

Grand prize winners announced for the world's largest photography competition – 2017 Sony World Photography Awards

- Belgian photographer Frederik Buyckx named Photographer the Year and wins \$25,000 prize for best photography series
- Best single shot awarded to Russian photographer Alexander Vinogradov
- Ten category winners recognized for bodies of work in the Professional competition
- Martin Parr honored with Outstanding Contribution to Photography prize
- Winning images exhibited at Somerset House, London 21 April - 7 May
- Images available for publication at press.worldphoto.org

Frederik Buyckx's winning series "Whiteout" captures the transformation of nature when winter arrives. Judges called the work 'beautiful' and hope the series will inspire photographers to capture elegance and not overlook the importance and beauty of what is present in our everyday.

London, 20 April 2017: The World Photography Organisation today names Belgian photographer Frederik Buyckx as the Sony World Photography Awards' 2017 Photographer of the Year. The Awards' judges were challenged to find the best photographic series and were taken by the beauty, scale and effort involved in Buyckx's winning work titled "Whiteout".

The 2017 Awards received over 227,000 entries from 183 countries and is the world's largest photography competition. An exhibition of all the winning and shortlisted work, along with rare images by British photographer Martin Parr, recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to Photography prize, will run at Somerset House, London from 21 April – 7 May.

Chosen from the winners of the Awards' ten Professional categories, Chair of Judges Zelda Cheatle says of Frederik Buyckx's photographs: *"I have chosen a series of landscapes so that we may return to the essence of looking at photography. Landscape is often overlooked but it is central to our existence. These are beautiful pictures made by a serious photographer, and they are to be enjoyed. I hope this award will inspire many more photographers to take pictures that do not simply encompass the terrible aspects of life in these troubled times but also capture some of the joys and loveliness in each and every environment."*

Buyckx was revealed as the Photographer of the Year and presented the \$25,000 (USD) prize at an awards ceremony in London attended by international industry experts. At the same ceremony, the category winners of the Professional competition were announced, along with the overall winners of the Open, Youth and Student competitions.

Scott Gray, CEO, World Photography Organisation comments: *“I am especially proud of this year’s selection of Photographer of the Year. I feel that in many cases it is easy to shock but that it can be so tremendously difficult to capture a sophisticated elegance, that really is so beautiful it shows the medium of photography at its best.”*

All winning photographers were flown to the London awards ceremony and received the latest Sony digital imaging equipment as their prize.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the Sony World Photography Awards annually recognize and reward the finest contemporary photography from the last year. Free to enter and open to all photographers, the awards are an authoritative voice in the photographic industry that has the power to shape the careers of its winning and shortlisted photographers. The 2018 Sony World Photography Awards open for entries on June 1, 2017.

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR – FREDERIK BUYCKX, BELGIUM

Born in Antwerp in 1984, Frederik Buyckx is a freelance photographer for the Belgian newspaper De Standaard. Buyckx’s images have been published and exhibited internationally and most recently he was shortlisted for the ZEISS Photography Award.

The winning series “Whiteout” was taken in the Balkans, Scandinavia and Central Asia, remote areas where people often live in isolation and in close contact with nature. Buyckx explains: *“There is a peculiar transformation of nature when winter comes, when snow and ice start to dominate the landscape and when humans and animals have to deal with the extreme weather. The series investigates this struggle against disappearance.”*

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY WINNERS AND FINALISTS

An expert panel of international judges were challenged to find the best photography series (between 5-10 images) across the ten Professional categories. The winning and finalist photographers are:

- **Architecture winner: Dongni, China**
2nd - Julien Chatelin, France / 3rd - Diego Mayon, Italy
- **Conceptual winner - Sabine Cattaneo, Switzerland**
2nd - Alexander Anufriev, Russian Federation / 3rd - Gao Peng, China
- **Contemporary Issues winner - Tasneem Alsultan, Saudi Arabia**
2nd - Li Sony, China / 3rd - Lorenzo Maccotta, Italy
- **Current Affairs & News winner - Alessio Romenzi, Italy**
2nd - Joe Raedle, United States / 3rd - Ivor Prickett, Ireland
- **Daily Life winner: Sandra Hoyn, Germany**
2nd - Christina Simons, Iceland / 3rd - Alice Cannara Malan, Italy
- **Landscape winner: Frederik Buyckx, Belgium**
2nd - Kurt Tong, United Kingdom / 3rd - Peter Franck, Landscape
- **Natural World winner: Will Burrard-Lucas, United Kingdom**
2nd - Ami Vitale, United States / 3rd - Christian Vizl, Mexico
- **Portraiture winner: George Mayer, Russian Federation**
2nd - Romina Ressa, Argentina / 3rd - Ren shi Chen, China
- **Still Life winner: Henry Agudelo, Columbia**
2nd - Shinya Masuda, Japan / 3rd - Christoffer Askman, Denmark
- **Sport winner: Yuan Peng, China**
2nd - Eduard Korniyenko, Russian Federation / 3rd - Jason O’Brien, Australia

OPEN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR – ALEXANDER VINOGRADOV, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

“Mathilda” by Russian photographer Alexander Vinogradov was selected as the best single photograph in the world and awarded the photographer \$5,000 (USD) along with the Open Photographer of the Year title.

Vinogradov is an amateur photographer based in Moscow and his winning image is a portrait of a young girl, inspired by the French movie ‘Léon’. The photograph was selected from ten Open category winners announced on 28 March by a panel of judges led by British journalist and photographer Damien Demolder.

YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR – KATELYN WANG, US

Sixteen-year-old student Katelyn Wang from Los Angeles, California received the Youth Photographer of the Year title. Open to those aged 12-19, the Youth competition asked photographers worldwide to respond to the brief of ‘Beauty’ with a single image.

Wang’s winning photograph “On Top of the World” was taken while standing above Lake Pehoé in Chile’s Torres del Paine National Park, and beautifully captures the landscape beneath her.

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR – MICHELLE DAIANA GENTILE, ARGENTINA

Michelle Daiana Gentile, aged 21, of Escuela de Fotografía Motivarte, won the Student Photographer of the Year title with a stunning series called “Only Hope”. Responding to the brief of “Emotions”, Gentile delivered a powerful series shot across ten days spent with workers of an old paper factory in Argentina.

Gentile received €30,000 worth of Sony photography equipment for her university at the awards ceremony.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY – MARTIN PARR

British photographer Martin Parr was honored with the Outstanding Contribution to Photography prize at the awards ceremony. He was recognized for his unique visual language and for pushing the boundaries of the medium.

The Outstanding Contribution to Photography prize has previously been awarded to Mary Ellen Mark, William Eggleston, Eve Arnold, Bruce Davidson, Marc Riboud, William Klein, RongRong & inri, Elliott Erwitt and Phil Stern.

SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS & MARTIN PARR – 2017 EXHIBITION AND BOOK

All the winning and shortlisted images will be exhibited at Somerset House, London from 21 April – 7 May. The exhibition will also include a specially curated exhibition of rarely seen black and white images from Martin Parr’s early career alongside some of his most iconic work, books and films.

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

For further information about the Sony World Photography Awards please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- 230,103 images were entered in total to the 2016 Sony World Photography Awards: 127,098 Professional entries; 103,005 Open and Youth entries
- There have been more than 1 million entries to the awards since its launch in 2007

2017 Awards' Judges

- **Professional competition:** **Zelda Cheatle** (Chair of the Judges), Curator (UK); **Aïda Muluneh**, Founder/Director, Addis Foto Fest (Ethiopia); **Allegra Cordero di Montezemolo**, Curator & Head of Exhibitions, Centro de la Imagen (Mexico); **Denis Curti**, Curator and Journalist (Italy); **Russ O'Connell**, Picture Editor *The Sunday Times Magazine* (UK) and **Françoise Callier**, Program Director at Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops (France).
- **Open and Youth competitions:** **Damien Demolder** (Chair of Judges), Photographer and Journalist (UK).
- **Student Focus:** **Andera Kurland**, Editor-in-Chief of *Huck* (UK); **Dan Rubin**, Photographer & Artistic Director (UK) and **Jennifer Shaw**, Founder and Creative Director, PhotoNOLA (USA).

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.

www.worldphoto.org

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