

PRESS RELEASE

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION: FINALISTS & SHORTLISTS

- The Sony World Photography Awards announces the finalists and shortlists of the 2025 Professional competition
- Photographic projects were recognised for technical mastery and an original approach to narrative
- *Photographer of the Year* to be announced on 16 April at a special gala ceremony in London
- 2025 exhibition opens at Somerset House from 17 April – 5 May 2025

LONDON, 25 FEBRUARY 2025 – The Sony World Photography Awards reveals today the 30 finalists and shortlisted photographers in the 2025 Professional competition. Now in its 18th year, the Professional competition rewards outstanding series of work both for their compelling approach to narrative and for their photographic execution.

Across this year's competitions, over 419,000 images from over 200 countries and territories were submitted to the Awards.

The 10 category winners will be chosen from the 30 finalists and announced at a special ceremony in London on 16 April. The recipient of the prestigious *Photographer of the Year* title is chosen from the category winners and announced on the same night. In addition to receiving a \$25,000 (USD) cash prize and a range of Sony digital imaging equipment, the *Photographer of the Year* is offered the opportunity to show their work in a solo presentation at next year's Sony World Photography Awards London exhibition.

A new prize element is additionally introduced for this year's Professional competition; the 10 category winners are invited to London for a day of tailored sessions with leading industry figures. From a range of commercial and institutional backgrounds, these experts offer the

photographers specialised guidance on ways to continue to widen their platform and to find new opportunities to showcase their work.

Underscoring the creativity and dynamism of Japan's contemporary photography scene, the 2025 Awards also marks the first edition of the Japan Professional Award, which recognises a winner and shortlist of striking series by Japanese photographers from the Professional competition.

A selection of works by finalists and shortlisted photographers is first on view as part of the Sony World Photography Awards 2025 exhibition at Somerset House from 17 April - 5 May 2025, and will thereafter travel to other locations.

Commenting on behalf of the jury, Monica Allende, Chair of the Jury, says: *'We were so impressed by the strength and variety of the works submitted to the Sony World Photography Awards 2025. It is always a real challenge to select the shortlists and finalists, and as a jury we found the wider entries no less vital and inspiring.'*

On behalf of the jury I would like to congratulate the shortlist and finalists of the Professional competition. Across their projects, these photographers show great originality and clarity of vision, bringing prescient stories to the fore. From narratives of community-building, to explorations of collective memory, to empowering stories of people challenging conventions, these works offer a diversity of perspectives on our moment in history. I would like to extend my thanks to all of the jury for their careful deliberations and choices this year.'

The three finalist projects per category of the Sony World Photography Awards 2025 Professional competition are:

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Twilight in San Ignacio by **Andre Tezza** (Brazil) explores the resilience of the vernacular architecture of Belize, looking at homes built to withstand the challenging tropical climate. *LIGHT/MASS* by **Owen Davies** (United Kingdom) explores seemingly 'alien' urban landscapes in the United States, focusing on monumental buildings with atypical geometries. **Ulana Switucha's** (Canada) *Tokyo Toilet Project* documents an initiative involving the construction of modern public restrooms designed by leading architects.

CREATIVE

In *I Am Here for You*, **Irina Shkoda** (Ukraine) reflects on dynamics of hospitality, both given and received, drawing on her own experience as a refugee. In *Reclaiming the Truth*, **Julio Etchart & Holly Birtles** (United Kingdom) look closely at institutional artefact collections and curation through a postcolonial lens. Elsewhere, **Rhiannon Adam** (United Kingdom) tells a personal story of the dearMoon mission which she was set to participate in, responding to the ways in which its cancellation disrupted her life and her work.



DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS

Alex Bex's (France) series *Memories of Dust* explores the visual vocabulary of the cowboy, to consider new ways of presenting this archetype of masculinity. **Florence Goupil's** (Peru) series *The Whisper of Maize* examines the pivotal role of maize in Latin American traditions, not only as a staple food but as a medium of cultural and religious expression. **Toby Binder** (Germany) documents the deep divides shaping social life in Belfast, Northern Ireland, through the lives of young people born after the Good Friday agreement.

ENVIRONMENT

Cristóbal Olivares (Chile) charts the impact of light pollution on the astronomical teams observing the night sky of the Atacama Desert. **Maria Portaluppi's** (Ecuador) project looks at conservation in Guayanquil; through tender portraits of the animals in their care, she highlights the work done by the Sacha Rescue Foundation. In *Alquimia Textil*, **Nicolás Garrido Huguet** (Peru) collaborates with researcher and fashion designer María Lucía Muñoz to portray traditional textile dyeing techniques practiced by artisans of Pumaqwasin in Chinchero, Cusco, with light bleeds on the photographs visually and texturally reflective of the dye seeping into cloth.

LANDSCAPE

In *Apocalypse*, **Lalo de Almeida** (Brazil) maps out the devastation caused by drought, deforestation and wildfires across Brazil in 2024, its hottest year on record. **Mischa Lluch's** (Spain) series *Fading* evokes the loneliness and disconnection beneath the surface of contemporary American suburbia, creating images of an uncanny stillness. **Seido Kino** (Japan) carefully combines archival imagery with contemporary Japanese landscapes, rolling back the surface of the contemporary image to reveal how towns and villages have evolved with the passage of time, and the ways that today's challenges can be connected to the past.

PERSPECTIVES

Giovanni Capriotti (Italy) explores Canadian history through the lens of its First Nations communities, working with the guidance of elders and people living with intergenerational trauma. **Laura Pannack** (United Kingdom) captures the daily dangers and obstacles that the children face on their journey home from school in the gang-governed Cape Flats area of Cape Town. *Ashes of the Arabian's Pearl* by **Valentin Valette** (France) observes the societal changes resulting from economic growth in the Sultanate of Oman, considering the manual labourers and the entrepreneurs pushing the economy forward.

PORTRAITURE

Gui Christ's (Brazil) project *M'kumba* illustrates the resilience of Afro-Brazilian communities in the face of local religious intolerance, celebrating the ways in which their spirituality and religious identity is expressed. **Raúl Belinchón** (Spain) photographs the young volunteers whose efforts helped to clean the houses, clear the streets, and deliver life-saving supplies during the flooding in the Valencia region in autumn 2024. **Tom Franks's** (United Kingdom) series *The Second* offers an insight into the complex relationship between gun owners and



their firearms in the United States, using their personal testimonies to represent this cultural phenomenon.

SPORT

Antonio López Díaz (Spain) tells the story of aspiring gymnasts from Chad, whose determination earned them scholarships, and eventually led them to compete for a spot in the 2024 Olympic Games. **Chantal Pinzi's** (Italy) *Shred the Patriarchy* celebrates the women in India who have subverted gender stereotypes and broken barriers by practicing skateboarding. **Michael Dunn** (Bolivia) looks at a typical Monday for two women passionate about golf; every week they leave their usual work roles to play, wearing the traditional clothing of the Bolivian chola.

STILL LIFE

Alessandro Gandolfi (Italy) uses still life photographs to illustrate the fragile ecosystem of the Wadden Sea, an intertidal zone of the North Sea, showing its unique importance in maintaining ecosustainability in Europe. **K M Asad** (Bangladesh) depicts the murals installed by Sheikh Hasina during her rule, documenting the ways in which these symbols of political power have been erased and dismantled following her exile in 2024. **Peter Franck's** (Germany) *Still Waiting* is suggestive of the liminal spaces between events - the thresholds 'where time seems to stretch.'

WILDLIFE & NATURE

Kevin Shi (United States) highlights the ways in which polar bears and humans are living in ever-close proximity in the town of Churchill, Canada. **Pascal Beaudenon's** (France) painterly images show a herd of musk ox, tracing their behaviours as they group together closely to face the harsh winter. **Zed Nelson's** (United Kingdom) *Anthropocene Illusion* is a long-term project documenting the ways in which humans mediate their relationship with the natural world, creating artificial experiences of nature in the face of a rapidly changing climate and depleting biodiversity.

JAPAN PROFESSIONAL AWARD

The new Japan Professional Award recognises a winner and shortlist of Japanese photographers who entered outstanding series into the Professional competition. The inaugural winner of the Japan Professional Award is **Noriko Hayashi** for her project *Life at the Crossroads: Midwives in Afghanistan*, documenting the arduous work and the resilience of Afghan midwives operating under the Taliban regime. In addition to her work being shown at the London exhibition and in the annual book, Noriko Hayashi is awarded Sony digital imaging equipment and the opportunity to present her work at the Sony Imaging Gallery Ginza in Tokyo later this year. The shortlisted photographers are **Miku Yokoyama** (Architecture & Design), **Seido Kino** (Landscape), **Shinya Masuda** (Still Life) and **Shunta Kimura** (Environment).



PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION FINALISTS AND SHORTLIST

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Finalists

Andre Tezza, Brazil
Owen Davies, United Kingdom
Ulana Switucha, Canada

Shortlist

Alejandro Fernández-Llamazares Vidal, Spain
Maciej Leszczynski, Poland
Márton Mogyorósy, Hungary
Miku Yokoyama, Japan
Peter Franck, Germany
Yu Ting Lei, China Mainland

ENVIRONMENT

Finalists

Cristóbal Olivares, Chile
María Portaluppi, Ecuador
Nicolás Garrido Hugueta, Peru

Shortlist

Daniele Vita, Italy
Kasia Strek, Poland
Matteo Bastianelli, Italy
Per-Anders Pettersson, Sweden
Shunta Kimura, Japan
Skander Khlif, Tunisia

PORTRAITURE

Finalists

Gui Christ, Brazil
Raúl Belinchón, Spain
Tom Franks, United Kingdom

Shortlist

Alena Grom, Ukraine
Cletus Nelson Nwadike, Sweden
Constance Jaeggi O'Connor, Switzerland
Ivan Ryaskov, Kazakhstan
Jean-Marc Caimi & Valentina Piccini, Italy
Niccolò Rastrelli, Italy
Stas Ginzburg, United States

CREATIVE

Finalists

Irina Shkoda, Ukraine
Julio Etchart & Holly Birtles, United Kingdom
Rhiannon Adam, United Kingdom

Shortlist

Alice Poyzer, United Kingdom
Carolina Krieger, Brazil
Giorgia Lisi, Italy
Mariana Greif, Uruguay
Valentina Fusco, Italy
Yinna Higuera, Colombia

LANDSCAPE

Finalists

Lalo de Almeida, Brazil
Mischa Lluch, Spain
Seido Kino, Japan

Shortlist

Dudu Roth, Israel
Francisco Gonzalez Camacho, Spain
Gunnar Knechtel, Germany
Javi Parejo, Spain
Kazuaki Koseki, Japan
Lorenzo Poli, Italy
Masood Talebi, Islamic Republic of Iran

SPORT

Finalists

Antonio López Díaz, Spain
Chantal Pinzi, Italy
Michael Dunn, Bolivia

Shortlist

Matthew Joseph, United Kingdom
Mihaela Ivanova, Bulgaria
Robin Tutenges, France
Svenja Wiese, Germany
Tanara Stuermer, Brazil

DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS

Finalists

Alex Bex, France
Florence Goupil, Peru
Toby Binder, Germany

Shortlist

Alessandro Grassani, Italy
Alfredo Bosco, Italy
Caroline Gutman, United States
Da Yang, China Mainland
Giovanni de Mojana, Italy
Jodi Windvogel, South Africa
Noriko Hayashi, Japan

PERSPECTIVES

Finalists

Giovanni Capriotti, Italy
Laura Pannack, United Kingdom
Valentin Valette, France

Shortlist

Bárbara Monteiro, Portugal
Carlos Folgoso Sueiro, Spain
Jed Bacason, Philippines
Lea Greub, Germany
Lina Czerny, Germany
Lorraine Turci, France
Mauricio Holc, Argentina

STILL LIFE

Finalists

Alessandro Gandolfi, Italy
K M Asad, Bangladesh
Peter Franck, Germany

Shortlist

Amanda Harman, United Kingdom
Elaine Duigenan, United Kingdom
Li Sun, China Mainland
Miriam Bräutigam, Germany
Oded Wagenstein, Israel
Rui Caria, Portugal
Shinya Masuda, Japan



WILDLIFE & NATURE

Finalists

Kevin Shi, United States
Pascal Beaudenon, France
Zed Nelson, United Kingdom

Shortlist

Amit Eshel, Israel
Brent Stirton, South Africa
Efrain Sueldo, United States
James Wylie, United Kingdom
Marielle van Uitert, Netherlands
Melina Schildberg, Germany
Thomas Nicolon, France

JAPAN PROFESSIONAL AWARD WINNER AND SHORTLIST

Winner

Noriko Hayashi

Shortlist

Miku Yokoyama
Seido Kino
Shinya Masuda
Shunta Kimura

NOTES TO EDITORS

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A selection of images is available to download on press.creoarts.com.

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 18th 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 Susan Meiselas is the 2025 recipient of this award, joining a distinguished list of iconic names including William Eggleston (2013), Mary Ellen Mark (2014), Martin Parr (2017), Graciela Iturbide (2021), Edward Burtynsky (2022) and Sebastião Salgado (2024). The Awards showcase the works of winning and shortlisted photographers at a prestigious annual exhibition at Somerset House, London.

worldphoto.org/exhibition

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, which initiates events and programming across three sectors: photography, film and contemporary art. worldphoto.org

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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 and Photo London. 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. [creoarts.com](#)

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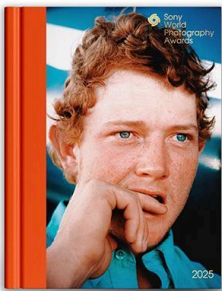
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*Kando is a Japanese word that roughly translates to the sense of awe and emotion you feel when experiencing something beautiful and amazing for the first time.

SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2025 BOOK



The hardback exhibition book will be available to purchase at the exhibition shop in Somerset House and is available to pre-order on [shop.worldphoto.org](#) (£24.99).

This collectible hardcover book celebrates remarkable photographs from the past year and delves into the compelling stories, both big and small, that inspired them. Enjoy award-winning images of all styles, genres and topics and immerse yourself in the unique perspectives of photographers from around the world as you look through its pages. Alongside the acclaimed images, readers will also be able to enjoy an essay dedicated to this year's *Outstanding Contribution to Photography* recipient Susan Meiselas.

