

PRESS RELEASE | 9 JUNE 2020

OVERALL WINNERS 2020

PROFESSIONAL, OPEN, STUDENT AND YOUTH WINNERS ANNOUNCED



© Pablo Albarenga

The World Photography Organisation is delighted to announce the overall winners in the prestigious Sony World Photography Awards 2020. The *Photographer of the Year* title and accompanying \$25,000 prize is awarded to **Pablo Albarenga (Uruguay)** for his series *Seeds of Resistance*. Also announced are the ten category winners of the Professional competition alongside 2nd and 3rd place as well as overall winners of the Open, Student and Youth competitions.

Seeds of Resistance is a body of work which pairs photographs of landscapes and territories in danger from mining and agribusinesses with portraits of the activists fighting to conserve them. In 2017, at least 207 leaders and environmentalists were killed while protecting their communities from projects threatening their territories. According to a 2018 report by Global Witness, most of these cases occurred in Brazil with 57 assassinations being recorded, of which 80% were against people defending the Amazon.

Albarenga's series explores the bond between the defenders and their lands – a sacred area in which hundreds of generations of their ancestors rest. In the photographs, the main characters in the stories are seen from above, as though they are laying down their lives for their territory.

Mike Trow, Chair of the 2020 Professional competition says: "This year's winner comes from the Creative category and is a brilliant set of images which offers a powerful visual record of how deforestation goes hand in hand with the destruction of communities and peoples. The judging process this year was challenging - there were a number of extraordinary stories and sets of images that could have won the overall title, but *Seeds of Resistance* really stood out. Pablo is from Uruguay and this project is deeply personal to him as a photographer. The effort required to envisage, produce and shoot this series is laudable in every way."

Commenting on his win Albarenga says: “With this important award, I see two victories: first, the opportunity to tell the stories of the traditional communities of the Amazon by highlighting the people who are still fighting not only for their future, but for everyone's. We need to look beyond the trees, the oxygen and the "undiscovered" species of the rainforest. Secondly, that the photographer of the year award has landed in Latin America, a continent historically told through the eyes of foreigners. I hope that many more photographers from our region will continue to contribute with our voices, thus strengthening the amazing community of Latin American storytellers”

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY WINNERS

Winning photographers in the Professional competition have been selected by a panel of expert judges for submitting an outstanding body of work of five to ten images, ranging from personal subjects and observations to headline news and little known but critical issues . This year's winners are:

ARCHITECTURE

WINNER: Sandra Herber (Canada) for her series *Ice Fishing Huts, Lake Winnipeg*
Finalists: 2nd place Jonathan Walland (UK); 3rd place José De Rocco (Argentina)

CREATIVE

WINNER: Pablo Albarenga (Uruguay) for his series *Seeds of Resistance*
Finalists: 2nd place Dione Roach (Italy); 3rd place Luke Watson (UK)

DISCOVERY

WINNER: Maria Kokunova (Russian Federation) for her series *The Cave*
Finalists: 2nd place Hashem Shakeri (Islamic Republic of Iran); 3rd place Hugh Kinsella Cunningham (UK)

DOCUMENTARY

WINNER: Chung Ming Ko (Hong Kong SAR) for his series *Wounds of Hong Kong*
Finalists: 2nd place Didier Bizet (France); 3rd place Youqiong Zhang (Mainland China)

ENVIRONMENT

WINNER: Robin Hinsch (Germany) for his series *Wahala*
Finalists: 2nd place Álvaro Laiz (Spain); 3rd place Luca Locatelli (Italy)

LANDSCAPE

WINNER: Ronny Behnert (Germany) for his series *Torii*
Finalists: 2nd place Florian Ruiz (France); 3rd place Chang Kyun Kim (South Korea)

NATURAL WORLD & WILDLIFE:

WINNER: Brent Stirton (South Africa) for his series *Pangolins in Crisis*
Finalists: 2nd place Masahiro Hiroike (Japan); 3rd place Adalbert Mojzisch (Germany)

PORTRAITURE

WINNER: Cesar Dezfuli (Spain) for his series *Passengers*
Finalists: 2nd place Denis Rouvre (France); 3rd place Sasha Maslov (Ukraine)

SPORT

WINNER: Ángel López Soto (Spain) for his series *Senegalese Wrestlers*
Finalists: 2nd place Lucas Barioulet (France); 3rd place Andrea Staccioli (Italy)

STILL LIFE

WINNER: Alessandro Gandolfi (Italy) for his series *Immortality, Inc.*
Finalists: 2nd place Elena Helfrecht (Germany); 3rd place Fangbin Chen (Mainland China)

To find out more about this year's winning and finalist projects please visit our [online winners galleries](#)

OPEN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

The Open competition celebrates the power of single images. Winning photographs are selected for their ability to communicate a remarkable visual narrative combined with technical excellence. Selected from ten Open category winners **Tom Oldham (UK)** is named *Open Photographer of the Year 2020* and receives the \$5,000 prize for *Black Francis*.

The photograph is a black & white portrait of Pixies frontman Charles Thompson (aka Black Francis), originally taken for MOJO Magazine. Asked by Oldham to acknowledge his frustration with photoshoots, Francis offered a perfect gesture of exasperation by digging his hands into his face. The result was an expressive photograph which ran as the lead image for the article.

Speaking of his win Oldham says: *'It's an incredible compliment to be chosen for this as I'm still buzzing to have made the shortlist alongside so much world class talent. I never dreamt I could get anywhere in the Open competition as the standard is so high and this award will really take some time to realise. I thank Mojo Magazine for the commission, my brilliant team and of course Charles for offering up such a moment. I'm astonished and delighted.'*

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Greek Student **Ioanna Sakellaraki** was chosen as *Student Photographer of the Year 2020* for her series *Aeiforia*, created in response to the brief *Sustainability Now* which asked students to produce a body of work connected to environmental sustainability. In her series, Sakellaraki presents night-time photographs of solar panels, wind turbines and battery farms used across the small island of Tilos in Greece which is the first in the Mediterranean to run almost entirely on renewable energy.

Sakellaraki represents the Royal College of Art in the UK and has won €30,000 worth of Sony photography equipment for her institution. Commenting on her win she says: *"I am honoured to have been awarded the title of the Student Photographer of the Year. My series Aeiforia enabled me to share a positive story on the theme of sustainability by capturing the landscape as a passage into the night ambiance of the Greek island of Tilos. I hope that this honourable recognition will give me the opportunity to work on many more assignments of this kind. I am also thankful on behalf of The Royal College of Art for receiving the excellent equipment Sony generously offers as it will help other students to realise new projects with it."*

YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Selected from seven category winners, **Hsien-Pang Hsieh (Taiwan Region, 19 years old)** has won *Youth Photographer of the Year 2020* for his image *Hurry*, featuring a street performer who is seemingly walking in a hurry but is in fact standing still. Inspired by his experience as a newly arrived student in Germany, Hsien-Pang sees the image as his comment on the intensive pace of life and a reminder others to slow down.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

This year's *Outstanding Contribution to Photography* has been awarded to printer and publisher Gerhard Steidl. This is the first time in the Awards' history that the *Outstanding Contribution to Photography* has been presented to someone other than a photographer. Established in 1968, Steidl's publishing house launched its own photobook programme in 1996 and within a few years grew it to what is today; the largest list for contemporary photography worldwide. His remarkable catalogue of photobooks features renowned practitioners including Joel Sternfeld, Nan Goldin, Bruce Davidson, Robert Frank, Berenice Abbott, Robert Adams, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Karl Lagerfeld and Juergen Teller, to name a few. His publications encompass the entire history of photography, from early masters to today's leading photographers, and represent the diverse spectrum of photographic expression – from art and fashion to documentary and street photography.

Winning photographers will be celebrated across the World Photography Organisation's online channels and platforms using dedicated content including videos, presentations and live Q&As. A digital showcase of this year's winning and finalist projects and images is available via the [On Screen](#) page.

A virtual exhibition featuring the winners' work is now available on the World Photography Organisation [website](#).

In response to recent events, the World Photography Organisation has also launched the [Stay Connected](#) page, featuring a varied programme of online initiatives, activities and resources which aims to support and inspire audiences and photographers recognised at this year's Awards.

Discussing this year's Awards Scott Gray, Founder and CEO of the World Photography Organisation said: *"The Sony World Photography Awards was established to help get photographers the recognition they deserve with the exhibition providing an important platform to share their work with new audiences. Due to current restrictions with the global pandemic we were unable to hold this year's exhibition however we are still dedicated to promoting winning images and projects and ensure the Awards provide awareness and appreciation for the photographers' work. We are immensely lucky that we are able to work with Sony on this activation. Sony share our commitment to this medium and to the individual photographers and together we will continue to celebrate their work and raise the profile of photography as art."*

All winning and shortlisted images are available to download for publication at www.worldphoto.org/press

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION 2020 WINNERS AND SHORTLIST

ARCHITECTURE:

Category Winner:

Sandra Herber, Canada

Second place: Jonathan Walland, United Kingdom

Third place: José De Rocco, Argentina

Shortlist:

Swen Bernitz, Germany

Liang Chen, China Mainland

Jeoffrey Guillemard, France

Marcin Płonka, Poland

Fyodor Savintsev, Russian Federation

Laurin Schmid, Germany

Alexander Tatarenko, Russian Federation

CREATIVE:

Overall Winner:

Pablo Albarenga, Uruguay

Second place: Dione Roach, Italy

Third place: Luke Watson, United Kingdom

Shortlist:

Michel Le Belhomme, France

Nicoletta Cerasomma, Italy

Joseph Ford, United Kingdom

Ritsuko Matsushita, Japan

Serge Varaxin, Russian Federation

Reuben Wu, United Kingdom

DISCOVERY:

Category Winner:

Maria Kokunova, Russian Federation

Second place: Hashem Shakeri, Iran

Third place: Hugh Kinsella Cunningham, United Kingdom

Shortlist:

Diogo Baptista, Portugal

Emmanuelle Firman, France

Adrian Francis, USA

Massimo Gurrieri, Italy

Thomas Hänisch, Germany

Edward Kaprov, Israel

Murat Yazar, Turkey

DOCUMENTARY:

Category Winner:

Chung Ming Ko, Hong Kong

Second place: Didier Bizet, France

Third place: Youqiong Zhang, China Mainland

Shortlist:

Nicholas Moir, Australia

Patrick Wack, France

Eddy van Wessel, Netherlands

Ian Willms, Canada

ENVIRONMENT:

Category Winner:

Robin Hirsch, Germany

Second place: Álvaro Laiz, Spain

Third place: 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:

Category Winner:

Ronny Behnert, Germany

Second place: Florian Ruiz, France

Third place: Chang Kyun Kim, South Korea

Shortlist:

Mauro Battistelli, Italy

Jeroen van Dam, Netherlands

Andrius Grigalaitis, Lithuania

Sybren Vanoverberghe, Belgium

Peixia Xie, China Mainland

NATURAL WORLD &

WILDLIFE:

Category Winner:

Brent Stirton, South Africa

Second place: Masahiro Hiroike, Japan

Third place: Adalbert Mojzisch, Germany

Shortlist:

Pierre Anquet, France

Songda Cai, China Mainland

Marko Dimitrijevic, Switzerland

Tobias Friedrich, Germany

Joan de la Malla, Spain

Yevhen Samuchenko, Ukraine

PORTRAITURE:

Category Winner:

Cesar Dezfuli, Spain

Second place: Denis Rouvre, France

Third place: Sasha Maslov, Ukraine

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:

Category Winner:

Ángel López Soto, Spain

Second place: Lucas Barioulet, France

Third place: Andrea Staccioli, Italy

Shortlist:

Giuliano Berti, Italy

Anton Dotsenko, USA

Frédéric Duhayer, France

Mikhail Kapychka, Belarus

Sarah Sasani, Iran

Federico Tardito, Italy

STILL LIFE:

Category Winner:

Alessandro Gandolfi, Italy

Second place: Elena Helfrecht, Germany

Third place: 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

OPEN COMPETITION 2020 WINNERS AND SHORTLIST

ARCHITECTURE:

Category Winner:

Rosaria Sabrina Pantano, Italy

Shortlist:

Justin Chui, Hong Kong
Massimo Crivellari, Italy
Paul Crudgington, United Kingdom
Marcin Giba, Poland
Iraklis Kougemitros, Greece
Alexandre B. Lampron, Canada
Peter Li, United Kingdom
Wen Lu, China Mainland
Liliana Ochoa, Colombia
Peter Plorin, Germany
Eleni Rimantonaki, Greece
Franco Tessarolo, Switzerland
Eng Tong Tan, Malaysia
Stephen Tomlinson, United Kingdom

LANDSCAPE:

Category Winner:

Craig McGowan, Australia

Shortlist:

Or Adar, Israel
Hong Chen, Hong Kong
Marcin Giba, Poland
Kai Hornung, Germany
Stanley Lin, Taiwan
Marco Minischetti, Italy
Viktor Einar Vilhelmsson, Iceland
Hsiang Hui (Sylvester) Wong, Malaysia

PORTRAITURE:

Category Winner:

Tom Oldham, United Kingdom

Shortlist:

Frederic Aranda, United Kingdom
Will Bolsover, United Kingdom
Laurent Caitucoli, France
Gareth Cattermole, Ireland
Lorena Zschaber Guimarães, Brazil
Katinka Herbert, United Kingdom
Justin Keene, United Kingdom
Ottavio Marino, Italy
Sawamaru Pokiru, Japan
David Ridgway, United Kingdom
Ulana Switucha, Canada
Dmitrii Tulmentev, Russian Federation
Greg Turner, United Kingdom
Tales Yuan, China Mainland

TRAVEL:

Category Winner:

Adrian Guerin, Australia

Shortlist:

Kendall Greene, United States
Trung Pham Huy, Viet Nam
Chen Jun, China Mainland
Kaitlyn Kamperschroer, United States
Veliko Karachiviev, Bulgaria
Hu Qing, China Mainland
Michael Paramonti, Germany
José María Pérez, Argentina
Jonathan Rogers, United Kingdom
James Rushforth, United Kingdom
Tran Tuan, Vietnam
Manfred Voss, Germany
Milosz Wilczynski, Poland
Manfred Voss, Germany

CREATIVE:

Category Winner:

Suxing Zhang, China Mainland

Shortlist:

Lucia Benavento, Argentina
Cristina Coral, Italy
Henry Oude Egberink, Netherlands
Julian Fabiolato, United States
Katie Farr, United Kingdom
Erica de Haas, Netherlands
Martina Holmberg, Sweden
Marek Juras, Czech Republic
Stanislav Stankovskiy, Russian
David Swindler, United States
John White, United Kingdom

MOTION:

Category Winner:

Alec Connah, United Kingdom

Shortlist:

Jessica Chappe, United States
Roberto Corinaldesi, Italy
Marc Le Cornu, United Kingdom
Lloyd Lane, United Kingdom
Peter Svoboda, Slovakia
Jonathan Taylor, United States
Muriel Vekemans, Belgium
Emma Williams, United Kingdom
Lior Yaakobi, Israel

STILL LIFE:

Category Winner:

Jorge Reynal, Argentina

Shortlist:

Javier De Benito, Spain
Simone Bramante, Italy
Antonio Coelho, Portugal
Kunkun Liu, China Mainland
Ian Knaggs, United Kingdom
Igor Kryukov, Russian Federation
Arnaud Montagard, France
Chris Patterson, United Kingdom
Kihyoung You, Republic of Korea

CULTURE:

Category Winner:

Antoine Veling, Australia

Shortlist:

Ignacio Alvarez Barutell, Spain
Diana Buzoianu, Romania
Kinyas Bostanci, Turkey
Sergio Carrasco, Mexico
Satheesh Chandran, India
Gil Kreslavsky, Israel
Ted Lau, United Kingdom
Mahesh Lonkar, India
Antonino Maurizio Clemenza, Italy

NATURAL WORLD & WILDLIFE:

Category Winner:

Guofei Li, China Mainland

Shortlist:

Filippo Borghi, Italy
Rachel Brooks, United Kingdom
Marleen Van Eijk, Netherlands
Michael Faint, United Kingdom
Anastasia Kaminskaya, Russian Federation
David Keep, United Kingdom
Alex Kydd, Australia
Shivansh Mathur, India
Caroline Paux, France
Adam Stevenson, Australia
Domenico Tripodi, Italy
Will Venter, South Africa
Marcus Westberg, Sweden
Julia Wimmerlin, Ukraine

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY:

Category Winner:

Santiago Mesa, Colombia

Shortlist:

Indranil Aditya, India
Peter Brooks, United Kingdom
Jaime Diaz, Spain
Daniel Heilig, Hungary
Misha Japaridze, Russian Federation
Tim Johnston, United Kingdom
Jon Liu, China Mainland
Joaquín Luna, Spain
Bülent Suberk, Turkey
Xun Yuan, China Mainland

YOUTH & STUDENT COMPETITION 2020 WINNERS AND SHORTLIST

YOUTH COMPETITION 2020

Overall Winner:

Hsien-Pang Hsieh, Taiwan Region

Shortlist:

Jason Chen, United States

Dita Suci Putri Rahmawati, Indonesia

Bruce Bai, China Mainland

Ram Kaushalyan, India

Kolton Almany, United States

Liam Moynihan, United States

STUDENT COMPETITION 2020

Overall Winner:

Ioanna Sakellarakis, Greece (Royal College of Art UK)

Shortlist:

Reyad Abedin, Bangladesh (Counter Foto – A Center for Visual Art)

Robin Ansart, France (Ecole Nationale Supérieure Louis-Lumière)

Micaela Del Sol Angulo, Peru (Centro de la Imagen)

Fangbin Chen, China Mainland (Qilu University of Technology)

Amy Davis, South Africa (CityVarsity Cape Town)

Tobia Faverio, Italy (NABA Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti)

Arantza Sánchez Reyes, Mexico (LCI Monterrey)

Chip Skingley, United Kingdom (University of the West of England)

Ashley Tofa, New Zealand (The University of Auckland)

IMAGES AVAILABLE AT [WORLDPHOTO.ORG/PRESS](https://worldphoto.org/press)

PRESS CONTACTS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Inbal Mizrahi on press@worldphoto.org

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 find out more please visit worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards-exhibition

2020 JUDGES :

Professional competition: **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.

Open & Youth competitions: **Gisela Kayser**, Managing Director and Artistic Director, Freundeskreis Willy-Brandt-Haus e.V., Berlin

Student competition: **Tim Clark**, curator, writer and Editor in Chief 1000 Words.

PABLO ALBARENGA

Pablo Albarenga (Montevideo, 1990) is a documentary photographer and visual storyteller exploring human rights issues in Latin America. Albarenga is a [National Geographic Explorer](#) and a [Pulitzer Center Grantee](#). As a photographer, he has dedicated his work to investigating, studying, and photographing the colonization process that is still affecting traditional populations in Latin America. Many communities are being threatened by huge development projects who aim to exploit the natural resources available in their territories, such as minerals, wood, and extensive agriculture. www.pabloalbarenga.com

TOM O LDHAM

Tom Oldham is a London based portrait photographer, specialising in shooting the great and good of sports and music for editorial and commercial clients worldwide. He has exhibited several of his personal projects, including his work from the Palm Tree pub in East London entitled The Last of The Crooners, which won the 2018 Sony World Photography Award for Portraits in the Professional Category. www.tomoldham.com

IOANNA SAKELLARAKI

Ioanna Sakellarakis (b.1989) is a graduate of journalism, photography and culture. She was recently awarded with The Royal Photographic Society Postgraduate Bursary Award and nominated for the Inge Morath Award by Magnum Foundation, the Prix HSBC, the Prix Voies Off and the Prix Levallois. After obtaining an MA in European Urban and Cultural Studies, Ioanna currently completes an MA in Photography at the Royal College of Art in London. Recent shows include: International Photography Exhibition, Royal Photographic Society, Bristol (2020), Festival Circulations, 104, Paris (2020), Les Recontres de la Photographie, Palais El Badi, Marrakech (2019), The Truth in Disguise, GESTE Paris (2019), La nouvelle génération documente, Galerie Le Réverbère, Lyon (2019), The Photography Prize, Argentea Gallery, Birmingham (2019), Photo Israel, Azrieli Sarona, Tel Aviv (2019), Athens Photo Festival, Benaki Museum, Athens (2018), Kolga Tbilisi Photo, Artarea Gallery, Tbilisi (2018). www.ioannasakellarakis.com

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

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