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## SOLO EXHIBITION BY EDGAR MARTINS, *PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2023*

19 APRIL – 6 MAY 2024 | SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON



The World Photography Organisation is pleased to announce a solo presentation by Edgar Martins titled *Anton's hand is made of Guilt. No muscle or bone. He has a Gung-ho Finger and a Grief-stricken Thumb*. Winner of the *Photographer of the Year 2023*, Martins returns to Somerset House with new works, expanding upon his awarded series *Our War*.

The presentation showcases a long-term project of Martins', commemorating the loss of his close friend, photojournalist Anton Hammerl, during the Libyan Civil War in 2011. Featuring a selection of photographs and elements of video and installation, the presentation is on view as part of the Sony World Photography Awards Exhibition at Somerset House, London from 19 April to 6 May, 2024.

Grappling with his personal experience of bereavement as well as the broader context of the role of Journalism and photo-documentary practices in conflict zones, Martins' project is an exercise in investigating known facts, and extrapolating them to construct a picture of the unknown. Seeking answers about Hammerl's disappearance, Edgar Martins travelled around Northern Africa, retracing his late friend's steps in an attempt to understand and document the events prior to his death.

Aware that his investigation would not result in a satisfactory conclusion, Martins' project turned towards the conceptual problem he was faced with: how to approach storytelling in the absence of material evidence and the subject? Through this exhibition, Martins considers the methodologies of

representing war, death, disappearance and grief, closely examining the role of the photographer or journalist in producing the imagery which serves as testimony, delving into its possibilities and its limitations.

Martins' solo exhibition is accompanied by the launch of a book of the same title, featuring essays by David Company and Will Self, as well as an expanded set of images, archival photography, drawings, an album of sonic landscapes and collated research material. The book is available for purchase during the exhibition and through The Moth House ([www.themothhouse.com](http://www.themothhouse.com)).

Commenting on the series, Edgar Martins says: *This is a research-based documentary project, based on actual events, a lipogramme and an imaginary anthropological study in one. Some elements are speculative, but the social and environmental reality that produces them is real. It portrays a story warped by absences that talks of the difficulty of documenting, testifying, witnessing, remembering, and imagining war. It is also a project that seeks to enable innovative approaches to respond to modern conflict, photographic ethics, and trauma.*

Martins was awarded the prestigious *Photographer of the Year* title in 2023. This solo presentation at the Sony World Photography Awards exhibition 2024 is part of Martins' reward for his achievement, in addition to a \$25,000 cash prize and a range of Sony digital imaging equipment. This important opportunity allows photographers to further develop their winning project, or to exhibit another body of work, gaining additional exposure and advancing their careers.

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## 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 17th 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 acclaimed photographer Sebastião Salgado is the 2024 recipient of this award, joining a distinguished list of iconic names including William Eggleston, Mary Ellen Mark, Martin Parr, Candida Höfer, Nadav Kander, Gerhard Steidl, Graciela Iturbide, Edward Burtynsky and Rinko Kawauchi. The Awards showcase the works of winning and shortlisted photographers at a prestigious annual exhibition at Somerset House, London. Our hashtags to follow are #SonyWorldPhotographyAwards and #SWPA2024. [worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards-exhibition](http://worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards-exhibition)

### 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)).

## **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 PHOTOFAIRS New York. 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.

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\*Both Japanese words, Kando means emotion and Anshin has various meanings such as peace of mind, reassurance, reliability and trust.

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