

## **Kevin Faingnaert, Belgium, wins 2017 ZEISS Photography Award**

- Winner and shortlisted photographers selected from over 30,000 images from 132 countries
- Faingnaert awarded €12,000 worth of ZEISS lenses and €3,000 to complete a photography project
- Images available for publication at [press.worldphoto.org](http://press.worldphoto.org)

**March 14, 2017:** The World Photography Organisation and ZEISS today announce Belgian photographer Kevin Faingnaert as the winner of the 2017 ZEISS Photography Award “Seeing Beyond”. Faingnaert is recognized for “Føroyar”, a stunning photography series about life on remote and sparsely populated villages on the Faroe Islands.

Now in its second year, the theme of ZEISS Photography Award was ‘Meaningful Places’ which challenged professional photographers to look past the ordinary and everyday and submit a body of work that captured extraordinary aspects of the world we live in. The award is a collaboration between the World Photography Organisation and ZEISS and is designed push the creative talents of photographers worldwide.

More than 31,000 images were submitted by 4,677 photographers from 132 countries to the 2017 award. Kevin Faingnaert’s winning work was selected by an expert panel of judges including: Claire Richardson, Picture Editor, Lonely Planet Traveller; Jürgen Schadeberg Dr.(h.c.), Photographer and Sarah Toplis, Commissioning Executive, The Space.

Judge Claire Richardson comments: “There is a wonderful completeness to Kevin’s series; epic landscapes mix with tenderly composed portraits, tied together by a soft muted palette, which immediately draws you in. Everyday events in these remote communities are captured by the lens, from a parishioner sitting quietly in a local church to a village football game. But look closely at this unforgiving and wild environment and you realise that these are ordinary people living in extraordinary circumstances, hanging on at the edge of the world.”

The judges also recognised the work of nine further photographers:

- **Anna Filipova, Bulgaria/ UK**
- **Mario Adario, Italy**
- **Christopher Roche, UK**
- **Sonja Hamad, Germany**
- **Ben Bond Obiri Asamoah, Ghana**
- **Frederik Buyckx, Belgium**
- **Nicholas White, UK**
- **Fabian Muir, Australia**
- **Nicky Newman, South Africa**

As the 2017 ZEISS Photography Award winner, Kevin Faingnaert receives €12,000 worth of ZEISS lenses and €3,000 in travel expenses to complete a photography project.

The work of both the winning and shortlisted photographers will be shown in London as part of the Sony World Photography Awards & Martin Parr – 2017 Exhibition at Somerset House from April 21 – May 7.

For further details please go to <https://www.worldphoto.org/zeiss-camera-lenses/2017-zeiss-photography-award>

### **About the photographer**

Kevin Faingnaert lives and works in Gent, Belgium, and is a social documentary photographer with a degree in Sociology. His work mainly focuses on small groups and communities that are removed from mainstream culture and his images have been published internationally.

Talking about his winning series "Føroyar", Faingnaert comments: "In February 2016 I immersed myself within the Faroese community, I couch-surfed and hitch-hiked my way across the islands, finding doors opening to me everywhere I went. There, across swathes of snow-veiled landscapes and bordered by dramatic coastline, villages are slowly dropping into decline as more and more of their inhabitants are emigrating from the islands in pursuit of greater opportunities. In these clear and pristine landscapes, where villages with populations as low as ten huddle together on the edge of cliffs, I tried to reveal a community hanging on firmly to their roots and traditions, while underlining that one day these villages must inevitably disappear."

**The winning and shortlisted images of the 2017 ZEISS Photography Award are available at [press.worldphoto.org](http://press.worldphoto.org)**

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### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

#### **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 and our industry-leading partners around the world. We host a year-round portfolio of events including: the Sony World Photography Awards (the world's largest photography competition, marking its 10th anniversary in 2017), various local meetups/talks throughout the year, and PHOTOFAIRS, International Art Fairs Dedicated to Photography, with destinations in Shanghai and San Francisco.

#### **About ZEISS**

ZEISS is an internationally leading technology enterprise operating in the fields of optics and optoelectronics. The ZEISS Group develops, produces and distributes measuring technology, microscopes, medical technology, eyeglass lenses, camera and cinema lenses, binoculars and semiconductor manufacturing equipment. With its solutions, the company constantly advances the world of optics and helps shape technological progress. ZEISS is divided up into the four segments Research & Quality Technology, Medical Technology, Vision Care/Consumer Products and Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology. The ZEISS Group is represented in more than 40 countries and has over 50 sales and service locations, more than 30 manufacturing sites and about 25 research and development centers around the globe.

In fiscal year 2015/16 the company generated revenue approximating €4.9 billion with over 25,000 employees. Founded in 1846 in Jena, the company is headquartered in Oberkochen, Germany. Carl Zeiss AG is the strategic

management holding company that manages the ZEISS Group. The company is wholly owned by the Carl Zeiss Stiftung (Carl Zeiss Foundation).

Further information is available at [www.zeiss.com](http://www.zeiss.com).

### **Consumer Optics**

The Consumer Optics business group combines the company's business with camera and movie lenses, binoculars, spotting scopes, hunting optics, virtual reality headsets and planetarium technology. The business group is represented at sites in Oberkochen, Wetzlar and Jena. The business group is allocated to the Vision Care/ Consumer Products segment. In fiscal year 2015/16 the segment generated revenue of €1.1 billion with around 9,300 employees.