall and preserve his memories from that time, while in *Plexus*, **Elena Helfrecht (Germany)** delves into her family's archive to examine the effects of inherited trauma and collective memory. In *IMMORTALITY, INC.* **Alessandro Gandolfi (Italy)** goes into research labs and institutions to document the processes and objects which represent modern science's advancements in its pursuit to overcome death.

The work of finalist and shortlisted photographers in the Professional competition was judged by: **Claudi Carreras Guillén**, Independent curator, editor, and cultural manager; **Touria El Glaoui**, Founding Director of 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair; **Katie Hollander**, Director, Annenberg Space for Photography; **Gwen Lee**, Director, Singapore International Photography Festival; **Brent Lewis**, Photo Editor, The New York Times / Co-Founder, Diversify Photo; and Chair and exhibition curator **Mike Trow**, picture editor and consultant.

SONY PROFESSIONAL GRANT 2019

Chosen from the Professional category finalists of the Sony World Photography Awards 2019, the latest Sony Professional Grant recipients are **Yan Wang Preston** (UK, 1st place, Landscape), **Edward Thompson** (UK, 3rd place, Brief), **Kohei Ueno** (Japan, 2nd place, Sport) and **Tuomas Uusheimo** (Finland, 2nd place, Architecture). Each photographer was given \$7,000 (USD) and the latest Sony digital imaging equipment in April 2019, along with the freedom to create entirely new works or to develop a long-term project.

Exhibited projects include:

Wilderness Expanses by Yan Wang Preston continues the artist's long-term investigation towards the complexities of nature in modern societies. Taken in different ecology-recovery areas in China, Preston uses a black & white aesthetic in the tradition of classic landscape photography to explore questions surrounding the recreation and recovery of our wildernesses. Edward Thompson uses the Brexit process as the backdrop to his project, documenting related national and local events.

The beauty of life, forgiveness, and the power of positive change by Kohei Ueno looks at the annual migration and slow recovery of the 'Tongan Tribe', a pod of whales, which was almost hunted to extinction during the devastating large-scale commercial whaling that occurred during the post-war era. *Out of bounds* by Tuomas Uusheimo examines the architecture, spatiality and boundaries of sports fields.



PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION 2020 FINALISTS AND SHORTLIST

ARCHITECTURE:

Finalists:

Sandra Herber, Canada
José De Rocco, Argentina
Jonathan Walland, England

Shortlist:

Swen Bernitz, Germany
Liang Chen, China Mainland
Jeoffrey Guillemard, France
Marcin Płonka, Poland
Maria Burasovskaya, Russian Federation
Laurin Schmid, Germany
Alexander Tatarenko, Russian Federation

CREATIVE:

Finalists:

Pablo Albarenga, Uruguay
Dione Roach, Italy
Luke Watson, UK

Shortlist:

Michel Le Belhomme, France
Nicoletta Cerasomma, Italy
Joseph Ford, United Kingdom
Ritsuko Matsushita, Japan
Serge Varaxin, Russian Federation
Reuben Wu, UK

DISCOVERY:

Finalists:

Hugh Kinsella Cunningham, UK
Maria Kokunova, Russian Federation
Hashem Shakeri, Iran

Shortlist:

Diogo Baptista, Portugal
Emmanuelle Firman, France
Adrian Francis, USA
Massimo Gurrieri, Italy
Thomas Hänisch, Germany
Edward Kaprov, Israel
Murat Yazar, Turkey

DOCUMENTARY:

Finalists:

Didier Bizet, France
Chung Ming Ko, Hong Kong
Youqiong Zhang, China Mainland

Shortlist:

David Butow, USA
Nicholas Moir, Australia
Patrick Wack, France
Eddy van Wessel, Netherlands
Ian Willms, Canada

ENVIRONMENT:

Finalists:

Robin Hinsch, Germany
Álvaro Laiz, Spain
Luca Locatelli, Italy

Shortlist:

Jenny Evans, Australia
Marco Garofalo, Italy
Eddo Hartmann, Netherlands
Maximilian Mann, Germany
Pierpaolo Mittica, Italy
Carolina Rapezzi, Italy
Kristof Vrancken, Belgium

LANDSCAPE:

Finalists:

Ronny Behnert, Germany
Chang Kyun Kim, South Korea
Florian Ruiz, France

Shortlist:

Mauro Battistelli, Italy
Jeroen van Dam, Netherlands
Andrius Grigalaitis, Lithuania
Sybren Vanoverberghe, Belgium
Peixia Xie, China Mainland

NATURAL WORLD &

WILDLIFE:

Finalists:

Masahiro Hiroike, Japan
Adalbert Mojzisch, Germany
Brent Stirton, South Africa

Shortlist:

Pierre Anquet, France
Songda Cai, China Mainland
Marko Dimitrijevic, Switzerland
Tobias Friedrich, Germany
Joan de la Malla, Spain
Yevhen Samuchenko, Ukraine

PORTRAITURE:

Finalists:

Cesar Dezfuli, Spain
Sasha Maslov, Ukraine
Denis Rouvre, France

Shortlist:

Richard Ansett, United Kingdom
Raul Ariano, Italy
Jon Enoch, UK
Adam Ferguson, Australia
Adrián Markis, Argentina
Magdalena Stengel, Germany
Tomáš Vrana, Czech Republic

SPORT:

Finalists:

Lucas Barioulet, France
José López Soto, Spain
Andrea Staccioli, Italy

Shortlist:

Giuliano Berti, Italy
Anton Dotsenko, USA
Frédéric Duhayer, France
Mikhail Kapychka, Belarus
Sarah Sasani, Iran
Federico Tardito, Italy

STILL LIFE:

Finalists:

Alessandro Gandolfi, Italy
Elena Helfrecht, Germany
Fangbin Chen, China Mainland

Shortlist:

Sabina Candusso, Italy
Emilia Cocking, United Kingdom
Sandrine Dippa, France
Paul Fuentes, Mexico
Molly Percy, United Kingdom
Yelena Strokin, Russian Federation
Cecilia Manzanares Vargas, Mexico

PRESS CONTACTS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Produced by the World Photography Organisation, the internationally acclaimed Sony World Photography Awards is one of the most important fixtures in the global photographic calendar. Now in its 13th year, the free-to-enter Awards are a global voice for photography and provide a vital insight into contemporary photography today. For both established and emerging artists, the Awards offer world-class opportunities for exposure of their work. The Awards additionally recognise the world's most influential artists working in the medium through the Outstanding Contribution to Photography Awards; previous recipients include Martin Parr, William Eggleston and Nadav Kander. The Awards showcase the works of winning and shortlisted photographers at a prestigious annual exhibition at Somerset House, London. To book tickets please visit worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards-exhibition

ABOUT SONY GRANT

Furthering Sony's commitment to supporting contemporary photographers and contributing to the continued development of photographic culture worldwide, the Sony Grants program was introduced in 2016 and is organised by the World Photography Organisation. It provides winning and shortlisted photographers of the Sony World Photography Awards with additional opportunities to cultivate and establish an ongoing relationship with Sony after the Awards. The recipients are chosen by Sony from the Awards' Professional and Student competitions.

ABOUT WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY ORGANISATION

The World Photography Organisation is a global platform for photography initiatives. Working across up to 180 countries, our aim is to raise the level of conversation around photography by celebrating the best imagery and photographers on the planet. We pride ourselves on building lasting relationships with both individual photographers as well as our industry-leading partners around the world. The World Photography Organisation hosts a year-round portfolio of events including the Sony World Photography Awards, one of the world's leading photography competitions, and PHOTOFAIRS, leading international art fairs dedicated to photography. For more details see worldphoto.org. Follow the World Photography Organisation on Instagram (@worldphotoorg), Twitter (@WorldPhotoOrg) and LinkedIn/Facebook (World Photography Organisation). Our hashtags to follow are #sonyworldphotographyawards #swpa.

ABOUT SONY CORPORATION

Sony Corporation is a creative entertainment company with a solid foundation of technology. From game and network services to music, pictures, electronics, semiconductors and financial services - Sony's purpose is to fill the world with emotion through the power of creativity and technology. For more information, visit sony.net

SONY IMAGING PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS INC.

is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sony Corporation that is responsible for its imaging products and solutions businesses, from consumer camera, solutions with a focus on broadcast- and professional-use products, to medical business.

VISITOR & LISTING INFORMATION

TITLE: Sony World Photography Awards 2020

VENUE: Somerset House, London, WC2R 1LA

DATES: 17 April – 4 May, 2020

OPENING TIMES: Monday - Friday, 10am-9pm / Saturday - Sunday, 10am-8pm

TICKETS: Available to buy on 5 March, 2020 (£9-14). Find out more at worldphoto.org/exhibition

IMAGE CREDITS

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