

PRESS RELEASE

## **JULIETTE PAVY, *BENEATH THE SURFACE***

- *Photographer of the Year 2024* Juliette Pavy debuts brand new work in solo presentation
- Developed in collaboration with Awards' Jury Chair and curator Monica Allende and presented as part of the Sony World Photography Awards 2025 exhibition at Somerset House from 17 April – 5 May 2025

**LONDON, 26 MARCH 2025** – The Sony World Photography Awards announces *Beneath the Surface*, a solo showcase including brand new work by *Photographer of the Year 2024* Juliette Pavy and presented as part of the 2025 Awards exhibition at Somerset House, London, 17 April – 5 May. Each year as part of their prize the *Photographer of the Year* is awarded the opportunity to create a dedicated presentation at the following year's Awards exhibition. In the past year Pavy has worked closely with Jury Chair and Curator Monica Allende to develop and premier this showcase of her new projects.

In 2024 Pavy's project *Spiralkampagnen: Forced Contraception and Unintended Sterilisation of Greenlandic Women* earned the rising French documentary photographer the prestigious *Photographer of the Year* title. Over the ensuing year and working under the guidance of Allende, Pavy has deepened her research into the topics central to her practice to create *Beneath the Surface*, a presentation which brings together works from *Under the Arctic Ice*, *Mercury* and *The Argonauts*. These two new visual narratives intertwine scientific observation with her lyrical approach to storytelling, and are brought together to create a dialogue about the global impact of invisible pollutants.

Presented for the first time ever, *The Argonauts* documents the work of scientists investigating plastic waste in the Mediterranean aboard the oceanographic vessel L'Atalante. With an estimated 229,000 tonnes of plastic waste entering the Mediterranean sea every year, the scientists' mission extends beyond documentation: like modern-day Argonauts, they seek to raise awareness and inspire action. In *The Argonauts*, Pavy develops

her signature photojournalistic style into a more personal, narrative-driven approach, as well as incorporating collaborations with her subjects, and using overlaid plastic objects.

Throughout her long-term project *Under the Arctic Ice, Mercury*, Pavy sheds light on the scientific and human realities of Indigenous peoples' prolonged exposure to high mercury levels across the Arctic regions of Greenland and Nunavut. With mercury levels in the Arctic increasing tenfold since the Industrial Revolution and the combined impact of global warming, methylmercury is now actively spreading into the food chain. Pavy captures the efforts of the doctors, scientists and the local communities facing this public health challenge first-hand.

Through Allende's curation, *Beneath the Surface* brings Pavy's photographic observations and documentation to life – positioning Pavy's signature empathetic portraiture, alongside scientific data and evidence gathered during her travels, and integrating typological images with hanging print displays.

Commenting on the exhibition, Juliette Pavy says: *'This exhibition is a major milestone in my photographic journey, and both of these projects are particularly meaningful to me. Under the Arctic Ice, Mercury allowed me to better understand the profound consequences of climate change on Arctic Indigenous peoples. With The Argonauts, I allowed myself more creative freedom, stepping aside from traditional photojournalism. Experimenting with fiction while remaining rooted in reality has opened up new ways for me to tell stories. I am looking forward to bringing these two important stories together to highlight the wider narrative of invisible pollutants and how they impact our world.'*

Building further upon her work in Greenland, Pavy's winning project from the Sony World Photography Awards 2024, *Spiralkampagnen: Forced Contraception and Unintended Sterilisation of Greenlandic Women*, will be published as a photobook by Four Eyes Editions later this year.

The *Photographer of the Year 2025* will be chosen from the 10 Professional competition category winners and announced at a special gala ceremony in London on 16 April. In addition to receiving a \$25,000 (USD) cash prize and a range of Sony digital imaging equipment, they will be awarded with the opportunity to present a solo showcase at the 2026 exhibition. This opportunity provides photographers with a platform to expand on their winning project or showcase a new body of work, allowing them to gain further exposure and advance their career. For more information, please visit [worldphoto.org](https://worldphoto.org).

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

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A selection of images is available to download on [press.creoarts.com](https://press.creoarts.com).



## SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Produced by Creo under its photography strand 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](http://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](http://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](http://creoarts.com)

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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.

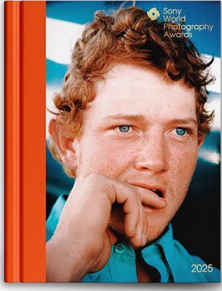
## JULIETTE PAVY

French documentary photographer Juliette Pavy graduated from the photojournalism program at EMI CFD in Paris, under the mentorship of Julien Daniel and Guillaume Herbaut. She regularly collaborates with national and international media outlets such as *Le Monde*, *The Guardian*, *Der Spiegel*, *Libération* and *Mediapart*. Alongside her editorial work, she develops a documentary approach to photography, focusing on environmental and societal issues, particularly in the Arctic. In 2020, she co-founded the Collectif Hors Format. In 2022, she was a recipient of the Grande Commande Nationale from the BnF and the French Ministry of Culture. The following year, she won the



Union des Photographes Professionnels (UPP) Award and the Françoise Demulder Grant from Visa pour l'Image for her reportage on the forced sterilization of Greenlandic women. In 2024, she was named *Photographer of the Year* at the Sony World Photography Awards. Her work has been exhibited and screened at festivals such as L'Œil Urbain, Visa pour l'Image, Escales Photos, and Les femmes s'exposent. Juliette Pavy's winning project from the Sony World Photography Awards 2024, *Spiralkampagnen: Forced Contraception and Unintended Sterilisation of Greenlandic Women*, will be published as a photobook by Four Eyes Editions later this year and is available to preorder on [foureyeseditions.shop](https://foureyeseditions.shop).

#### 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](https://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.

