



World Photography  
Organisation



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## SILENT WIND, ROARING SKY

SOLO EXHIBITION BY ADAM FERGUSON, *PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2022*

EXHIBITION: 14 APRIL – 1 MAY 2023 | SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON



The World Photography Organisation is delighted to present *Silent Wind, Roaring Sky*, a solo exhibition by the acclaimed Australian photographer Adam Ferguson, winner of the prestigious *Photographer of the Year 2022*. The work documents the remote lives of communities in Australia's outback and is showcased as part of the Sony World Photography Awards 2023 exhibition at Somerset House, London this April.

*Silent Wind, Roaring Sky* charts repeated journeys, over the course of eight years, deep into rural Australia, a place of great significance for Ferguson who grew up with his family's stories and images of life in the Outback. With time he became aware of its hold on the public consciousness as a mythologised and unknowable wilderness and felt compelled to examine it in his work.

Ferguson found a landscape and a community in a state of dramatic transition: Australia is the driest inhabited continent on Earth, and the outback is increasingly impacted by the effects of climate change and globalisation. Through this deeply personal journey, Ferguson explores the post colonial legacy of the Outback, reflects on land stolen from Aboriginal Australians, and tells

the stories of communities living through a moment of crisis, where the signature red dust has become a growing threat, and where the endemic poverty of Aboriginal Australians is pronounced.

Commenting on the series Adam Ferguson says: *'Silent Wind, Roaring Sky is a photographic survey of Australia's heartland. Drawing on childhood memories and travelling documentation, I observe fading yet iconic events, Aboriginal connection to the country, shrinking small-towns, pastoralism, the impacts of globalisation, and the adversity of climate change. I attempt to challenge and position archetypal tropes of Australian identity with the complex realities of contemporary life in the Outback.'*

Ferguson was awarded the prestigious *Photographer of the Year* title in 2022 and is the first recipient of a new prize element for the Award: from 2023 onwards the *Photographer of the Year* is rewarded with a solo presentation of their work as part of the Sony World Photography Awards London exhibition the following year. This is in addition to the \$25,000 cash prize, a range of Sony digital imaging equipment. The opportunity allows photographers to further develop their winning project or exhibit another body of work, gaining them additional exposure and advancing their careers.

*Silent Wind, Roaring Sky* will be published in a dedicated photobook, including new and previously unseen images from the series, by GOST Books, in February 2024.

**IMAGES AVAILABLE AT [PRESS.CREOARTS.COM](https://press.creoarts.com)**

## **PRESS CONTACTS**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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## **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 16th 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* award; the renowned Japanese photographer Rinko Kawauchi is the 2023 recipient of this award, joining a distinguished list of iconic names including Martin Parr, William Eggleston, Candida Hofer, Nadav Kander, Gerhard Steidl, Edward Burtynsky and Graciela Iturbide. The Awards showcase the works of winning and shortlisted photographers at a prestigious annual exhibition at Somerset House, London. [worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards-exhibition](https://worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards-exhibition)

## **ADAM FERGUSON**

Adam Ferguson is an Australian photographer whose work explores conflict and critical social issues. Ferguson holds a B.A from the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University Australia and currently lives in Lutruwita / Tasmania (Australia) and is currently enrolled in a Master of Fine Arts at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology School of Art. He is working on two monographs – a war diary that examines his time in Afghanistan and a long-form photo essay about colonial legacy in the Australian bush. [www.adamfergusonstudio.com](http://www.adamfergusonstudio.com)

## **ABOUT WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY ORGANISATION**

World Photography Organisation is a leading global platform dedicated to the development and advancement of photographic culture. Its programming and competition initiatives provide valuable opportunities for artists working in photography and help broaden the conversation around their work. The Sony World Photography Awards is World Photography Organisation's principal programme. Established in 2007, it is one of the world's biggest and most prestigious photography competitions; celebrating the work of leading and emerging practitioners and attracting tens of thousands of visitors annually to its exhibitions worldwide. World Photography Organisation is the photography strand of Creo, responsible for delivering initiatives and programming across three sectors: photography, film and contemporary art. Follow the World Photography Organisation on Instagram ([@worldphotoorg](https://www.instagram.com/worldphotoorg)), Twitter ([@WorldPhotoOrg](https://twitter.com/WorldPhotoOrg)) and LinkedIn/Facebook ([World Photography Organisation](https://www.facebook.com/WorldPhotographyOrganisation)). Our hashtags to follow are #sonyworldphotographyawards #swpa #swpanews.

## **CREO**

Creo initiates and organises events and programming across three key strands: photography, film and contemporary art. Established in 2007 as World Photography Organisation, Creo has since grown in scope, furthering its mission of developing meaningful opportunities for creatives and expanding the reach of its cultural activities. Today, its flagship projects include the Sony World Photography Awards, Sony Future Filmmaker Awards, PHOTOFAIRS Shanghai, Photo London and the forthcoming PHOTOFAIRS New York (Sep 2023). Working in partnership with Angus Montgomery Arts, Creo helps deliver the group's ventures, comprising some of the world's leading art fairs. Taking its name from the Latin for 'I create', it is in this spirit that Creo sets out to empower and give agency to creative voices. [www.creoarts.com](http://www.creoarts.com)

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## **IMAGE CREDITS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT):**

© Adam Ferguson, *Come By Chance Christmas Tree*, 2019, from 'Silent Wind, Roaring Sky', courtesy of the artist

© Adam Ferguson, *Father and Son Shearers*, 2017, from 'Silent Wind, Roaring Sky', courtesy of the artist