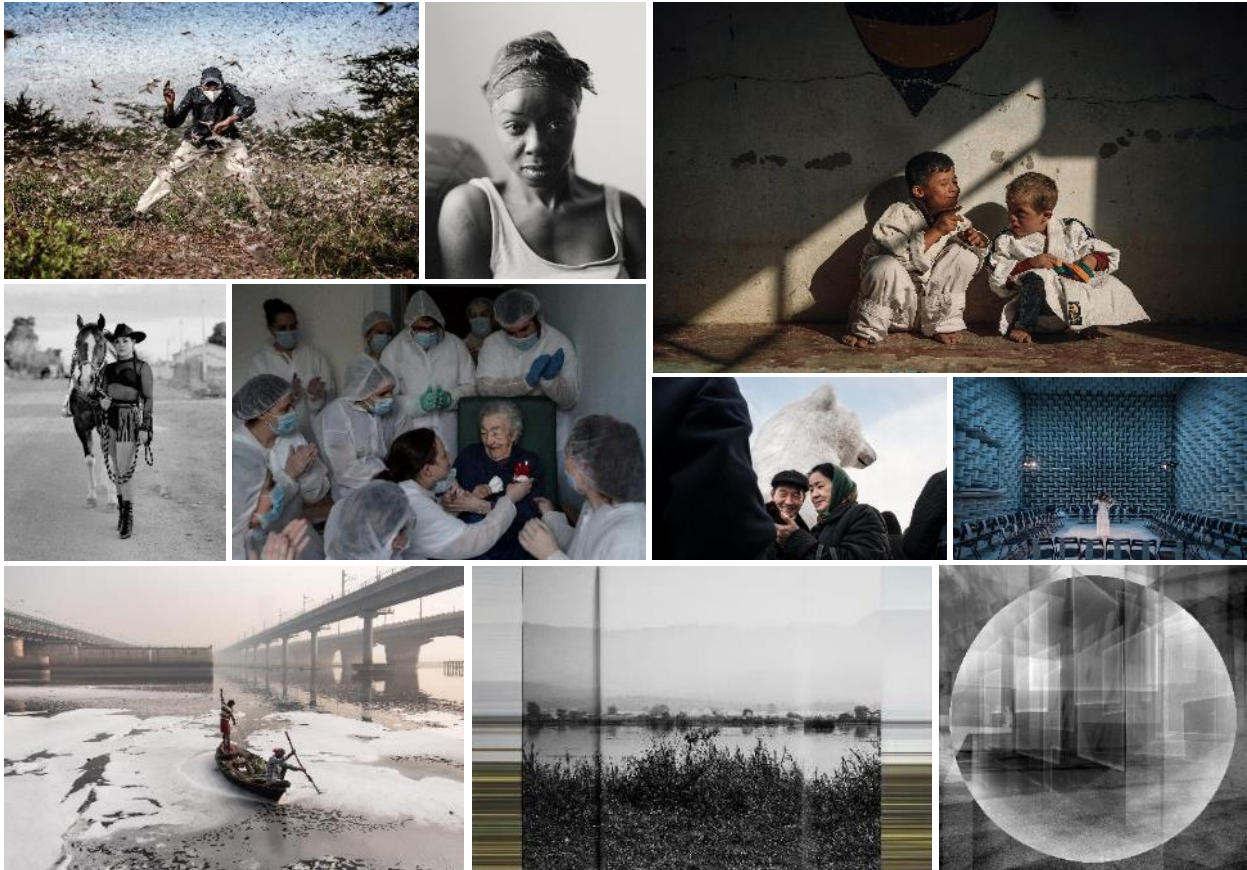


## PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION 2021 FINALISTS AND SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED



The World Photography Organisation is pleased to reveal the finalist and shortlisted photographers in the Professional competition for the Sony World Photography Awards 2021. Now in its 14th 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 2021* will be selected from the group of Professional finalists and revealed on the **15 April**. To mark the occasion a specially commissioned programme featuring the winners and hosted by art historian **Jacky Klein** and entertainer **Nish Kumar** will be available to stream via the World Photography Organisation digital platforms on the 15 April.

Over 330,000 images from 220 territories were submitted across the 2021 Awards' four competitions and more than 145,000 were entered into the Professional competition's 10 categories – the highest number of entries to date. A Portfolio category has been introduced this year, presenting photographers with the opportunity to submit individual images from various bodies of work but in which their style and technical skills are consistent throughout.

The Sony World Photography Awards 2021 finalist photographers and projects are:

## ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

In *Hymn of the Building Site*, **Gu Guanghui (China Mainland)** presents images of construction sites across Ninghai County, Zhejiang Province. Taken from above, the sites and workmen are reduced to abstract shapes. Also working with an abstract point of view is **Frank Machalowski, (Germany)** whose series *Meisterhäuser Bauhaus-Dessau* comprises layered images of Walter Gropius's Masters' Houses in Dessau using multiple exposures. For his project, *Eternal Hunting Ground*, **Tomáš Vocelka (Czech Republic)** chose to photograph a former military complex turned pet crematorium by minimalist architect Petr Hajek.

## CREATIVE

Using family heirlooms to create staged visual metaphors **Sasha Bauer (Russian Federation)** explores her family history through the prism of her grandfather's tumultuous life – from growing up in an orphanage to his years of service in the Russian army. *Ampelio and I* by **Luigi Bussolati (Italy)** features photographs found in an old family album and projected onto the landscapes of Parma and along the river Po. The project was conceived in memory of Bussolati's uncle, a passionate photographer himself who in 1942 tragically took his own life. In *The Moon Revisited* **Mark Hamilton Gruchy (United Kingdom)** combines previously unprocessed, copyright-free scans from NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory with 3D software, models, virtual cameras and lighting to create his own set of images. These new composites reference contemporary issues alongside some that were relevant at the time of the Apollo missions and aim to contrast the unchanging surface of the Moon with the always dynamic pace of events on Earth.

## DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS

In *Thatcher's Children*, **Craig Easton (United Kingdom)** investigates the chronic nature of poverty and the effects of successive governments' social policies as experienced by three generations of one family in the north of England. *The Killing Daisy* by **Vito Fusco (Italy)** focuses on the pyrethrum, also known as the 'flower of death'. This delicate but deadly-to-insects daisy stands at the centre of a thriving organic insecticide industry in Kenya. **Lorenzo Tugnoli's (Italy)** powerful *Beirut Port Explosion* documents the devastation in the aftermath of the explosion that shook Beirut in August 2020, when 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate detonated in the city's port, killing hundreds and injuring and displacing thousands.

## ENVIRONMENT

**Mohammad Madadi's, (Islamic Republic of Iran)** *A City Under Dust Clouds* features the cityscapes of Ahvaz, one of the world's most air polluted cities, covered under a sepia cloud of dust and contamination. In *The Sea Moves Us, the Sea Moves Fuvemeh*, **Antonio Pérez (Spain)** presents the inhabitants of Fuvemeh, a small fishing village in Ghana, in a series of portraits juxtaposed with photographs of their abandoned homes, now lying in ruins due to rising sea levels and coastal erosion. *Net-Zero Transition* by **Simone Tramonte (Italy)** explores Iceland, a country which now produces 100% of its electricity from renewable sources, as a successful case study for other nations looking towards a more sustainable future.

## LANDSCAPE

In *Silent Neighbourhoods*, **Majid Hojjati (Islamic Republic of Iran)** presents a series of landscapes centred around deserted structures that in their quiet stillness poetically evoke the stories of those that once inhabited them. *Za'im* by **Andrea Ferro (Italy)** explores notions of iconography and devotion as expressed in the political propaganda posters that dominate the urban landscapes of Tripoli, Lebanon. *Volcano* by **Fyodor Savintsev (Russian Federation)** depicts the vibrant colours, natural diversity and otherworldly qualities of the volcanic belt in the Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia.

## PORTFOLIO

In *Citizens of Tomorrow*, creative director and photographer **Loli Laboureau (Argentina)** contrasts staid and lively street scenes of the world as 'we used to know it' with colourful and dramatically staged portraits depicting the 'new normal'. Taken in and around his hometown of Ourense in the region of Galicia, photojournalist **Brais Lorenzo (Spain)** presents a series of poignant and dramatic scenes exploring local events and issues ranging from the effects of the pandemic to forest fires and carnival season. In images taken from a variety of personal projects, social documentary and portrait photographer **Laura Pannack (United Kingdom)** uses symbolism and a muted colour palette to evoke vulnerability in and intimacy with her subjects.

## PORTRAITURE

For his second shortlisted project **Craig Easton (United Kingdom)** presents *Bank Top*, a collaboration with writer and academic Abdul Aziz Hafiz, examining the representation and misrepresentation of communities in northern England, specifically looking at the residents of one tight-knit neighbourhood in Blackburn. In *Looking Out from Within, 2020* **Julia Fullerton-Batten (United Kingdom)** took to the streets of her local area of West London to document her neighbours in their state of lockdown – meticulously staged at the windows of their homes while forlornly staring out. Inspired by John Houston’s film *The Misfits* (1961), *Drag Queen Cowboys* by **Jane Hilton (United Kingdom)** comprises black & white portraits of Las Vegas Drag Queen performers photographed in ‘Western’ outfits against Nevada’s desert backdrop.

## SPORT

In *Sport and Fun Instead of War and Fear*, **Anas Alkharboutli (Syrian Arab Republic)** movingly documents Wasim Satot’s karate school for children in the village of Aljiina, near Aleppo, where boys and girls, aged 6 -15 years-old, with and without disabilities, come together to form a community and overcome the traumas of war. *Iron Fit Kenya* by **Patrick Meinhardt (Spain)** depicts athletes from across East Africa taking part in the second Iron Fit Bodybuilding competition in Nairobi. *Rooftops* by **Farzam Saleh (Islamic Republic Of Iran)** captures Iranian athletes as they take to the rooftops of their city to maintain a regime of health and fitness during the pandemic.

## STILL LIFE

In *Still Life Composition, Shot on Wet Plate*, **Peter Eleveld (Netherlands)** showcases a series of black & white images of glass vases, fruit and flowers expertly photographed and developed using a large-format camera and the wet plate collodion process. Conceived during the first national lockdown in Milan, **Alessandro Pollio’s (Italy)** *Volatile Interests* is a visual investigation of the photographer’s domestic environment in which simple and often humorous compositions of food and everyday objects represent memories of days spent in isolation. *Mexican Feast* is a celebration of Mexican food and handcraft traditions. In a vibrant and brightly lit mix of colours and textures, **Paloma Rincon’s (Spain)** studio constructions pay homage to her cultural influences.

## WILDLIFE & NATURE

*Sea Drops* by **Angel Fitor (Spain)** is a photographic essay exploring life inside drops of sea water. Using micropipettes, and a self-designed micro studio set-up, Fitor opens a drop shaped window to the splendidly diverse world of different species of planktons. Through close-up portraits, aerial images and underwater shots, *Raw Nature* by **Graeme Purdy (United Kingdom)** captures the fierce and majestic beauty of wild animals. *Locust Invasion in East Africa* by **Luis Tato (Spain)** documents a destructive infestation of desert locust across East Africa as it wiped out entire fields of vegetation and crops. This recent outbreak has been the most severe the region has known in decades, made worse by Covid-19 restrictions disrupting the supply chains of pesticides.

The work of finalist and shortlisted photographers in the Professional competition was judged by: **Natasha Egan**, Executive Director, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago; **Sunyoung Kim**, Curator, Museum of Photography Seoul, South Korea; **Azu Nwagbogu**, Founder and Director, African Artists’ Foundation and LagosPhoto Festival; **Lindsay Taylor**, Curator, University of Salford Art Collection; **Hannah Watson**, Director, Trolley Books; and **Mike Trow**, Independent Curator and Photo Editor, Chair of the Jury.

Commenting about this year’s finalists and shortlist Mike Trow says: ‘*The integrity, intentionality and considered edits presented in this year’s projects stirred up debate and genuine appreciation among the jury. Photographers rose up to the challenges of 2020 using the time to delve deeper into personal projects and explore the stories unfolding in their local communities. Their efforts have truly paid off with shortlisted and finalists’ works presenting a noticeable step up in quality, which made the competition feel special this year.*’

The overall winners in the Student, Youth, Open and Professional competition of the Sony World Photography Awards 2021 will be announced on the 15 April 2021 via the World Photography Organisation’s digital and video platforms. For more information about winners and shortlists please visit [www.worldphoto.org](http://www.worldphoto.org)

## PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION 2021 FINALISTS AND SHORTLIST

### ARCHITECTURE:

#### Finalists:

Gu Guanghui, China Mainland  
Tomáš Vocelka, Czech Republic  
Frank Machalowski, Germany

#### Shortlist:

Leonardo Costa Braga, Brazil  
Peter Franck, Germany  
Arvind Jayashankar, Belgium  
Luca Locatelli, Italy  
Karin Nützi-Weisz, Switzerland

### CREATIVE:

#### Finalists:

Sasha Bauer, Russian Federation  
Luigi Bussolati, Italy  
Mark Hamilton Gruchy, United Kingdom

#### Shortlist:

Andrea Alkalay, Argentina  
Delphine Blast, France  
Ilka & Franz, Germany  
Julia Keil, Germany  
Kyung-Hoon Kim, South Korea  
Niloofar Mahmoudian, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Michelle Watt, United States

### DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS:

#### Finalists:

Craig Easton, United Kingdom  
Vito Fusco, Italy  
Lorenzo Tugnoli, Italy

#### Shortlist:

Marcos Azulay, Argentina  
Ingmar Björn Nolting, Germany  
Justyna Gorniak, Poland  
Tomasz Lazar, Poland  
Jose Manuel Lopez, Spain  
Agnieszka Maruszczyk, Poland  
Alexey Pavlov, Russian Federation

### ENVIRONMENT:

#### Finalists:

Mohammad Madadi, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Antonio Pérez, Spain  
Simone Tramonte, Italy

#### Shortlist:

Felipe Fittipaldi, Brazil  
Antonio Faccilongo, Italy  
Alessandro Gandolfi, Italy  
Li Wentao, China Mainland

### LANDSCAPE:

#### Finalists:

Majid Hojjati, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Andrea Ferro, Italy  
Fyodor Savintsev, Russian Federation

#### Shortlist:

Niklas Eschenmoser, Switzerland  
Mehradad Fathi, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Samad Ghorbanzadeh, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Carol Graham, United Kingdom  
Marvin Grey, Philippines  
Marc Hennige, Germany

### PORTRAITURE:

#### Finalists:

Craig Easton, United Kingdom  
Julia Fullerton-Batten, United Kingdom  
Jane Hilton, United Kingdom

#### Shortlist:

Richard Ansett, United Kingdom  
Theo Gould, United Kingdom  
Christian Lee, United States  
John Millar, United Kingdom  
Agnese Morganti, Italy  
Luca Rotondo, Italy

### PORTFOLIO:

#### Finalists:

Loli Laboureau, Argentina  
Brais Lorenzo, Spain  
Laura Pannack, United Kingdom

#### Shortlist:

Sergio Aparicio - OKOBÉ, Spain  
Jacob Ehrbahn, Denmark  
Alessandro Gandolfi, Italy  
Ilka & Franz, Germany  
Peter Franck, Germany  
Kayode Moyosade, Nigeria  
Marylise Vigneau, France

### SPORT:

#### Finalists:

Anas Alkharboutli, Syria  
Patrick Meinhardt, Spain  
Farzam Saleh, Islamic Republic of Iran

#### Shortlist:

Anton Dotsenko, United States  
Florian Gruet, France  
Michael Hanke, Czech Republic  
Charlos López, Spain  
Barbora Reichova, Czech Republic  
Antonio Aragón Renuncio, Spain

### STILL LIFE:

#### Finalists:

Peter Eleveld, The Netherlands  
Alessandro Pollio, Italy  
Paloma Rincon, Spain

#### Shortlist:

Wesley Dombrecht, Belgium  
Igor Kryukov, Russian Federation  
Maryna Masel, Ukraine  
Lorenzo Pennati, Italy  
Jan Prengel, Germany  
Berenice Riu, Spain

### WILDLIFE & NATURE:

#### Finalists:

Angel Fitor, Spain  
Graeme Purdy, United Kingdom  
Luis Tato, Spain

#### Shortlist:

Levon Biss, United Kingdom  
Will Burrard-Lucas, United Kingdom  
Aleksander Nordahl, Norway  
Brent Stirton, South Africa



## PRESS CONTACTS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS, PLEASE CONTACT:  
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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 14th 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, Mary Ellen Mark, Candida Hofer and Nadav Kander.

### 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](https://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.

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Sony Corporation is a creative entertainment company with a solid foundation of technology. From game and network services to music, pictures, electronics, image sensors 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](https://sony.net)

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