

PRESS RELEASE | 27 FEBRUARY 2024

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION 2024

FINALISTS & SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

EXHIBITION: 19 APRIL – 6 MAY 2024 | SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON



The World Photography Organisation is delighted to reveal the finalists and shortlisted photographers in the Professional competition of the Sony World Photography Awards 2024. Now in its 17th year, the Awards' Professional competition rewards exceptional series of work both for technical mastery and an original approach to narrative.

Over 395,000 images from more than 220 countries and territories were submitted to the Sony World Photography Awards 2024, with the highest number of entries on record for the Professional competition.

The *Photographer of the Year 2024* winner is chosen from the Professional finalists and announced on **18 April**. The *Photographer of the Year* wins a \$25,000 (USD) cash prize and a range of Sony digital imaging equipment, and additionally receives a solo presentation of their work as part of next year's Sony World Photography Awards exhibition. This opportunity allows photographers to further develop

their winning project or exhibit new work, gaining them additional exposure and advancing their careers.

A selection of images by finalists and shortlisted photographers is first showcased as part of the Sony World Photography Awards 2024 exhibition at Somerset House from **19 April–6 May 2024**, and will then travel to additional locations.

Commenting on behalf of the jury, Chair of the Jury, Monica Allende says: *'The jury was captivated by the passionate storytelling; capturing both the joys and the challenges of human existence across our planet. We were thrilled by the diverse, high-quality, and creative spectrum of photography styles on display.'*

The three finalists and projects per category of the Sony World Photography Awards 2024 Professional competition are:

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

In *Sala Mayor (Living Room)*, **Siobhán Doran (Ireland)** documents the homes of families who acquired wealth in the sugar trade in the Philippines, through a series of portraits of their main living rooms. In *Tehran Campus Town*, **Yaser Mohamad Khani (Islamic Republic of Iran)** explores the new neighbourhoods being built on the outskirts of Tehran in a series of striking photographs of urban development within the rocky, mountainous landscape. Meanwhile, **Karol Pałka's (Poland)** project *Spa Island* looks at how spa facilities are embedded in community life in Slovakia as spaces for meeting and interaction.

CREATIVE

In *The Gay Space Agency* **Mackenzie Calle (United States)** reimagines the history of NASA, which has never flown an openly LGBTQ+ astronaut, conceptualising instead a space agency which welcomed and celebrated LGBTQ+ astronauts. Elsewhere, **Tine Poppe's (Norway)** series *Gilded Lilies: Portraits of Cut Flowers* considers the damaging environmental impact of cut flowers, through carefully crafted images of bouquets against backdrops of landscapes devastated by climate change. In **Sujata Setia's (United Kingdom)** project *A Thousand Cuts* she examines the pain and resilience of survivors of domestic abuse from the UK's South Asian community, through a series of intricately crafted portraits with incisions in the surface of the photographs, revealing a layer of red paper underneath.

DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS

In *Critical Minerals - DRC Cobalt* **Daive Monteleone (Italy)** investigates the mining of minerals needed for renewable energy, looking closely at the gruelling human toll of cobalt extraction in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In *Spiralkampagnen: Forced Contraception and Unintended Sterilisation of Greenlandic Women* **Juliette Pavy (France)** explores the lasting impact of the birth control campaign led by Danish authorities in Greenland between 1966 and 1975, during which thousands of young Greenlandic women were implanted with intrauterine devices without their consent, in many cases leading to their sterilisation. Meanwhile, **Brent Stirton's (South Africa)** project *LGBTQIA Refugees: Fleeing Uganda* documents the lives of people who were forced out of Uganda by the strict laws prohibiting homosexuality, and are now trying to rebuild their lives in safe houses in Kenya.

ENVIRONMENT

Mahé Elipe's (France) *Echoes of the Hive* documents the efforts of the Mayan population in Southern Mexico to preserve a species of bees central to their religion and culture in the aftermath of their mass-poisoning by pesticides. **Jean-Marc Caimi and Valentina Piccinni's (Italy)** series *Tropicalia* examines how Sicily has adapted to its changing climate and rising temperatures, focusing on the new agricultural practices pioneered by local farmers and scientists as they begin to grow more tropical fruits. Using the UN Sustainable Development Goal to eradicate hunger as a starting point, **Maurizio Di Pietro (Italy)** looks at the promotion of insects as a food source in the series *Zero Hunger*.

LANDSCAPE

In *Wildfires of Palermo* **Jim Fenwick (United Kingdom)** captures the extraordinary tones of Palermo's skies lit up by raging wildfires in the Sicilian countryside. **Eddo Hartmann's (Netherlands)** series *The Sacrifice Zone* explores a remote area of Kazakhstan that was once the site of the Soviet Union's major nuclear testing facilities, using infrared to evoke the impact of the radiation contamination invisible to the human eye. In *An Atypical Chinese Landscape* **Fan Li (China Mainland)** depicts an enigmatic, sparse landscape populated by abandoned objects and constructions. These discarded fragments are suggestive of unknown past lives, leaving behind permanent marks on the landscape.

PORTFOLIO

In **Aly Hazzaa's (Egypt)** *Quest for Coherence*, the photographer's eye for detail and playful approach to street photography catches witty visual moments in the streets of Cairo. **Angelika Kollin's (Estonia)** series *Parenthood* examines the concept of the family as the nucleus of life, through a series of black and white portraits of parents and their children. In **Jorge Mónaco's (Argentina)** *Portraits and Landscapes* the photographer invites the viewer to delve into the intimate stories of his subjects, offering a reflective perspective on human diversity.

PORTRAITURE

Following extensive archival research and working with genealogists to trace his sitters, **Drew Gardner's (United Kingdom)** series *Descendants of Black American Civil War Combatants* recreates photographs of Black American Civil War combatants through posed portraits of their descendants. In **Valery Poshtarov's (Bulgaria)** *Father and Son* the photographer asked fathers and sons from Bulgaria, Georgia, Turkey, Armenia, Serbia, and Greece to hold hands. This small but important act of familial tenderness creates an intimate and moving portrait of masculinity and paternal relationships. In *The First Car* **Adali Schell (United States)** portrays his friends in their first cars, evoking the sense of a shared journey, half-forgotten memories, and the feeling of youthful restlessness growing up in L.A.

SPORT

In *Finger Wrestling in Bavaria* **Angelika Jakob (Germany)** spotlights the lesser known sport of finger wrestling. Exuding humour and warmth, Jakob's images depict the intensive training process using finger weights and the riotous atmosphere of the championships. In **Thomas Meurot's (France)** *Kald Söl (Cold Sun)*, we follow a cold surfing expedition in Iceland, with the black and white format used to emphasise the freezing temperatures which persisted even in the glaring winter sun. Meanwhile, **Tommaso Pardini's (Italy)** *Surf in Dakar* looks at the burgeoning Senegalese surf scene through the journey of a promising young surfer aspiring to compete on the international stage.

STILL LIFE

In **Peter Franck's (Germany)** *Still Like Art*, the photographer captures a series of strange and surreal compositions and still lifes, shot in stark black and white. In *London Plane Tree*, **Beth Galton (United**

States) considers the peeling back of layers of our identity through photographing strips of tree bark overlaid on self-portraits. **Federico Scarchilli's (Italy)** series *Flora* highlights the vital role of plants in medicine, juxtaposing photographs of key species that have been instrumental in the development of modern medicine, with neat rows of pills laid out symmetrically.

WILDLIFE & NATURE

Eva Berler's (Greece) *Suspended Worlds* invites the viewer to take a closer look into the world of spider webs, where time and action are frozen, capturing the artful, irregular intricacies of these ephemeral creations. In **Jasper Doest's (Netherlands)** *In the Footsteps of Giants* the photographer reveals the delicate equilibrium between humans and elephants in rural parts of Zambia, an uneasy truce which is increasingly disturbed as both populations vie for limited resources. In *King Without a Throne: Poached or Dehorned*, photographer **Haider Khan (India)** documents two rhinos in captivity in Germany and India. The series explores the complexities of 'dehorning' which, while helping to keep rhinos safe from poachers, conversely leaves them vulnerable without their natural defence system.

The work of finalist and shortlisted photographers in the Professional competition was judged by: **Elena Navarro**, Photo Curator, Producer, and Consultant, Mexico; **Mutsuko Ota**, Editorial Director, IMA Magazine, Japan; **Elisabeth Sherman**, Senior Curator, Director of Exhibitions and Collections, International Center of Photography (ICP), United States; **Tanzim Wahab**, Curator, Spore Initiative, Germany and Festival Director, Chobi Mela, Bangladesh; and **Monica Allende**, Independent Curator, Photography Consultant and Chair of the Jury.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION FINALISTS AND SHORTLIST

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Finalists

Siobhán Doran, Ireland
Yaser Mohamad Khani, Islamic Republic of Iran
Karol Pałka, Poland

Shortlist

Francesco Amorosino, Italy
Maciej Czarnecki, Poland
Joseph Horton, United Kingdom
Marc Koegel, Canada
Julia Mustonen-Dahlkvist, Finland
Nick Ng, Malaysia
Albrecht Voss, Germany

CREATIVE

Finalists

Mackenzie Calle, United States
Tine Poppe, Norway
Sujata Setia, United Kingdom

Shortlist

Daniela Balestrin, Brazil
Diana Cheren Nygren, United States
Peter Franck, Germany
Noru Innes, Finland
Lei Jiang, China Mainland
Romain Laurendeau, France
Qiu Yan, China Mainland

DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS

Finalists

Davide Monteleone, Italy
Juliette Pavy, France
Brent Stirton, South Africa

Shortlist

Raphael Alves, Brazil
Ernesto Benavides, Peru
Natalia Garbu, Moldova
Eddo Hartmann, Netherlands
Jens Juul, Denmark
Frankie Mills, United Kingdom
Renaud Philippe, Canada

ENVIRONMENT

Finalists

Jean-Marc Caimi & Valentina Piccinni, Italy
Mahé Elipe, France
Maurizio Di Pietro, Italy

Shortlist

Javier Arcenillas, Spain
Aletheia Casey, Australia
Sachin Ghai, India
Jonas Kakó, Germany
Maximilian Mann, Germany
Kathleen Orlinsky, United States

LANDSCAPE

Finalists

Jim Fenwick, United Kingdom
Eddo Hartmann, Netherlands
Fan Li, China Mainland

Shortlist

Liang Chen, China Mainland
Hendrik J. Hunter, Netherlands
Kevin Kraugartner, Germany
Alessio Paduano, Italy
Ekrem Sahin, Turkey
Yevhen Samuchenko, Ukraine
Haozheng Wu, Macao

PORTFOLIO

Finalists

Aly Hazzaa, Egypt
Angelika Kollin, Estonia
Jorge Mónaco, Argentina

Shortlist

Paweł Bojarski, Poland
Lydia Grizzle, United States
Horst Kistner, Germany
Anna Neubauer, Austria
Mojtaba Radmanesh, Islamic Republic of Iran

PORTRAITURE

Finalists

Drew Gardner, United Kingdom
Valery Poshtarov, Bulgaria
Adali Schell, United States

Shortlist

Liang Chen, China Mainland
Owen Harvey, United Kingdom
Jiatong Lu, China Mainland
Michael O. Snyder, United States

SPORT

Finalists

Angelika Jakob, Germany
Thomas Meurot, France
Tommaso Pardini, Italy

Shortlist

Lorenzo Foddai, Italy
Oles Kromplias, Ukraine
James Rokop, United States
Piotr Sadurski, Poland
Kai Schwörer, Germany
Luis Tato, Spain
Lucas Urenda, Chile

STILL LIFE

Finalists

Peter Franck, Germany
Beth Galton, United States
Federico Scarchilli, Italy

Shortlist

William Abranowicz, United States
Raúl Belinchón Hueso, Spain
Kristina Kulakova, Austria
Helen McLain, United States
Michael Young, United States

WILDLIFE & NATURE

Finalists

Eva Berler, Greece
Jasper Doest, Netherlands
Haider Khan, India

Shortlist

Steven Begleiter, United States
Kathryn Cooper, United Kingdom
Massimo Giorgetta, Italy
Kathleen Orlinsky, United States
Jen Osborne, Canada
Jacques Smit, South Africa
Lukas Zeman, Czech Republic

PRESS CONTACTS

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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](https://twitter.com/SonyWorldPhotographyAwards) and [#SWPA2024](https://twitter.com/SWPA2024). 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. www.creoarts.com

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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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