

Apr 26, 2012 23:30 CEST

Sony World Photography Awards 2012. L'Iris d'Or and winners announced

- **American photographer Mitch Dobrowner** wins the prestigious L'Iris d'Or Sony World Photography Awards Photographer of the Year 2012
- **Tobias Bräuning** from **Germany** announced as overall Open winner
- **William Klein** receives the Outstanding Contribution to Photography Award
- **Asef Ali Mohammad** from **Middlesex University, UK**, wins Student Focus Award

American photographer Mitch Dobrowner has tonight, Thursday 26 April, been announced as this year's winner of the coveted L'Iris d'Or - the 2012 Sony World Photography Awards Photographer of the Year.

Dobrowner was presented with the award during the Sony World Photography Awards Gala ceremony at the Hilton Hotel in London's Park Lane for his extraordinary series of images, *Storms*. This is the second year in which the awards have been held in London having previously been held at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes. Over 112,000 images were entered into the 2012 competition from 171 countries – the largest number of entries to date.

On receiving his award Dobrowner said, 'In landscape photography, there is one moment that will never be the same again. I want my images to do the speaking. That's what photography is all about.'

Dubrowner grew up on Long Island, NY. As a teenager, he was given an old Argus rangefinder to play around with and after some research and seeing the images of Minor White and Ansel Adams, quickly became addicted to photography. Mitch enjoys creating images that help evoke how he sees the planet and says, 'I feel that I owe much to the great photographers of the past, especially Ansel Adams, for their dedication to the craft and for inspiring me in my late teens. Though I have never met them, their inspiration helped me determine the course my life would take'.

Dobrowner was chosen as the winner of the L'Iris d'Or by a panel of nine judges. In addition to a \$25,000 cash prize and Sony's latest digital imaging camera equipment, he is awarded the accolade of joining previous L'Iris d'Or winners Alejandro Chaskielberg, Tommaso Ausili, David Zimmerman and Vanessa Winship as a member of the World Photographic Academy.

WM Hunt, Chairman of the 2012 Honorary Judging Committee and MC of the 2012 Awards ceremony, said, 'There is enormous pleasure in the jury's selection of Mitch Dobrowner because he is the best of what is classic and what is contemporary in photography. He brings a sense of its history and enormous skill in his craft while pushing his imagination and, even, physical strength. The work offers a visceral rush while being wonderfully well made. I think he is an exceptional choice.'

The Sony World Photography Awards Open Photographer of the Year title was awarded to **Tobias Bräuning** for his innovative and striking image *Dancing Queen*, in the split second category, a new category this year. Inspiration for his image came from pictures of simple water drops on a German DSLR internet forum. The 29 year old software engineer from Germany was awarded a \$5,000 cash prize as well as Sony's latest digital imaging camera equipment.

Other announcements on the night included the professional category winners, covering the newly introduced Nature & Wildlife category alongside others such as Current Affairs and Travel. Among the winners are **Peter Franck** from Germany who, returning from his victory at the 2010 Awards, and after being shortlisted in four categories, triumphed in the Commercial campaign and fashion categories, and the UK's **Simon Norfolk**, winner of the Photojournalism & Documentary People category, who is the author of books such as *Bleed* – based on the aftermath of war in Bosnia.

The awards ceremony was attended by leading figures from the international photographic community, along with Minister of Culture, **Ed Vaizey**, speaking in support of the photography industry in the UK.

Tatsuya Akashi, Vice President of Digital Imaging at Sony Europe, said: “We’ve seen a truly impressive array of incredible images from this year’s entrants across all categories. It is our vision to inspire photographers at all levels to explore their creativity and it is highly rewarding to provide them with such a respected platform where they can showcase their talent and the industry can come together to celebrate the wonderful world of photography.”

The winning images and more will be on display at **The Sony World Photography Awards Exhibition** at **Somerset House**. Set in the stunning Embankment Galleries, the exhibition offers visitors an extraordinary range of contemporary photography covering a wide range of subjects from photojournalism and documentary to fashion, nature, architecture and sport. The exhibition, part of **World Photo, London**, is billed as *the* global photographic event of the year and the festival will also include a programme of events, talks, seminars and exhibitions.

Outstanding Contribution

This year’s Outstanding Contribution to Photography Award went to **William Klein**; one of the 20th century’s most important and influential photographers and film-makers. With a career spanning the past 60 years, Klein, 83, has worked in painting, photography and film, always at the cutting edge of his chosen medium.

Student Focus

Student photographer **Asef Ali Mohammad** from **Middlesex University, UK**, was announced as the winner of the Student Focus award that attracted entries from over 200 institutions across six continents.

Asef used a *Sony SLT-A65* camera to complete the brief, ‘Your world in colour’, that must evoke emotion through the choice of colour. His series of images about youngsters in Kabul were chosen as the winning entry over the other ten shortlisted photographers, landing Middlesex University the prize of

45,000 Euros worth of Sony digital imaging equipment.

Virginia Morrison (US), Executive Director of the Society for Photographic Education and judge, said: 'Given the thematic emphasis for the competition, 'colour', I was surprised at how I was drawn to the winner's very subtle use of colour in each image in the series. The use of the direct gaze of the subjects in the portraits was terrifically enhanced by each subject being placed within an environment that employed color as a structural framework in which to present and emphasise that direct gaze of each of the sitters. The colours employed were actually very subtle, but the artist used it consistently and skillfully as architecture for the portrait.'

Youth Award

The title of Sony World Photography Awards Youth Award Winner went to **Sergey Kolyaskin** from **Russia**, for his image *The Last Hero*. Sergey was awarded with Digital SLR camera equipment from Sony and his winning image will be showcased at the winner's exhibition. New for the 2012 Awards, the Youth Competition was open to anyone under the age of 20.

3D Award

The 3D Award, new this year to the competition, was awarded to **Nick Saglimbeni** from the **United States** for his stunning image, *Nuclear Summer*. Nick currently shoots many celebrity-driven commercial ad campaigns and he continues to be a pioneer in the world of both 2D and 3D photography. The competition was open to anyone using true 3D technology in photography or video and had two categories: '3D Panoramic' and '3D Still'.

Moving Image Awards

The Moving Image Award went to **Natasha Nicholson** and **Michael McDougall** from **Canada**, for their short film *Dead Languages*. Michael has a background in design and moving image, whereas Natasha is a photographer. With combined sensibilities they were encouraged to work as a team to create a

beautiful visual motion piece.

Focus campaign

It was also announced that the upcoming Focus campaign is 'Youth on Assignment'. This will integrate student photographers with Sony's CSR programmes in Sumatra, Argentina, South Africa, Malawi and others. Each one of these represents not only a very important philanthropic project, but also an opportunity for youth to be involved in real life humanitarian work, all documented through the power of photography.

PROFESSIONAL

PHOTOJOURNALISM & DOCUMENTARY

Current Affairs

- Winner: Donald Weber (Canada) / VII PHOTO
- 2nd: Fernando Alfonso Brito Lizárraga (Mexico)
- 3rd: Rémi Ochlik (France) / IP3 Press

Contemporary Issues

- Winner: Kasia Bielska (Poland)
- 2nd: Gustavo Jononovich (Argentina)
- 3rd: Alessandro Grassani (Italy)

People

- Winner: Simon Norfolk (United Kingdom)
- 2nd: Maja Daniels (Sweden)
- 3rd: Alejandro Cartagena (Mexico)

Sport

- Winner: Palmer + Pawel (United Kingdom)
- 2nd: Pawel Kopczynski (Poland)
- 3rd: Andrew McConnell (Ireland)

Arts and Culture

- Winner: Rob Hornstra (Netherlands)
- 2nd: Mattia Vacca (Italy)
- 3rd: Anastasia Taylor-Lind (United Kingdom)

Nature & Wildlife

- Winner: Jacek Kusz (Poland)
- 2nd: David Chancellor (United Kingdom) / Institute
- 3rd: Palani Mohan (India)

COMMERCIAL

Campaign

- Winner: Peter Franck (Germany) / Büro stoltenhoff
- 2nd: Laura Pannack (United Kingdom)
- 3rd: Javier Arcenillas (Spain)

Travel

- Winner: Luis Henry Agudelo Cano (Colombia)
- 2nd: Peter Franck (Germany)
- 3rd: Jan Brykczynski (Poland)

Fashion

- Winner: Peter Franck (Germany)
- 2nd: Elizaveta Porodina (Germany)
- 3rd: Jayden Tang (China)

FINE ART

Architecture

- Winner: David Aiob (Spain)
- 2nd: Simon Norfolk (United Kingdom)
- 3rd: Igor Chirikov (Russian Federation)

Portraiture

- Winner: Irina Werning (Argentina)

- 2nd: Paolo Marchetti (Italy)
- 3rd: Lei Liu (China)

Landscape

- Winner: Mitch Dobrowner (United States)
- 2nd: Lee Chee Wai (Malaysia)
- 3rd: Rona Chang (United States)

Still Life

- Winner: Helen Thompson (United Kingdom)
- 2nd: Renan Cepeda (Brazil)
- 3rd: Rena Effendi (Azerbaijan) / INSTITUTE

Conceptual

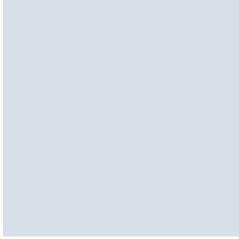
- Winner: Manuel Geerinck (Belgium)
- 2nd: Cristina De Middel (Spain)
- 3rd: Luis Mallo (United States)

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: <http://www.sony.net/>

Contacts



Sony Europe PR Team

Press Contact

PR Team

press@eu.sony.com