

PRESS RELEASE

## OPEN COMPETITION: CATEGORY WINNERS & SHORTLISTS

- The Sony World Photography Awards announces the 10 category winners and shortlists of the 2026 Open competition, recognising the best single images of 2025
- *Open Photographer of the Year* to be announced on 16 April at a prestigious gala ceremony in London
- 2026 exhibition opens at Somerset House, London from 17 April - 4 May 2026

**LONDON, 17 FEBRUARY 2026** – The Sony World Photography Awards announce today the 10 category winners and the shortlisted photographers in the 2026 Open competition. Now in its 19th year, the Open competition recognises the best single images taken in the last year, celebrating the power of an individual image to pique curiosity, spark imagination, and reveal a wider narrative. Entrants shared their strongest images from 2025, and the winners and shortlists represent a diverse range of photographs; from striking landscapes to thoughtful portraits, and both captivating and humorous scenes from nature.

Across this year's competitions, over 430,000 images from over 200 countries and territories were submitted.

The *Open Photographer of the Year* will be announced at the Awards' ceremony in London on 16 April and will receive a \$5,000 (USD) cash prize as well as a range of Sony Digital Imaging equipment. A selection of winning and shortlisted images will be shown as part of the Sony World Photography Awards exhibition at Somerset House from 17 April - 4 May 2026, and will then travel to other locations.

This year's Open category winners are:

## ARCHITECTURE

**Markus Naarttijärvi (Sweden)** for his image of the paper mill in Obbola, Sweden, surrounded by layers of shadows, concrete and clouds, on a dark November night.

## CREATIVE

**Siavosh Ejlali (Iran, Islamic Republic Of)** for *Lost Hope*, a carefully composed portrait, using staged and symbolic elements in a poignant ode to Iranian women.

## LANDSCAPE

**J Fritz Rumpf (United States)** for *Shapes and Patterns of the Desert*, a study of the geometric composition and the rich, warm colours of the Sossusvlei dunes in Namibia.

## LIFESTYLE

**Vanta Coda III (United States)** for the portrait *Charlotte and Dolly*, depicting a young woman and her cow, resting together in a barn to keep cool in summer heat in West Virginia, United States.

## MOTION

**Franklin Littlefield (United States)** for his motion blur shot of a punk concert in Providence, Rhode Island, United States, capturing the dynamism of the moment.

## NATURAL WORLD & WILDLIFE

**Klaus Hellmich (Germany)** for a photograph of a blue arctic fox in the Varager Peninsula, Norway. The fox is caught in a blizzard and stands alone braving the wind and snow.

## OBJECT

**Robby Ogilvie (United Kingdom)** for *Colour Divides*, depicting the juxtaposition of a blue car against bright green and pink buildings of the Bo-Kaap neighbourhood in Cape Town, South Africa.

## PORTRAITURE

**Elle Leontiev (Australia)** for *The Barefoot Volcanologist*, a striking portrait of Phillip, an internationally recognised, self-taught volcano scientist, standing atop a volcanic rock bomb on the island of Tanna, Vanuatu.

## STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

**Giulia Pissagroia (Italy)** for *Between the Lines*, a candid, comedic black-and-white photograph of a family at Ørnevegen (Eagle Road), Norway, showing their humorous facial expressions as they admire the view.



## TRAVEL

**Megumi Murakami (Japan)** for a glowing photograph capturing the lively Abare Festival, where men leap into the river as torches blaze, a traditional celebration passed down for over three centuries in the Noto region of Japan.

This year's Open competition was judged by Ruby Rees-Sheridan, Assistant Curator, Photography, National Portrait Gallery, UK.

The overall winners in the Student, Youth, Open and Professional competitions of the Sony World Photography Awards 2026 will be announced on 16 April 2026. For more information about upcoming announcements and winners please visit [worldphoto.org](https://worldphoto.org).

## OPEN COMPETITION CATEGORY WINNERS AND SHORTLIST

### ARCHITECTURE

#### Winner

Markus Naarttijärvi, Sweden

#### Shortlist

Carlo Yuen, Hong Kong

Catherine Wang, United States

Eng Tong Tan, Malaysia

Falkmar Ameringer, Austria

Hanjun Zhang, China Mainland

Hui Liang, China Mainland

Klaus Lenzen, Germany

Kong Zhongxiang, China Mainland

MD Tanveer Hassan Rohan, United States

Qingsheng Sun, China Mainland

Ramatis Haywanon da Costa, Brazil

Utshaho Gupta, United States

### CREATIVE

#### Winner

Siavosh Ejlali, Iran, Islamic Republic Of

#### Shortlist

Abdulla AL-Mushaifri, Oman

Ali Zolghadri, Iran, Islamic Republic Of

Anne-Marie Etienne, France

Ben Mozafari, Canada

Cameron Wilcox, United States

Chen Zijun, China Mainland

Chukwudebelu Ojekwe, Nigeria

Claudia Behrensen, Argentina

Jay Tang, Netherlands

Maja Schubert, Germany

Marie-Line Dentler, France

Sai Ma, China Mainland

Shabnam Maleki, Iran, Islamic Republic Of

Toshio Ishido, Japan

### LANDSCAPE

#### Winner

J Fritz Rumpf, United States

#### Shortlist

Cong Lin, Canada

Dimitry Papkov, United States

Francisco Lima Saraiva, Brazil

Jassen Todorov, United States

Jim Guerard, United States

Kibong Nam, Korea, Republic Of

Lisa K. Kuhn, United States

Manuel Ortiga Castillo, Spain

Matteo Redaelli, Italy

Sascha Scherthaner, Austria

Scott Portelli, Australia

### LIFESTYLE

#### Winner

Vanta Coda III, United States

### MOTION

#### Winner

Franklin Littlefield, United States

### NATURAL WORLD & WILDLIFE

#### Winner

Klaus Hellmich, Germany



### Shortlist

Andreas Kanellopoulos, Greece  
Anita Clark & Paul Wenham-Clarke,  
United Kingdom  
Brian Arancibia, Chile  
Camila de Medeiros Fantinel, Brazil  
Charlie Clift, United Kingdom  
Ethan Parker, United Kingdom  
Hernan Jaramillo, Colombia  
Mustafa Shorbaji, Egypt  
Sebastian Szczepanowski, Poland  
Tomek Kozlowski, Poland

### Shortlist

Andre Magarao, Brazil  
Axel Schmidtke, Germany  
Christoph Oberschneider, Austria  
Easelyn Pineda, Philippines  
He Lu, China Mainland  
John Winkopp, United States  
Lee Jongkee, Korea, Republic Of  
Lorea Hausheer, Switzerland  
Martin Schmid, Austria  
Oscar Seguel Mangiola, Chile  
Takeru Marui, Japan  
Vishal Naveen, India  
Zdeněk Vošický, Czechia

### Shortlist

Chung Cheong Wong, Singapore  
Daichi Shimada, Japan  
Elizabeth Yicheng Shen, Taiwan  
Giacomo Marchione, Italy  
Huaqin Sun, China Mainland  
Juan Jacobo Castillo Barrerra, Colombia  
Kevin Shi, United States  
Lisa Skelton, Australia  
Samuel Round, United Kingdom  
Scott Portelli, Australia  
Stan Bouman, Netherlands  
Tim Munsey, United Kingdom  
Vishal Naveen, India  
Wouter van Hofwegen, Netherlands

## OBJECT

### Winner

Robby Ogilvie, United Kingdom

### Shortlist

David Hoekje, United States  
Glen Serbin, United States  
Guglielmo Mangilli, Italy  
Hanhoon Lee, Korea, Republic of  
Jan Goeke, Germany  
Leonel Costa, Angola  
Lesley Ormrod, United Kingdom  
Olivier Koestel, France  
Sarah Barlow, United Kingdom  
Soomin Park, Korea, Republic Of  
Yuliy Vasilev, Bulgaria

## PORTRAITURE

### Winner

Elle Leontiev, Australia

### Shortlist

Alejandra Valenzuela, Chile  
Charlie Clift, United Kingdom  
Duncan Elliott, United Kingdom  
Jaylon Cooper, United States  
Kalista Kemp, South Africa  
Kamil Hendrych, Poland  
Katarzyna Lakocy, Poland  
Livier Miroslava Ultreras, Mexico  
Luis Alejandro Dávila López, Spain  
María Gutu, Moldova, Republic Of  
Mondo Love, United Kingdom  
Shuyang Zhuang, China Mainland  
Tim Pearse, United Kingdom

## STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

### Winner

Giulia Pissagroia, Italy

### Shortlist

Andre Gaspar, Portugal  
Arun Saha, India  
Bijoy Krishna Paul, Bangladesh  
France Leclerc, United States  
Kathryn Mussallem, Canada  
Maciej Lubomski, Poland  
Mariana Zilbershteyn, Australia  
Mattia Massai, Italy  
Otto David Ramírez Villa, Mexico  
Paolo Dellepiane, Italy  
Rodrigo Paredes, Argentina  
Rudi Uran, Slovenia



## TRAVEL

### Winner

Megumi Murakami, Japan

### Shortlist

ChenYu Hsieh, Taiwan

David Sykes, United Kingdom

Filip Hrebenda, Slovakia

Jet Huynh, Vietnam

John Edwards, United States

Liping Jiang, China Mainland

Marie-Line Dentler, France

Megan Tavaréz, United States

Sawyer Alcázar-Hagen, United States

Swati Biswas Guha, India

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

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

### SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Produced by Creo under its photography strand the World Photography Organisation, the internationally acclaimed Sony World Photography Awards are one of the most important fixtures in the global photographic calendar. Now in its 19th 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 Joel Meyerowitz is the 2026 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), Sebastião Salgado (2024) and Susan Meiselas (2025). The Awards showcase the works of winning and shortlisted photographers at a prestigious annual exhibition at Somerset House, London. [worldphoto.org/exhibition](https://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 the 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)

#### **FOLLOW WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY ORGANISATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

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LinkedIn: [World Photography Organisation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/world-photography-organisation)

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 and Photo London. Working in partnership with Angus Montgomery Arts (AMA), 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)

#### **SONY GROUP CORPORATION**

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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.*

