



World Photography  
Organisation



Sony  
World  
Photography  
Awards

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## STUDENT AND YOUTH COMPETITIONS 2024

SHORTLISTS ANNOUNCED

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



The World Photography Organisation announces today the shortlisted photographers in the Student and Youth competitions of the Sony World Photography Awards 2024. Winners of *Student Photographer of the Year* and *Youth Photographer of the Year* will be announced on 18 April and will be on view as part of the Sony World Photography Awards 2024 exhibition at Somerset House, London.

[STUDENT COMPETITION SHORTLIST](#)

The Student competition shortlist is a selection of bodies of work by 10 students at leading higher education institutions. This year's competition invited students to enter a series of five to 10 images in response to the brief *Home*. The shortlisted projects highlight the student photographers' diverse perspectives on place, community, identity and belonging, showing the nuanced stories and conversations they engage with as they develop their practices.

Family relationships and personal histories are key themes across a number of the shortlisted series. **Brayan Enriquez's** (USA, Georgia State University, Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design) series *And Taste the Dirt Below* explores the family stories passed down through generations, focusing on Enriquez's parents' immigration to the United States from Mexico; **Gaoge Ouchen's** (China Mainland, Communication University of Zhejiang) series *The Orange Tree* chronicles a return to the photographer's family house during the pandemic after a time away; **Kayin Luys'** (Belgium, LUCA School of Arts Sint Lukas, Brussels) project *Don't Trust Pretty Girls* is an intimate portrait of his in-laws, celebrating their day-to-day rituals and pastimes.

The shortlisted photographers also turned their lenses towards community, and the ways one finds a sense of home within a larger group. *Chatal Home*, by **Kazi Arifujaman** (Bangladesh, Counter Foto - a Center for Visual Arts), looks at communal living in a 'chatal', a rice processing site where families from around Bangladesh reside and work together; in *Ihubo Ikhaya (A hymn, a home)*, **Makaziwe Radebe** (South Africa, Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town) reminisces about memories of Emdeni, Soweto, recalling time spent with neighbours, friends and family; meanwhile in *Horses and Caravans*, **Frederik Rügger** (Germany, Ostkreuzschule für Fotografie) captures the customs and traditions of English and Irish traveller communities, focusing on the annual celebrations held at the Ballinasloe and Appleby horse fairs.

Elsewhere, the shortlisted photographers looked at how introspection allows one to find a sense of home. **Yufei Ma's** (China Mainland, School of Visual Art, USA) *Intermission* contemplates the moments of tranquillity that punctuate daily life through a series of still-lives of linens and garments drying in the sun. **Siphosethu Sanelisiwe Sikhosana's** (South Africa, University of Pretoria) project *Resting in Unfamiliar Places* traces Sikhosana's changing relationship to religion and sexuality in a series of artfully crafted pinhole camera self-portraits.

Also included in the shortlist are projects exploring the challenges of making a home in precarious conditions. In *Lake Poopó's Disappearance: The Uru Community's Tale of Resilience*, **Gaston Zilberman** (Argentina, Motivarte) examines how climate change has altered the lifestyle and culture of the Uru community as their natural resources become scarce. **Juan David Aguirre's** (Colombia, Universidad EAFIT) poignant black-and-white series *No Home No Future* documents ways of living in the Andes tenement in Medellin, where homeless people take shelter.

The winner of *Student Photographer of the Year 2024* will be selected from the 10 students and announced at the Sony World Photography Awards 2024 ceremony in London on 18 April. The overall winning university will receive Sony digital imaging equipment worth €30,000.

This year's Student Competition shortlist was judged by **Ravi Ghosh**, Deputy Editor at The British Journal of Photography.

## YOUTH COMPETITION SHORTLIST

The Youth competition shortlist comprises the works of 10 photographers aged 19 and under. For the 2024 competition, entrants were invited to respond to the brief *Through Your Eyes*.

A number of the shortlisted photographers reflected on their personal experiences of the natural world and environment. **River Lewis-Gosch** (USA, 15 years old) caught the first moments of a severe wildfire in the North Cascades National Park in Washington, just as the firefighting helicopters began to arrive; while **Kas Christiaens** (Belgium, 19 years old) striking night-time image depicts light pollution in rural Belgium, revealing how street lights have impacted the clarity of the night sky. **Sebastián Fernández Lora** (Spain, 15 years old) succeeded in capturing a photograph of comet C/2023 P1 (Nishimura), which was visible from Spain in September 2023; and **Daniel Murray** (UK, 15 years old) turns his camera to a lone surfer on an empty beach, meditating upon the scenery of the Cornish seaside.

The shortlisted photographers also explored questions of identity and individuality in their work. **Shayna Cuenca** (USA, 15 years old) created a stylised self-portrait using a cut printed image, and tea bags; while **Joyce Xu** (Australia, 18 years old) took a studio self-portrait in a moment of reflection. Across the shortlist, photographers demonstrated creative approaches to composition as they documented their surroundings. **Zy Grei Zander M. Esperanza**'s (Philippines, 16 years old) image of a flying flock of doves highlights their motion through intentional camera movement techniques. Elsewhere **Chengchen Wang** (China Mainland, 18 years old) captured the snow-covered peaks of Yala Mountain, glowing in the late-evening light; **Afiq Sharkawi** (Malaysia, 18 years old) portrayed a craftsman in the workshop, making a traditional weapon known as a 'keris'; and **Isaac Friend** (UK, 18 years old) took a dramatic photograph of rock formations against the backdrop of a clouded sky and distant ocean waves.

*Youth Photographer of the Year* is judged by **Daniel Blochwitz**, Curator of the Foto Festival Lenzburg, Switzerland. The winner will receive a range of Sony digital imaging equipment to nurture their vision.

The overall winners in the Student, Youth, Open and Professional competitions of the Sony World Photography Awards 2024 will be announced on 18 April 2024. For more information about upcoming announcements and winners please visit [www.worldphoto.org](http://www.worldphoto.org).

Brayan Enriquez, USA  
Georgia State University, Ernest G Welch School of Art and Design, USA

Afiq Sharkawi, Malaysia

Frederik Rügger, Germany  
Ostkreuzschule für Fotografie, Germany

Chengchen Wang, China Mainland

Gaoge Ouchen, China Mainland  
Communication University of Zhejiang, China Mainland

Daniel Murray, UK

Gaston Zilberman, Argentina  
Motivarte, Argentina

Isaac Friend, UK

Juan David Aguirre, Colombia  
Universidad EAFIT, Colombia

Joyce Xu, Australia

Kayin Luys, Belgium  
LUCA School of Arts Sint Lukas, Brussels, Belgium

Kas Christiaens, Belgium

Kazi Arifujjaman, Bangladesh  
Counter Foto - a Center for Visual Arts, Bangladesh

River Lewis-Gosch, USA

Makaziwe Radebe, South Africa  
Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Shayna Cuenca, USA

Siphosethu Sanelisiwe Sikhosana, South Africa  
University of Pretoria, South Africa

Sebastián Fernández Lora, Spain

Yufei Ma, China Mainland  
School of Visual Arts, USA

Zy Grei Zander M. Esperanza, Philippines

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

## 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 and #SWPA2024. [worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards-exhibition](https://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](http://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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