



Apr 24, 2015 00:28 CEST

Grand prize winners announced at the world's largest photography competition, 2015 Sony World Photography Awards

All category winners now revealed

American photographer John Moore wins L'Iris d'Or/ Photographer of the Year and \$25,000 (USD) prize

Armin Appel, Germany, wins Open Photographer of the Year and \$5,000 (USD)

Elliott Erwitt honoured with Outstanding Contribution to Photography award

Winning and shortlisted images to be shown at Somerset House, London 24 April – 10 May

Images available at press.worldphoto.org or Image.net

EMBARGOED UNTIL 23.00 BST ON THURSDAY 23 APRIL: The Honorary Jury of the world's largest photography competition today names American photographer John Moore as the 2015 Sony World Photography Awards' L'Iris d'Or/ Professional Photographer of the Year, amongst other awardees.

Chosen from the winners of the awards' thirteen professional categories, the winning work "Ebola Crisis Overwhelms Liberian Capital" is a hard-hitting series of images that cut to the heart of this human tragedy. Moore, a Senior Staff Photographer and Special Correspondent for Getty Images, and the winning photographs have been universally credited for the early exposure of the scale of the Ebola epidemic in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia and the epicentre of the deadly disease.

Moore is based in New York and has photographed in more than 70 countries. He is a past recipient of the Robert Capa Gold Medal, been named Photographer of the Year by both Pictures of the Year International and the National Press Photographers Association and has been recognised four times by World Press Photo.

The photographer was presented his award along with a \$25,000 (USD) cash prize and the latest Sony digital imaging equipment at a gala ceremony held in London attended by photography's industry leaders.

In a collective statement, judges Xingxin Guo, Xinhua News Agency Image Centre, China; Jocelyn Bain Hogg, photographer, UK; and Oliver Schmitt, Spiegel Online, Germany, said of the work: ***"John Moore's photographs of this crisis show in full the brutality of people's daily lives torn apart by this invisible enemy. However, it is his spirit in the face of such horror that garners praise. His images are intimate and respectful, moving us with their bravery and journalistic integrity. It is a fine and difficult line between images that exploit such a situation, and those that convey the same with heart, compassion and understanding, which this photographer has achieved with unerring skill. Combine this with an eye for powerful composition and cogent visual narrative,***

and good documentary photography becomes great.”

Now in its eighth year, the Sony World Photography Awards annually presents the world’s best contemporary photography across a range of genres. Free to enter and open to photographers of all abilities, it is an authoritative voice in the photographic world and attracts both emerging talent and established artists.

The awards’ international judging juries are comprised of esteemed industry experts and the competition offers incredible exposure, credibility and recognition not only to its winners, but also those on its shortlist. The 2015 awards attracted record-breaking entries, with 173,444 images submitted from 171 countries, confirming its position as the world’s biggest photography competition.

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY WINNERS AND FINALISTS

The winners, plus the 2nd and 3rd placed photographers, of thirteen Professional categories were also announced today.

From across the world and covering a range of topics, the winning works each showcase the very best contemporary photography in their genre. The winners are:

oArchitecture- Winner - Cosmin Bumbuț, Romania

o2nd - Massimo Siragusa, Italy

o3rd - Vadim Sivak, Ukraine

oArts & Culture- Winner - Aristide Economopoulos, United States

o2nd - Alessandra Bello, Italy

o3rd - Rich Wiles, United Kingdom (lives in Palestine)

oCampaign- Winner - Sebastian Gil Miranda, France (lives in Argentina)

o2nd - Jonathan Syer United Kingdom

o3rd - Eduardo Leal, Portugal (lives in UK)

oConceptual- Rahul Talukder, Bangladesh

o2nd - Daesung Lee, South Korea (lives in France)

o3rd - Alejandro Almaraz, Argentina

oContemporary Issues - Scott Typaldos, Switzerland

o2nd - Corentin Fohlen, France

o3rd - Annalisa Natali Murri, Italy

oCurrent Affairs- John Moore, United States

o2nd - Valery Melnikov, Russia

o3rd - Herman Verwey, South Africa

oLandscape- Simon Norfolk, United Kingdom

o2nd - Peng-Chun Yen, Taiwan

o3rd - Giulio di Sturco, Italy

oLifestyle – Li Fan China

o2nd - Dovile Dagiene, Lithuania

o3rd - Ramil Gilvanov, Russia

oPeople- Giovanni Troilo, Italy

o2nd - Johan Bavman, Sweden

o3rd - Liza Van der Stock, Belgium

oPortraiture- Rubén Salgado Escudero, Spain (lives in Myanmar)

o2nd - Dougie Wallace, United Kingdom

o3rd - Jens Juul, Denmark

oSport - Riccardo Bononi, Italy

o2nd - Irina Dainakova, Belarus

o3rd - Jonathan Yeap Chin Tiong, Singapore

oStill Life- Donald Weber, Canada

o2nd - Peter Franck, Germany

o3rd - Mong-Yong Sim, Malaysia (lives in Taiwan)

oTravel – Bernhard Lang, Germany

o2nd – Nadia Dias, India

o3rd – Yoko Naito, Japan

OPEN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Amateur German photographer Armin Appel was named the overall Open Photographer of the Year and received \$5,000 for his image “Schoolyard”. Chosen from nearly 80,000 entries to the Open competition, the image was taken while Appel was paragliding and shows the vibrant landscape of

Biberach an der Riss, Germany. The image won the overall commendation amongst nine other Open category winners who were announced on 31 March. A panel of experts from the World Photography Organisation, chaired by Sam Barzilay, Creative Director of United Photo Industries (USA), judged the Open competition.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY – ELLIOTT ERWITT

Renowned Magnum photographer Elliott Erwitt was honoured at the awards with the Outstanding Contribution to Photography prize.

The photographer is noted worldwide for his candid and often ironic black and white images capturing everyday life. The prize recognises Erwitt as a modest master who approaches both his commercial and personal work with wry and witty visual brilliance.

An intimate show celebrating a combination of Erwitt's most familiar and lesser known work from across his 60 year career will be presented at Somerset House, London as part of the Sony World photography Awards exhibition.

The prize had previously been awarded to Mary Ellen Mark, William Eggleston, Eve Arnold, Bruce Davidson, Marc Riboud, William Klein and Phil Stern.

YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Nineteen-year-old student Yong Lin Tan from Malaysia was awarded the Youth Photographer of the Year title. Open to photographers aged 19 and under and judged on a single shot, the atmospheric winning image was taken in the back alley of the photographer's grandmother's house in Kedah, Malaysia. It was chosen from the three Youth category winners who were announced on 31 March. 6,675 entries were received to the Youth competition in total.

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Russian photographer Svetlana Blagodareva from Saint Petersburg State Polytechnic University beat nine other shortlisted students from around the world to collect the Student Photographer of the Year title. Her prize is €35,000 worth of Sony photography equipment for her university. The Student Focus programme is one of the world's largest international programmes for photography students and works with 230 institutions across six continents.

EXHIBITION AND BOOK

All the winning and shortlisted images will be exhibited at Somerset House, London from 24 April – 10 May along with a dedicated curation to Outstanding Contribution to Photography recipient, Elliott Erwitt. Running alongside is our guest exhibition, **#FutureofCities** - a social documentary photography project examining the mass urban shift of the global population in our major cities presented by Sony's Global Imaging Ambassadors and Panos Pictures. In addition, for the first time visitors to the exhibition will be able to buy prints of the photographs on display courtesy of the hub from [theprintspace](#).

The exhibition is accompanied by a book of the winning and selected shortlisted work. It is available to buy from www.worldphoto.org

Quick links

- Winning images are available to download at press.worldphoto.org
- Judges biographies: <http://bit.ly/1GZ EZ0h>
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) or follow hashtag #SWPA

For further information please contact:

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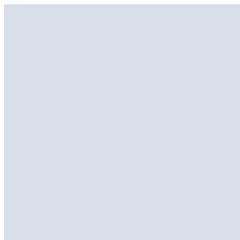
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