



Feb 11, 2020 13:00 CET

# Sony World Photography Awards Professional competition 2020: Finalists, Shortlist and

# Grant recipients announced

The World Photography Organisation is pleased to reveal the finalist and shortlisted photographers in the Professional competition for the Sony World Photography Awards 2020. Also included are details of new photographic projects by Sony Professional Grant 2019 recipients. Works by both Professional competition finalists and Grant recipients will go on display as part of the Sony World Photography Awards 2020 exhibition at Somerset House this April.

Now in its 13th 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 2020* will be selected from the group of Professional finalists and announced during the Sony World Photography Awards 2020 ceremony in London on 16 April.

Over 345,000 images from 203 territories were submitted across the 2020 Awards' four competitions and over 135,000 were entered across the Professional competition's 10 categories – the highest number of entries to date. A new Environment category has been introduced this year in recognition of the growing importance of this topic in both fine art photography and photojournalism.

This year's finalist projects engage with a wide array of topics, photography techniques and presentation methods, covering personal subjects and observations, inventive approaches to storytelling and shedding light on little known but critical issues.

Sony World Photography Awards 2020 finalist photographers and projects are:

## **ARCHITECTURE**

Forms and textures are the focus of abstract photographs by José De Rocco (Argentina), featuring vibrant building exteriors in *Formalisms*, as well as Jonathan Walland's (UK) *Structures*; a minimalist black & white series depicting modern constructions. Sandra Herber's (Canada) *Ice Fishing, Lake Winnipeg* presents whimsical images of the colourful ice fishing huts that dot the frozen surface of the lake in winter.

## **CREATIVE**

In *Seeds of Resistance*, Pablo Albarenga (Uruguay) pairs pictures of landscapes and territories in danger from mining and agribusinesses with

portraits of the activists fighting to conserve them. Using shots of social media posts, chats and Skype or WhatsApp calls, *Kill Me With an Overdose of Kindness* by Dione Roach (Italy) examines the way in which relationships and intimacy are lived and expressed online. *Witness Objects* by Luke Watson (UK) comprises images of pinhole cameras made using historical objects from the Bosnian War alongside photographs taken with these makeshift cameras of meaningful locations around Sarajevo.

## **DISCOVERY**

In *Invisible Wounds*, Hugh Kinsella Cunningham (UK) stains his images in red to communicate the suffering and distress caused by a viral Ebola outbreak in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo while in *The Cave*, Maria Kokunova (Russia) uses symbolism and allegory to examine personal trauma. *Cast Out of Heaven* by Hashem Shakeri (Iran) looks at the lives of those forced to leave Tehran due to the economic downturn and move into inadequate state-funded housing projects.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

*Wahala* by Robin Hinsch (Germany) documents the devastating effects of continued oil spillage and natural gas flaring along the Niger delta river. In *Atlas from the Edge*, Álvaro Laiz (Spain) explores the concept of 'natural symmetry' as practiced by the indigenous group, the Chukchi, whose traditional lifestyle evolved according to their mode of subsistence. In *The Future of Farming*, Luca Locatelli (Italy), portrays high tech agrofarming systems from around the world, a possible solution to future food shortages.

## **DOCUMENTARY**

Didier Bizet's (France) series *Baby Boom* examines the reborn phenomena, a lifelike baby doll collected by enthusiasts and used by adoptive parents in preparation and by elderly patients in need of companionship. Poignant portraits of Hongkongers injured during the protests are the focus of Chung Ming Ko's (Hong Kong) project *Wounds of Hong Kong*, whereas Zhang Youqiong's (China) *From 'Made in China' to 'Made in Africa'* documents workers in the Chinese funded venture, the Ethiopian Oriental Industrial Park, a key enterprise in China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' in Africa.

## **LANDSCAPE**

*Torii* by Haggard Benhert (Germany) features photographs of Buddhist and Shinto temples across Japan, while *New Home* by Chang Kyun Kim (Korea), comprises photographs of Japanese Internment Camps in which thousands of US citizens and residents of Japanese ancestry were imprisoned during

the Second World War. *Project 596* by Florian Ruiz (France) depicts the barren landscape of Lop Nor, a former salt lake in China previously used as a nuclear weapons test site.

## **NATURAL WORLD & WILDLIFE**

Masahiro Hiroike (Japan) captures the enchanting lights emitted by fireflies in the forests of Tottori, Japan in *Himebotaru* and in *Macro*, Adalbert Mojrzisch (Germany) uses macro lens technique to provide a closeup view of the intricate colours and patterns of insect and amphibian eyes. *Pangolins in Crisis* by Brent Striton (South Africa) looks at the illegal trade and rescue efforts of pangolins, the world's most illegally trafficked mammals.

## **PORTRAITURE**

In *Passengers*, Cesar Dezfuli (Spain) juxtaposes striking portraits of migrants taken in 2016 as they first arrived on European shores with more recent images that better convey their personalities and the transformation they've experienced. *Unsung Heroes* by Denis Rouvre (France) presents the portraits and harrowing tales of women who have been victims of violence and in *Ukrainian Railroad Ladies*, Sasha Maslov (Ukraine) portrays the women who work as train station guards and explores their social role as a symbol of continuity in a country torn by war and political upheavals.

## **STILL LIFE**

*Disassembled Memory* is a catalogue of photographs depicting the disassembled parts of Fangbin Chen's (China) childhood bicycle in an attempt to recall and preserve his memories from that time, while in *Plexus*, Elena Helfrecht (Germany) delves into her family's archive to examine the effects of inherited trauma and collective memory. In *IMMORTALITY, INC.* Alessandro Gandolfi (Italy) goes into research labs and institutions to document the processes and objects which represent modern science's advancements in its pursuit to overcome death.

## **SPORT**

Wrestling has become the number one sport in Senegal and is also a means of social ascendance steeped in tradition and ritual, in *Senegalese Wrestlers*, Angel Lopez Soto (Spain) explores these practices through images of young wrestles in training, whereas *Dives* by Andrea Staccioli (Italy) presents poetic portraits of athletes in mid-dive at the Gwangju Diving World Championships. Lucas Barioulet's (France), *The Long and Difficult Path of the Mauritanian National Women's Football Team* looks at the challenges and cultural tensions faced by the female players in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

The work of finalist and shortlisted photographers in the Professional competition was judged by: 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.

## **SONY PROFESSIONAL GRANT 2019**

Chosen from the Professional category finalists of the Sony World Photography Awards 2019, the latest Sony Professional Grant recipients are Yan Wang Preston (UK, 1st place, Landscape), Edward Thompson (UK, 3rd place, Brief), Kohei Ueno (Singapore, 2nd place, Sport) and Tuomas Uusheimo (Finland, 2nd place, Architecture). Each photographer was given \$7,000 (USD) and the latest Sony digital imaging equipment in April 2019, along with the freedom to create entirely new works or to develop a long-term project.

Exhibited projects include:

*Wilderness Expanses* by Yan Wang Preston continues the artist's long-term investigation towards the complexities of nature in modern societies. Taken in different ecology-recovery areas in China, Preston uses a black & white aesthetic in the tradition of classic landscape photography to explore questions surrounding the recreation and recovery of our wildernesses. Edward Thompson uses the Brexit process as the backdrop to his project, documenting related national and local events.

*The beauty of life, forgiveness, and the power of positive change* by Kohei Ueno looks at the annual migration and slow recovery of the 'Tongan Tribe', a pod of whales, which was almost hunted to extinction during the devastating large-scale commercial whaling that occurred during the post-war era. *Out of bounds* by Tuomas Uusheimo examines the architecture, spatiality and boundaries of sports fields.

### **ARCHITECTURE:**

#### **Finalists:**

Sandra Herber, Canada

José De Rocco, Argentina

Jonathan Walland, England

#### **Shortlist:**

Swen Bernitz, Germany

Liang Chen, China Mainland

Jeoffrey Guillemard, France

Marcin Płonka, Poland

Maria Burasovskaya, Russian Federation

Laurin Schmid, Germany

Alexander Tatarenko, Russian Federation

**CREATIVE:**

**Finalists:**

Pablo Albarenga, Uruguay

Dione Roach, Italy

Luke Watson, UK

**Shortlist:**

Michel Le Belhomme, France

Nicoletta Cerasomma, Italy

Joseph Ford, United Kingdom

Ritsuko Matsushita, Japan

Serge Varaxin, Russian Federation

Reuben Wu, UK

**DISCOVERY:**

**Finalists:**

Hugh Kinsella Cunningham, UK

Maria Kokunova, Russian Federation

Hashem Shakeri, Iran

**Shortlist:**

Diogo Baptista, Portugal

Emmanuelle Firman, France

Adrian Francis, USA

Massimo Gurrieri, Italy

Thomas Hänisch, Germany

Edward Kaprov, Israel

Murat Yazar, Turkey

**DOCUMENTARY:**

**Finalists:**

Didier Bizet, France

Chung Ming Ko, Hong Kong

Youqiong Zhang, China Mainland

**Shortlist:**

David Butow, USA

Nicholas Moir, Australia

Patrick Wack, France

Eddy van Wessel, Netherlands

Ian Willms, Canada

**ENVIRONMENT:**

**Finalists:**

Robin Hirsch, Germany

Álvaro Laiz, Spain

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:**

**Finalists:**

Ronny Behnert, Germany

Chang Kyun Kim, South Korea

Florian Ruiz, France

**Shortlist:**

Mauro Battistelli, Italy

Jeroen van Dam, Netherlands

Andrius Grigalaitis, Lithuania

Sybren Vanoverberghe, Belgium

Peixia Xie, China Mainland

**NATURAL WORLD & WILDLIFE:**

**Finalists:**

Masahiro Hiroike, Japan

Adalbert Mojrzisch, Germany

Brent Stirton, South Africa

**Shortlist:**

Pierre Anquet, France

Songda Cai, China Mainland

Marko Dimitrijevic, Switzerland

Tobias Friedrich, Germany

Joan de la Malla, Spain

Yevhen Samuchenko, Ukraine

**PORTRAITURE:**

**Finalists:**



Cesar Dezfuli, Spain

Sasha Maslov, Ukraine

Denis Rouvre, France

**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:**

**Finalists:**

Lucas Barioulet, France

José López Soto, Spain

Andrea Staccioli, Italy

**Shortlist:**

Giuliano Berti, Italy

Anton Dotsenko, USA

Frédéric Duhayer, France

Mikhail Kapychka, Belarus

Sarah Sasani, Iran

Federico Tardito, Italy

**STILL LIFE:**

**Finalists:**

Alessandro Gandolfi, Italy

Elena Helfrecht, Germany

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

**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 book tickets please visit [worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards-exhibition](http://worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards-exhibition)

**ABOUT SONY GRANT**

Furthering Sony's commitment to supporting contemporary photographers and contributing to the continued development of photographic culture worldwide, the Sony Grants program was introduced in 2016 and is organised by the World Photography Organisation. It provides winning and shortlisted photographers of the Sony World Photography Awards with additional opportunities to cultivate and establish an ongoing relationship with Sony after the Awards. The recipients are chosen by Sony from the Awards' Professional and Student competitions.

## **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](http://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.

## **SONY IMAGING PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS INC.**

is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sony Corporation that is responsible for its imaging products and solutions businesses, from consumer camera, solutions with a focus on broadcast- and professional-use products, to medical business.

## **VISITOR & LISTING INFORMATION**

TITLE: Sony World Photography Awards 2020

VENUE: Somerset House, London, WC2R 1LA

DATES: 17 April – 4 May, 2020

OPENING TIMES: Monday - Friday, 10am-9pm / Saturday - Sunday, 10am-8pm

TICKETS: Available to buy on 5 March, 2020 (£9-14). Find out more at [worldphoto.org/exhibition](http://worldphoto.org/exhibition)

## **IMAGE CREDITS**

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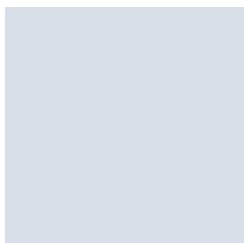
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Sony Corporation is a creative entertainment company with a solid foundation of technology. From game and network services to music, pictures, electronics, semiconductors and financial services - Sony's purpose is to fill the world with emotion through 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](mailto:press@eu.sony.com)