



2019





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2019

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FRONT COVER IMAGE

TIM FRANCO
South Korea
Goyo - Illicit Ink

The tattoo history is actually centuries old in Korea. Sailors marked themselves with frightening shapes to scare away the monsters that inhabited the deep seas. But things changed during the Joseon dynasty when tattoos were used to mark robbers for their crimes and slaves as a perpetual mark of punishment. In the 20th century, South Korean gangs inspired by Japanese Yakuza used tattoos as a distinctive mark. This rather dark history of the art created a negative perception that has endured to this day in this very conservative society. Nowadays, a new generation of Koreans influenced by pop stars, Western athletes and television programs see tattoos as attractive and fashionable. But the ban remains in place.

FOREWORD

Steven Lee, Project Director

Emphatic Portraits

Photographers and editors have used portraiture to compose thought and share emotive responses for decades. The ability of artists to utilise this aspect to seek empathy or depict nuances in facial expressions of their subjects can be a powerful tool in visual storytelling.

In recent years, KLPA's direction had been to focus photographers into making compelling and emphatic portraits – portraits that matter, where character, substance and content are vital in the depiction of the image through thematic interpretations and narrative, rather than simply judged on aesthetics or technical prowess. This year's theme category headline 'Unyielding Gaze' attracted a wide range of subject matters and interpretations; from group portraits and personal studies of family members to communities that are living on the margins of society.

A total of 1,558 images were judged, scored and the winners and finalists of both categories are presented here.

First prize Theme Category was awarded to American photographer **Dan Nelken**'s outdoor 'studio style' portraits of working Ugandan women. The judges unanimous decision to present these group of four portraits the first prize was to reward the straightforward and consistent portrait making process which is direct, simplistic yet effective in an age where over-styling and romanticising has become the trend. These portraits have a certain honesty and dignity about them which is not easy to replicate and do not patronise the stereotypical African image.

Second prize went to **Carlotta Cardana** from Italy, with her sultry portrait of a Japanese male host, Yuusi, seemingly at ease wearing a light pink jacket, propped up against a formal upright banquette. This societal story is screaming out to be heard and his facial expression gives away little.

French photographer **Jeanne Taris** has been visiting and photographing the gitans or gypsy communities in the outskirts of Perpignan. The third prize was awarded to her photograph of two young women with a baby in a pram, in what appears to be a ramshackled living room. Interest lies in the objects that surround them, instantly adding a narrative about the kind of living conditions, status and lifestyle, showing the outsider a microcosm view of the gitans communities in France.

The Open Category first prize was awarded to Thai photographer **Patarit Pinyopiphat** with his retro-esque portrait of two similarly attired twin brothers posing in front of a vintage 70s automobile in a suburban street. Once again, the direct dead-pan pose of what is essentially a straightforward family portrait won over the judges with another unanimous decision.

Second prize also went to another similarly posed street portrait of 'Callum' on his bike. British photographer **Laura Pannack** photographed this portrait as part of a commission to document the activities of the youth in an estate in the West Midlands. It ticks all the boxes of

“This year's theme category headline 'Unyielding Gaze' attracted a wide range of subject matters and interpretations; from group portraits and personal studies of family members to communities that are living on the margins of society.”



2019 judges, left to right: Kong Yen Lin, Enrico Stefanelli, Steven Lee (KLPA director), Tom White, Hasnoor Hussain, Charmaine Poh.

how a portrait shot in the street can impart such a direct gaze which was properly extracted from the young boy.

Third prize was awarded to **Annika Haas** from Estonia with a portrait of an uneasy lanky Estonian teen on a vault horse in a gymnasium, harking back to the Soviet era.

In each of these winning portraits, the subject's identity and vulnerability are depicted to varying degrees, and highlights the vitally important connection between the photographer and the subject.

Steven V- L Lee
Director

Main Panel Judges



HASNOOR HUSSAIN

Photographer

Hasnoor Hussain is a photojournalist who currently works at a prominent Malaysian news portal, The Malaysian Insight.

In 2016, The Malaysian Insider (then The Malaysian Insight) was shutdown by the previous government, due to its critical coverage on the Najib Razak administration. It was then that he embarked on his travels between states pursuing his own projects which were later picked up by several publications and organisations such as The Guardian, Greenpeace and World Wild Fund (WWF). His concerns toward climate change was what moved him to educate and advocate the public about the environment through his projects. Prior to that, he had the opportunity to capture the post peace accord between Malaysian government and Malayan Communist Party.

Hasnoor previously joined the IPA Mentorship Programme, Foundry Photojournalism Workshop in 2015, 12th Angkor Photo Workshop and received a grant from Objectifs Centre for Photography and Film, Singapore to participate in the 'Shooting With Purpose' Masterclass by Gary Knight in 2016.

Some of his works were exhibited at several venues including the Kuala Lumpur Biennale 2018 and Indian Photo Festival 2018.



KONG YEN LIN

Independent curator and writer

Based in Singapore, Kong Yen Lin is a curator and writer specializing in photography. A journalism graduate, she started out her career as a subeditor with the Global Picture Desk at Thomson Reuters before going on to earn her Masters in Asian Art Histories at Lasalle College of the Arts, where she researched on Singapore's modern photography history.

As the former Education and Resource Manager for DECK, a contemporary container art space for photography in Singapore and Southeast Asia, she kick started the organization's student and public education programmes in 2015.

Yen Lin was also the Education and Outreach Programme Manager of the 2012 and 2014 Singapore International Photography Festival and published two student guides to learning about contemporary photography. Formerly a programme manager at The Arts House, she curated numerous photography exhibitions presenting Singapore-based artists, including a solo show by Cultural Medallion photographer Chua Soo Bin on Chinese master painter Wu Guanzhong. She has also participated as a guest curator in Brighton Photo Fringe's Open 2011.

Her writings have been published in journals and online platforms and such as M.A.tter Unbound by LASALLE College of the Arts as well as past issues of DECK Photography Journal.



CHARMAINE POH

Photographer

Charmaine Poh is a Chinese-Singaporean artist. Her practice combines photography with research, text, video, and installation, focusing on issues of memory, gender, youth, and solitude in the Asian context. Often working with the form of narrative portraiture, she considers the performance of self and the layers of identity we build. She works with communities in a collaborative process that holds space for introspection, intimacy, and sharing. She is interested in the stories that make us who we are.

Charmaine has showcased her work through platforms such as M1 Singapore Fringe Festival, the Singapore International Photography Festival, Objectifs Centre for Photography and Filmmaking, The Taipei Arts Festival, Photoville, and The New York Times. Her work has been supported by institutions such as the National Arts Council (Singapore), Exactly Foundation, and the Global Gender Parity Initiative. She graduated from Tufts University with an B.A. in International Relations, and is currently pursuing an M.A. in Visual and Media Anthropology at the Freie Universität Berlin.



ENRICO STEFANELLI

Photographer

Enrico Stefanelli is a photographer, journalist, curator and teaches photography in workshops. He is the founder and artistic director of Photolux Festival the biennial of photography in Lucca. He has curated several exhibitions and the exhibition "Cadets" of Paolo Verzone for "Les Rencontres de la Photographie" in Arles. He has been appointed as an expert for portfolio reviews for Les Rencontres d'Arles, Santa Fe Photo Festival, Kaunas Festival, Eyes in Progress, Fotofestival, 16e China International Photographic Art Festival, Fotografia Europea, Backlight Photo Festival, FotoFest – Houston, Auckland Festival of Photography, Festival de la Luz – Buenos Aires. He has been appointed as member of the Jury for Kaunas Festival, Lens Culture, The Manuel Rivera-Ortiz Foundation Grant, Lugano Photo Days, FOTODOC Center for Documentary Photography at Sakharov center, Photolucida – Critical Mass and Gomma Grant. Is member of the Nominating committee for the Joop Swart Masterclass and "6 x 6" at World Press Photo Foundation.

I'm interested in long term, conceptual, fine art and documentary photo projects that could be part of the festival in the next editions.



TOM WHITE

Photographer and Educator

Originally from Bradford, West Yorkshire in the north of England, Tom is currently based in Singapore where he works as a freelance photographer. His photography has been published and exhibited internationally. Editorial clients include The New York Times, The L.A. Times, The Wall Street Journal, TIME magazine, The Guardian U.K, Thompson Reuters and The European Press Photo Agency.

He is a graduate of Goldsmith's College in London and The International Centre of Photography in New York. He is interested in the expanded fields of digital storytelling and cinema, visual & media literacy, and their use within the social sciences.

Since 2007, Tom has been involved in photography education alongside his freelance career. He has taught at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism and at the International Center of Photography in New York City. He currently teaches Documentary & Photojournalism at Yale-NUS College and workshops at the Objectifs Centre in Singapore.

During his time in New York, Tom had also worked on a variety of workshops with the International Center of Photography's Community Programs department. He continues to work on photography-based social engagement projects as a counterpoint to his documentary, editorial and fine art practice.

THE TROPHY

“Being II” / YUKAKO SHIBATA



THE TROPHY AND THE ARTIST BEHIND IT – BEING II

“For this commission, I am creating minimalist sculptures – organic spherical forms which are carved out of plaster. Their surfaces will be highly polished to have a porcelain-like tactile quality. They will then be painted with many layers of translucent colours to create an abstract and light atmosphere. The colours do not refer to any one particular time or place but open to the different meanings each colour would bring to it.

The spherical form has many related interpretations and references and is a universal symbol of ‘completeness’. These spherical forms would have a connotation of the ‘beginning’ of humanity and a sense of being which I intend to present to the two KLPA first prize photographers and it is my wish that it might trigger interesting dialogues between photography and 3D objects. These forms are to be simply placed on minimalist bases rather than being fixed to them. Therefore the forms can be picked up and returned to their bases in any position. The idea behind this is to allow the trophy to be interactive and personal to the recipients.”

YUKAKO SHIBATA

Trophy Designer

Yukako was born in Hokkaido, Japan, and has lived and worked in London since 1993.

She holds an MA in Painting at the Royal College of Art and has exhibited in numerous solo and group shows in the UK, Canada, Germany, and Japan.

Her work is in many public and private collections worldwide which includes Doris Lockhart Saatchi, The Tim Sayer Collection, Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank and the Royal College of Art.

“My work is a hybrid of sculpture, painting, and installation reflecting the translation or distillation of nature into objective forms. By exploring the subtle transitions of colour in nature, combined with imagination and memories I explore the fleeting colours of the natural world and question the complex interplay of light and atmosphere.

My work negotiates the intricate and delicate relationship between colour, mass, and space. It is my intention to offer a contemplative atmosphere to the surroundings of my pieces, and moments of clarity and serenity to spectators. For me, creating is a form of meditation. I enjoy the slow evolutionary process as the work comes into being.”

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OPEN CATEGORY

1ST PRIZE \$3,500 & Trophy

PATARIT PINYOPHAT

Thailand

Title : Thai Twins

2ND PRIZE \$1,000

LAURA PANNACK

United Kingdom

Title : Callum on the lawns

3RD PRIZE - \$500

ANNIKA HAAS

Estonia

Title : Hendrik 2019

HONOURABLE MENTION

TRISTAN STILL

Australia

Title : Simon, 2018

THEME CATEGORY - Unyielding Gaze

1ST PRIZE \$3,500 & Trophy

DAN NELKEN

United States

*Title : HeadStrong: The Women of Rural
Uganda portraits*

2ND PRIZE \$1,000

CARLOTTA CARDANA

Italy

Title : Yuusi

3RD PRIZE \$500

JEANNE TARIS

France

Title : Gestes Gitans

HONOURABLE MENTION

MAXIME MATTHYS

Belgium

Title : 2091-The Ministry of Privacy



OPEN CATEGORY

1st Place

1st

Patarit
PINYOPHIPHAT
THAILAND

Thai Twins

These twins are my neighbours named "Ball" & "Beer". Before they start their usual football practice routine around this time, I asked them to pose for a photo together by an old car that was parked in our village with no owner. Time passed, the car has grown older while the twins have grown up.

I walk past this area every day. I've seen this area in every light : morning, afternoon, and night. To me, 3:30 PM generates the best lighting for this portrait.



OPEN CATEGORY

2nd Place

2nd

Laura PANNACK
UK

The Cracker - commissioned by Multistory.

Callum on the Lawns



OPEN CATEGORY

3rd Place

3rd

Annika HAAS **ESTONIA**

Hendrik 2019

My new portrait series captures a young generation in Estonia who do have not experiential sense of the historical past of Soviet Union and Soviet Estonia. The only connection is their parents or some remaining interiors of this time. For example many of school interiors are still the same as they were 30-40 years ago. For me as a photo artist it's a possibility of returning to my childhood through the young people I'm portraying. It's like a flashback. And on the other hand it's interesting to explore what is cognition to the past for today's youth.

My childhood clothes are now popular among young people, they love the vintage interior of their school, but they don't know what the embarrassing environment of the Soviet school really was. I portrayed Hendrik, a schoolboy, sitting on a vaulting horse, which is still being used since the Soviet era.



1st



Dan NELKEN
USA

*Four portraits from HeadStrong
"The Women of Rural Uganda"*

Clockwise:

- (1) Abur Janet: Age 30: Working in quarry for 10 years breaking stones into gravel. Earns 1,000 UGX (\$0.32 USD) per jerry-can of gravel. Makes 12 jerry-cans of gravel per day.
- (2) A. Innocent: Age 19 & A. Michael: Age 14 months. Working in quarry for one year. Earns 1,000 UGX (\$0.32 USD) per jerry-can of gravel. Makes 10 jerry-cans of gravel per day.
- (3) Lakica Beatrice: Age 28. Selling used clothes for two years. Earns about 13,000 UGX (\$3.50 USD) per day.
- (4) A. Kevine: Age 24. Selling for seven years sweet potato vines: six for 1,000 UGX. Earns about 10,000 UGX (\$2.70 USD) per day.



In Uganda, and elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa, local and traditional tribal customs inform the behavior of single and married women. Part of that role includes being subservient to the male head of the family. Women are expected to take care of most domestic duties as well as help support their families financially.

During my three trips to Uganda volunteering for an NGO, I was fortunate enough to have interacted with some of the local women who impressed me by their work ethic, dignity, comportment, and sense of humor. My initial intention was to see if I could showcase photographically these qualities as a way to express my respect and admiration.

Initially I took environmental portraits of these women. Realizing that these images did not accomplish what I was hoping to capture, I decided to create a portable portrait studio, using mosquito netting as a backdrop. The material's quasi-transparency successfully segregates the women from their environment without isolating them. It achieved one of my objectives, to allow these women to be recognized for their personality and the pride they had in their labor. The netting also became a metaphor for the lack of preventive medical care, which defines this region.

2nd

Carlotta CARDANA

ITALY

Yuusi

Yuusi Yasaki, 20, works as a host in a popular Tokyo club, where he entertains women over drinks. He was raised in an orphanage and got into this career when he was 18 after seeing Japan's no.1 host on TV.

"What I like about this business is that I am the product and I am selling myself instead of selling other products. I can also advance in this career regardless of my age or experience, it all depends on how hard I work and how good I am: I have people older than me working as subordinates. If we are good, we can earn 'lifetime earnings' (200 million yen, over one and a half million EUR) in a very short period."



3rd

Jeanne TARIS

FRANCE

GESTES GITANS

There are six or maybe seven thousand Gitans living in the Saint-Jacques district in the historic heart of Perpignan. In this network of little streets and lanes, the houses are dilapidated, sometimes insanitary; the children are outside until late at night, few go to school. The women, sitting on folding chairs on their doorsteps, watch them play; the men, often absent, take a siesta or hang around in the local squares.

For years, drugs have ravaged the young people. The evangelical churches, as active as they are conservative, try to save the lost sheep of the locality. In Saint Jacques few people work, a lot live on benefits. The picture is bleak. It's hard to get away from the stereotyping. Since September 2016, Jeanne has made regular visits to the St. Jacques district - meeting people from the neighbourhood, sharing meals, spending nights together, accompanying them as they go about their everyday lives.



OPEN CATEGORY
Honourable Mention



Honourable Mention

Tristan STILL
Australia

Simon, 2018

"All I want is a patch of The Earth to call home, somewhere I can do whatever, without restrictions."

Simon has two twists in his spine due to severe scoliosis. Scoliosis, an abnormal curvature of the spine, has no cure but can be treated when diagnosed at an early age. Whilst young girls in Australia are checked at school for signs of the disorder, boys are not usually checked and Simon was not diagnosed until adulthood. Compensating for his affected spine, his body naturally refined the muscles on his front, helping reduce the severity of his chronic back problems.



Honourable Mention

MAXIME MATTHYS

BELGIUM

"2091-The Ministry of Privacy"

"2091-The Ministry of Privacy" explores the mechanism of facial recognition technologies used by the Chinese government to monitor and oppress Muslim-minority communities in its vast western Xinjiang region. In March 2019, I travelled to Kashgar, one of the last bastions of the Uyghur culture in Xinjiang, and probably the most monitored city in the region. I tried to photograph the daily life of the inhabitants as well as the surveillance system set up in the region. I developed a facial recognition software program in collaboration with William Attache, a French IT engineer, for a creative performance project I was planning to launch in Shanghai. Depending on the technology, some are displayed using red dots – called facial landmarks – others using Delaunay diagrams, an efficient alternative for mapping faces.

I then began to photograph the daily lives of the Uyghurs and other minorities under threat, without having to focus on the surveillance system itself. Back in my hotel room, I uploaded the pictures into the facial recognition software, which automatically recognized and drew the respective biometric facial information of the citizens in the photographs.

*Open Category
Finalists*

Liza AMBROSSIO

MEXICO

'Back to the Belly' from the series "The Rage of Devotion"

"Some time ago I decided to change my life in the most extraordinary way possible. I looked inward and unintentionally remembered the phrase my mother told me the last time I saw her when I was sixteen years old.. "I wish you well, and believe me, I hope you'll become strong and brave, so you can be merciless when the time comes to destroy your body and crush your soul the next time we see each other".

After an overwhelming emotional breakdown, I began this series of images intermingling with pictorial canvases and photographs from my family archive to invite the observer to immerse themselves in my psychology.



Javier ARCE NILLAS

SPAIN

AmA

At the heart of the Amazon jungle is the Nanay River Gorge. Like a meeting of world cultures it intertwines over the metaphor that travels or modifies the water of the earth. It is a vision that builds and records what remains of an incontestable being that is, in its most spiritual and dreamy emotional state. Over generations, natives have explored the time and the subconscious with the Ayahuasca, the Kambó and the meditation ceremonies. The relationship between time and space appears to be rooted in the need to satisfy the basic impulse of men to dominate the world. They are materialized dreams that find peace in a lost place of the mind.



OPEN CATEGORY

Finalists



Enda BOWE

UK

'Cybil McAddy with daughter Lulu'
2018, from an ongoing project with a
working title 'Clapton Blossom'.

Set on a housing estate in east London, this project focuses on the positivity and vibrance of multicultural societies on a day when walls are being built between nations and people who are in search of a better life and survival are having their movement prevented, a day when the emigrant is not being celebrated nor encouraged.



Melissa CARNEMOLLA

ITALY / THE NETHERLANDS

Noemi lives in one of the poorest suburbs of Rome: La Rustica. In 2016 she started a relationship with a guy who was addicted to cocaine. One night, during a quarrel, he beat her several times.

She ran away from him to come to my place. Her face was swollen, her right eye was black and her body had several hematomas. Here she is sitting on my bed after taking a warm shower. She stayed for two days with me and after that, she went back to him. Luckily, a few months later they broke up.

Su CASSIANO

AUSTRALIA

Christina in their bedroom, Sydney, 2018

Growing up in regional Queensland led me to the DIY alternative scene early in my teens, in the eighties. At that time we had a thriving music scene and the community was diverse and inclusive. Punks, goths, gay, and indigenous people found strength in solidarity in what was sometimes a hostile environment. The best explanation I have of my early existence is when a friend of mine saw me walking down the street in a full woolen goth black clothing at the age of 15, and asked me what I was doing, I replied 'I'm just existing'.

I met Christina as she was performing at the Red Rattler, an alternative queer venue in Sydney. Christina's portrait is an extract from the ongoing No Trend series about women and non-binary people in the DIY punk scene around the world, bringing alternative narratives into a scene that claims equality but is mostly ruled by white heterosexual cisgender men.



Supranav DASH

INDIA

Joy & Kaka, Kolkata, 2018

Joy and Kaka (partial names used to protect identity), have known each other for almost 16 years. One is an engineer and the other an auto-rickshaw driver. Family pressure, confused sexuality and social stigmatization led them to having separate lives with wives and kids. They share a deep bond that goes beyond just the physical; and when the separation becomes unbearable they find alibis to meet in secret. Eros And Its Discontents (2014-ongoing) explores the trajectory of the individuals from the LGBTQ+ community, through their struggles of identity, their hopes and dreams, their pleasure, pain and rejection.



OPEN CATEGORY

Finalists



Robyn DAY

USA

Rose

The photograph "Rose" is from my portrait series "Wo/men." Wo/men is an ironic typology, one that undermines the very classification it purports to analyze. The common presumption, accepted by most implicitly, is that there is some set of shared criteria that neatly carves out a category of people classifiable as women. This belief too often goes unquestioned. By accepting the same belief at face value as a photographic method, I draw out the contradictions and inconsistencies that make it untenable.

In photographing self-identified women, I examine a category that, in reality, is not one. Taken together, my portraits reveal the fluidity and variation of gender, throwing into question the assumption that any one of us can say what makes one a woman or not. Instead, my work forms a record of gender identity as a performative that exists along a continuum, without definitive boundaries.



Gianmaria GAVA

AUSTRIA

Man and Cloud

Last summer, 2018, I shot a reportage at the so called "Pedocin" beach in the centre of Trieste, Italy. It is one of the most peculiar sea bath establishments in the world, the only one in Europe where the division between a section for men and one for women is still in force. I spent a couple of days in the male area and got to know some of the men who go there every single day. As time quietly passed by, I couldn't help but notice that, for them, one of the most valuable aspects of that ancient division was just privacy and a certain feeling of freedom. That is why I decided to take a series of "anti-portraits", to record with the camera classic seaside activities without ever showing the faces of the people I met

Tim FRANCO

SOUTH KOREA

Holy Night Girl - Illicit Ink

An obscure South Korean law makes tattooing technically illegal. Although this does not stop a growing number of underground tattoo parlors to open in people's homes or in hidden rooms, it does pose a challenge for a young generation looking to express themselves beyond the imposed ideal South Korean look - often controlled by the Kpop and cosmetic industries.



Goyo - Illicit Ink

The tattoo history is actually centuries old in Korea. Sailors marked themselves with frightening shapes to scare away the monsters that inhabited the deep seas. But things changed during the Joseon dynasty when tattoos were used to mark robbers for their crimes and slaves as a perpetual mark of punishment. In the 20th century, South Korean gangs inspired by Japanese Yakuza used tattoos as a distinctive mark. This rather dark history of the art created a negative perception that has endured to this day in this very conservative society. Nowadays, a new generation of Koreans influenced by pop stars, Western athletes and television programs see tattoos as attractive and fashionable. But the ban remains in place.

Those portraits of young South Korean Tattooists who chose to defy laws and cultural standards have been captured directly on pieces of 8x10 inches negative photographic paper.



OPEN CATEGORY

Finalists



Ksenia KULESHOWA **RUSSIA**

Maria Krugovaya in her flat in Saint Petersburg.

Maria Krugovaya (35) is a photographer who specialises in sensual portraits, erotica and nudes and is openly gay.



Miss Tekila: Russia, Saint Petersburg.

Miss Tekila is smoking in the gay club "Central Station SPB" after her performance. Alexandr Govorukhin (30) from Montschegorsk lives in Saint Petersburg for 12 years. He is a travesti actor (stage name is Miss Tekila) at the "Central Station SPB" gay club, "The Blue Oyster" gay bar and a makeup artist. Alexandr is openly gay.

Tomek KOZLOWSKI

POLAND

Secret portrait

The portrait of Rose (Holguin Province, Cuba) comes from a reportage titled „Secret Portraits” presenting the victims of Hurricane Irma that struck with monstrous strength on Cuba and caused massive floods and destruction. About a million people were evacuated, and it was the largest evacuation operation in the history of Cuba. She, like thousands of other victims of the hurricane, lost all of her possessions, home and animals. She works as a museum worker. This portrait like others in this essay is a tribute to her strength, resilience and perseverance.



Timothy NESWITH

USA

This photo was created as part of a longer project that examines loneliness and detachment within the context of globalization and its effect on the individual. The series asks whether or not we, despite the ever-increasing connectivity of our world, are ultimately more isolated.

This improvised portrait was taken in Shanghai - around 3 am - and shows a woman either returning home or beginning her day. We're not sure which one, but her familiar visage makes her commute relatable to us all. Those who are accustomed to a life that only exists during the day, or think that night is only for subcultures, are made to contemplate another emerging possibility. Framing the portraits, the streetlight acts as a spotlight, as if the subject is on a stage, and thereby hints towards a moment of recognition for someone who may otherwise go unseen.



OPEN CATEGORY

Finalists



Nicole OSULA

UK

"Impatient Diners" - a portrait of Fola Abatan and Chris Chuky.

Initially we began setting up in Stratford's Olympic Park. However, not long after adding tissue to Fola's outfit we had to relocate. Before migrating we decided to take a stop to eat at Roosters. It was quite quiet at the time, and as Fola's outfit was halfway to completion - in addition to the fact that it was rather warm inside, we decided to use our eating area as a This sense of anonymity, combined with the setting we were in, sparked inspiration for the image's title name. Initially, "Anonymous Diners" came to mind, along with William Shakespeare's, "What's in a Name?" quote. In the end opted for, "Impatient Diners", as I felt as though Fola and Chris' composition reflected two people who had grown bored while waiting for their meal arrival.



Python NAKAMURA

JAPAN

A Sexual Life

What I am always aware is life and death, and the nature of human beings.

A foot scratcher who tries to sublime life more by being aware of the process until death.

In other words, daily life until death is the core of my photographs.

I feel hope, love and madness in a human-like appearance. The point is that eating, playing with children and having sex are all things that I cannot resist.

All these acts are collectively called sex life. Such sexual life for me is photographed in a way that reflects the day-to-day life of the family. In my images, there are lively human figures depicted with a mixture of lies and truth.

Maryam RAHMANIAN
IRAN

Shima, a 26-year-old fashion Instagram influencer, poses for a photo shoot in her room in Tehran, Iran. With 217,000 followers on Instagram, she is one of the influential fashion influencers on the photo sharing app in Iran.

Shima is not worried about a potential filtering of Instagram in Iran as she is already "Most of my followers are from my own country, and my main focus is to introduce and show local designers and their products to my Instagram followers. In a way, I help create jobs for my own people," said added.



Miranda SCHMITZ
BELGIUM

This picture is one of the enigmatic portraits from my 'IN BETWEEN' series. 'IN BETWEEN' is not necessarily an examination into the specific traits of the current generation of teens, but rather an honest and timeless musing about coming of age in general. For this project I wanted to delve deeper than the individuality of the people and try and capture the essence of puberty as a developmental phase of life. I photographed Belgian youths between the ages of 13 and 15. They are the sons and daughters of friends and colleagues. Because the images have been stripped of all context, the kids can only communicate with their bodies and show themselves and their personality through their look and posture.



OPEN CATEGORY

Finalists



Paola SERINO

ITALY

Sailor Moon from "Young Cosplayer" series

"Young Cosplayer" is part of a larger work that explores the aesthetic imagery of Cosplay pop culture. In portraying these young cosplayers I tried to investigate the space between the exteriority of the mask and the consistency of their unripe individuality.



Michal SOLARSKI

POLAND

ZLATA

A Ukrainian girl in a dress created for a beauty contest in Odessa, Ukraine. Traditionally, these floral headdresses are worn by young, unmarried women as a sign of their "purity" and marital eligibility. In pre-Christian times, they were even thought to protect innocent girls from evil spirits. Currently, after the 2014 Ukrainian Revolution, the headdresses are being worn in daily life to symbolise national pride.

The image is from the work that I started nearly a decade ago called 'Rest Behind the Curtain' for which I try to explore the habits and rituals of the season, which together comprise the holiday culture in the states that had been locked behind the Iron Curtain.

Tristan STILL
AUSTRALIA

"Black women are taught that we have to work 10 times harder than everyone else just to survive. And because of that I've had to adapt, learn and be so many things just to exist. It's a blessing and a curse. But I can confidently say I am at peace with myself and the strength that's grown in me. I forgive the world, but I will never forget."

Serwah Gyekyewah Attafuah is an Ashanti/Fante woman currently living on Gadigal land. She is an artist and political activist, perhaps most noted for her contribution to the highly political anti-colonial death metal band DISPOSSESSED, described as the "most uncompromising, unapologetic and important band in Australia".



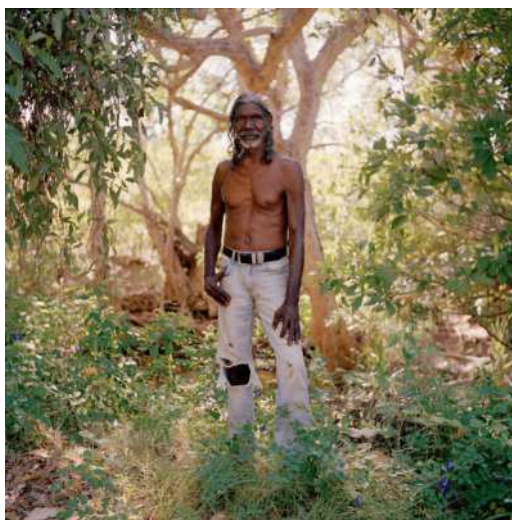
Pavel VOLKOV
RUSSIA
Phoenix

This is a portrait of Alexey who suffered terrible burns in his early childhood but struggled to survive although it was not easy.



Thuy VY
AUSTRALIA

DAVID GULPILIL - Australian actor.





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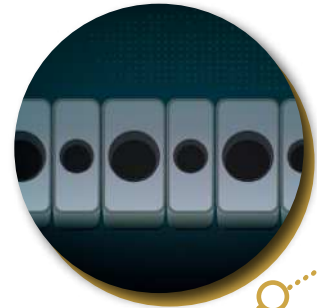
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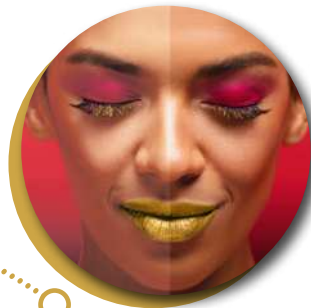
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Theme Category
Finalists

Henri AIRO

FINLAND

Ice swimmer after an early morning swim, Varkaus

Varkaus is surrounded by lakes on three sides of the city and due to its geography swimming is a popular pastime for many residents. Members of the local ice swimming club gather every morning in the winter for a swim in one of the icy lakes around the city. Many of them are elderly as ice swimming is said to have very beneficial effects for their health.

The image is a part of my documentary project "Varkaus", depicting a city struggling with its identity. The project is shot in the small industrial city of Varkaus, built around a paper mill in the late 19th century, of 25.000 people in eastern Finland.



Javier ARCENILLAS

SPAIN

Penal Center of Apanteos in Santa Ana. El Salvador. Prisoners in Sector 1. Portrait of gang members of the Mara MS.

"You are not a gang member if you have not killed someone." Portraits of young gang members from El Salvador. Assassins of the Maras 18 and Salvatrucha. Nestled between the borders of streets and submerged in a permanent social oblivion, the gangs impose their law on the streets of Central American. Created at the beginning of the 1980s, a large group of Salvadoran immigrants arrived in the USA escaping the bloody wars. These young people form the groups that would take the name of "Maras" whose two main slopes would be the "Mara Salvatrucha" (MS 13) and the Mara 18 (MS 18).





Luigi AVANTAGGIATO
ITALY

Ansari Female Orphanage, Herat, Afghanistan.

Janaan, 11, and Khalida, 14. They lost their parents during the war. In Afghanistan, an orphan is defined as a child without a father. By that grouping, there are an estimated quarter of a million orphans in the country. Law and tradition forbids strangers and foreigners from adopting them, so orphanages attempt to fill the void.



Jamil BALDWIN
USA

Grace: Shelly and Amari. From an ongoing series: Grace. Power. Tenacity.

The series follows friends, family, and my personal heroes from the hood. It is a series of celebration, first. The images are also meant to challenge the imagery associated with black neighborhoods in an effort to accentuate the breeding ground of beauty, inspiration, and humanity. While there has been a growing call for diverse stories in this current wave of consciousness, I noticed the hood was ignored—invisible, still—despite the wake of the new images and narratives presented in media and art.

Davide BERTUCCIO**ITALY***Across the river's flow*

Johanna, 15, on her way to Saxon Richis Cemetery. She belongs to the last generation of Saxons, who lives in Germany. The young people go back to Romania only for the summer vacation. Saxons are a community with German roots. Since the XI century, together with Hungarians and Romanians, they've been living in the 'green heart' of Romania. From this very land, a major migration is now taking place which marks the decline of centuries of history. Saxons are disappearing along with their culture, language and traditions.

**Danny BURROWS****UK**

*The Welding Class, Danthonia
Bruderhof Community, NSW,
Australia*

From project titled 'Together (A) Part', a study of the pacifist Christian Bruderhof and their calling to live in community and practice community of goods in settlements around the globe, which will be printed as a book in 2020 - centenary year of the Bruderhof.





Gabriele CECCONI

ITALY

The Wretched and the Earth

Some Rohingyas sheltering from the wind and sand in a makeshift tent in Balukhali camp.



SUPRANAV DASH

INDIA

YPS, 49, in his aunt's house in Lucknow, UP.

YPS and his three co-accused - his aunt and two brothers - were charged with killing SS, YPS's wife of eight years, over a 'dowry dispute'. He spent 10 months in jail and his brothers did 6 months each. Three years later, the court concluded that SS had committed suicide in a bout of depression resulting from the demise of her eight day old baby. The registration of the case itself was a legal anomaly: incidents that occur more than 7 year after the wedding cannot be related to a demand for dowry under Indian law. "In The Pursuit of Happiness?" (2015-ongoing) investigates the plight of Indians who have suffered from 'marriage'.

Sandra CHEN- WEINSTEIN

USA

Angela

Angela, dressed in Congolese traditional bridesmaid outfit. She is taking part in her best friend's traditional wedding ceremony in the tight knit community of refugees from war torn central Africa who have resettled in Houston, Texas.



The Texan - from 'Lone Star' project.

Linda with her rifle at home in west Texas. "It is my right and responsibility to be able to protect myself and my family." Linda has a CHL, 'Concealed Handgun License' and has been a firearms instructor since 2011. She is teaching and promoting awareness of second amendment so to empower women to have the confidence to be in control of their own protection. Linda was a victim of domestic abuse by her ex-spouse before obtaining her license and becoming an instructor.



Finalists



Lauren FORSTER

UK

Dad :

There are no words to express how you feel when you lose your soul mate, your love, your best friend. This portrait of my dad is taken from an intimate photographic document that explores our family's response to my Mother's diagnosis of secondary brain cancer through until her death on the 17th August 2018. Despite the subject being intensely personal, the images try to transcend this and speak of a more universal narrative above love, family, loss, strength and fragility that any viewer could understand. My family is a microcosm for this dynamic, occurring all too often within families who also experiencing much of the same struggle.

My parents were officers in the Salvation Army for 45 years; the majority of those years were served abroad as missionaries in Africa. They moved back to the UK in 2016 when my mother's cancer spread to the brain and my father became her primary carer.



Mum :

This portrait of my mum was taken shortly after we received the news that the cancer had spread to her brain. Loneliness is a highly subjective feeling that everyone can relate to. I think that mum in particular was feeling lonely as we could not relate to what she was going through. Everyone experiences death alone; death separates us from everyone around us and it is an experience that we cannot share with anyone else.

I have been forced to consider what makes death so hard to talk about? Why do people fear talking to loved ones about dying? Perhaps it is because death is so uncertain and uncertainty produces fear.

Stephanie GENGOTTI

ITALY

'Circus love'

The magical life of Europe's Family Circuses. Emilia Romagna, Italy August 2019. The picture portrays 'Cirque Bidon', an amazing French Circus created in the 70's by François Bidon, which travels around Europe on horse-drawn caravans.



Mariano ICAZA DE LA SOTA

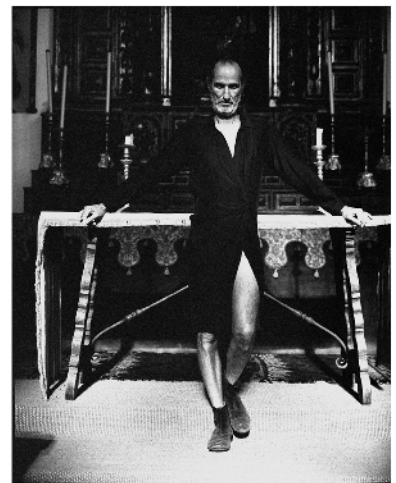
SPAIN

This picture is one of the 25 photos that make part of my last Project Titled: "MANY LIVES, MANY MASTERS. MEN OF THE XXI CENTURY". The pictures are Analogue (B&W Film, negatives 6x7), and I work with Atos Alde, my Alter Ego. Each picture is named with the models name and his profession, next to Atos Alde. So the one selected is: "Amparo, Fashion Designer". With this project presentation I pretend, on one side, to honour all the men and women that over centuries have worked in their different professions with passion, sacrifice and persistence, and on the other side to homage August Sander work, "Men of the 20th Century".

Globalisation and fast development of technology are endangering many of the professions that I believe will disappear in the next decades. That's why I would like to document and honour them.



Amparo, Fashion Designer, Madrid.



Atos Alde, Fashion Designer, Madrid.

Finalists



Azneal ISHAK

MALAYSIA

The workers that keep Malaysia ticking

Bahrn, 26, works on the site of a landmark project in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. He made his way to Malaysia from Bangladesh six years ago, after hearing of opportunities in the construction sector.

Some of the migrant workers who keep the country's economy running, taking up the jobs that some Malaysians won't.



Lim YAOHUI

SINGAPORE

Focus

Wang Qian from China giving her eyes a break during the Women's 10m air pistol qualification at Jakabaring International Shooting Range during Asian Games in Palembang, Indonesia on Aug 24, 2018.

She finished 1st out of 43 shooters with a score of 580-19x and qualify for the finals.

Amy MARTIN**USA***El Carpintero/The Carpenter*

This image is from my portrait series *Todos Dignos: Voices From Our Undocumented Immigrant Community* - Immigration is perhaps the biggest issue debated in America (and other countries around the world) currently, but many voices have been left out of the conversation. *Todos Dignos* is a portrait/storytelling project dignifying and celebrating undocumented immigrants and their contributions to the Arizona community and greater American society.

**Miyuki OKUYAMA****JAPAN / THE
NETHERLANDS**

*Yaeko and Masao from series
'Stateless : War displaced Filipino
Japanese'*

Yaeko, born in 1941, and her brother Masao, 1943, live in a mountain village without electricity and only reachable on foot. Their father Kato who came from Fukushima, promised that he would be back as he was repatriating after the war. But it never happened.

"Stateless : War displaced Filipino Japanese" is a documentary made with my personal perspective as a Japanese immigrant living away from home, portraying the wartime offsprings of Japanese immigrant workers left behind in Mindanao.



Finalists



Jens SCHWARZ

GERMANY

Heidi, Catholic Carrick Hill area, Belfast, Northern Ireland, from the project 'Themmunns'

'Themmunns' is a photo project on youth in Northern Ireland.

The title refers to a slang word for 'them ones', the opposing side in Northern Ireland debates among Catholic Irish Republicans and Protestant Loyalists. Fellow members of one's own side are known as 'ussuns'.

With UK's 2016 Brexit referendum Northern Ireland would have to leave the European Union in 2019 although a majority of its citizens voted to remain. After more than 30 years of conflict during the so called 'Troubles' one of the fundamentals of the Peace Process declared in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement is the open border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland – which will, in a post Brexit scenario become an external border of the European Union. Now there is serious concern that such a hard border was very likely to undermine and threaten the Peace Process in Northern Ireland.



Maggie STEBER

USA

Katie Stubblefield dances with her father, Robb, in the empty ballroom at the historic Tudor Arms Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio, as they sing to one another to make music. Five years ago, Katie blew her face off with a rifle in a suicide attempt after several issues became unbearable for her. She failed to kill herself but shot most of her face off. Since then, she has gone through dozens of surgeries to prepare her face for a transplant as well as ongoing physical and psychological therapies. Finally in 2018, Katie received a face donated by a grandmother of a young woman who fell into an overdose coma without hope of living. Katie is now 23 but she celebrates the anniversary of her suicide attempt as her new birthdate even if it was a very dark day. She says that day, despite the violence of her actions, she was reborn and recently celebrated what she calls her 5th birthday.

Polly TOOTAL**UK***The Hands That Built This City, 2019*

Friends walking down the street in a labour camp area in Dubai, UAE. Polly Tootal's photography tells the stories of landscapes and of the people who inhabit them - how they came to be there and where they are going. The Hands That Built This City shot in March 2018 and March 2019 is a photographic story looking at the people who make up the large and ever growing workforce of the UAE, the people who have built and are building the cities of Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

**PIETER DE VOS****CANADA***No Man's Land*

Christopher bathes during a weekend visit with family in the town of KwaMhlanga. He has spent most of his life on the margins despite his dogged pursuit of stable housing. As he says, "I grew up in the bushes, you know in no man's land. And there was no law. Every wrong I did was right for me because every wrong I committed was for survival even if I could be killed for it."

Since 2012, I've been doing documentary work in South Africa on the topic of "home" and "belonging". Through this process, I met and befriended Christopher and his brother Donald. Their stories personify the complexities of life in post-apartheid South Africa: a place of promise and heartache, a place of perseverance and faith, a place where personal histories reveal complex social truths.



Finalists



Patrick WACK

FRANCE

Woman in Restaurant

January 30th 2019. Kashgar, Xinjiang province. Uyghur-minority woman photographed in a local restaurant. "It has now been proven that more than one million Uyghur-minority Chinese citizens are being detained in re-education camps for the only reason they are Muslim. These camps, which according to Chinese authorities are vocational centers, are aimed at indoctrinating the detainees towards Chinese communist secularism, fostering reverence of leader Xi Jinping and making them denounce their faith while submitting them to forced labor."



The Puma Boys

January 30th 2019. Kashgar, Xinjiang province. Two young Uyghur-minority men photographed on their way to work. "It has now been proven that more than one million Uyghur-minority Chinese citizens are being detained in re-education camps for the only reason they are Muslim. These camps, which according to Chinese authorities are vocational centers, are aimed at indoctrinating the detainees towards Chinese communist secularism, fostering reverence of leader Xi."

Kai YOKOYAMA**JAPAN***"Ashra and Ilma"*

Suffering from Down's Syndrome, Ashra is chased during a time of play by Ilma, who is deaf. Located in eastern Sri Lanka is the city of Kattankudy. In a country that is 70% Buddhist, nearly all of the city's 40,000 residents believe in Islam. 40 students attend "



Finalist
Photographers

Javier ARCENILLAS Spain
Liza AMBROSSIO Mexico/Spain
Henri AIRO Finland
Luigi AVANTAGGIATO Italy
Jamil BALDWIN USA
Davide BERTUCCIO Italy
Enda BOWE UK
Danny BURROWS UK
Melissa CARNEMOLLA Italy/Netherlands
Carlotta CARDANA Italy
Su CASSIANO France/Australia
Gabriele CECCONI Italy
Sandra CHEN-WEINSTEIN USA
Supranav DASH India
Robyn DAY USA
Pieter DE VOS Canada
Tim FRANCO South Korea
Lauren FORSTER UK
Gianmaria GAVA Italy
Stephanie GENGOTTI Italy
Annika HAAS Estonia
Mariano ICAZA DE LA SOTA Spain
Azneal ISHAK Malaysia
Tomek KOZLOWSKI Poland
Ksenia KULESHOWA Russia/Germany
Maxine MATTHYS Belgium
Amy MARTIN USA
Python NAKAMURA Japan
Dan NELKEN USA
Timothy NESMITH USA/Australia
Miyuki OKUYAMA Japan
Nicole OSULA UK
Laura PANNACK UK
Patarit PINYOIPHAT Thailand
Maryam RAHMANIAN Iran
Jens SCHWARZ Germany

Miranda SCHMITZ Belgium
Paola SERINO Italy
Michal SOLARSKI Poland
Tristan STILL Australia
Maggie STEBER USA
Jeanne TARIS France
Vy THUY Vietnam/Australia
Polly TOOTAL UK
Pavel VOLKOV Russia
Patrick WACK France
Lim YAOHUI Singapore
Kai YOKOYAMA Japan



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BACK COVER IMAGE

LAUREN FORSTER
UK
Dad

“

The number of images was surprisingly manageable. It was interesting to notice how certain images kept appearing on our radar. In an environment where images are ubiquitous, the fact that certain narratives or visuals continued to make an impression is certainly commendable.

Throughout the judging process, it became increasingly evident that the significance of the image was due to individual experience and perspective. All of us had our own politics informing our opinions, and it was largely about convincing the others that this particular narrative held enough weight to be awarded.

Overall, while there were some very strong entries, I would have liked to see a broader range of critical issues covered, particularly from around the region. There is still a need for more representation of lives in Asia.

”

– CHARMINE POH

“

...sometimes the simplicity of the idea and the production of the image hits the mark. Many of the finalists of this year's competition I hope will be seen to represent this. A simple depiction of dignity, without overly romanticizing the situation of the people within the frame, and with their gaze challenging the viewer to see them as they are.

Did we make the right choices? I'm sure the audience will have their own opinions and this ultimately is a strength of photography, it is not a purely didactic medium of communication, instead it prompts, provokes, challenges, informs and obscures. It is the nexus of photographer, subject and viewer from which discussion and debate should emerge.

Certainly in the judging room over two days we encountered this. It is my hope that the debate will continue over the choices we made, and around what the images could represent.

– TOM WHITE

”

