

PRESS RELEASE

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION: FINALISTS & SHORTLISTS

- The Sony World Photography Awards announce the finalists and shortlists of the 2026 Professional competition
- *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, 3 MARCH 2026 – The Sony World Photography Awards reveal today the 30 finalists and over 65 shortlisted photographers in the 2026 Professional competition: a powerful showcase of visual storytelling that pushes the boundaries of contemporary photography. Celebrating nearly two decades of photographic excellence, the Professional competition champions photographers whose bold bodies of work combine mastery of the craft with narrative vision.

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

The 10 category winners are 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, receiving a \$25,000 (USD) cash prize, a range of Sony Digital Imaging equipment, as well as the opportunity to show their work in a solo presentation at next year's London exhibition. The winners and finalists are additionally invited to London for *Insights*, a day of tailored sessions with leading industry figures, offering specialised guidance on ways to continue expanding their platform.

A selection of works by finalist and shortlisted photographers is first on view as part of the Sony World Photography Awards 2026 exhibition at Somerset House, London, from 17 April - 4 May 2026, and will thereafter travel to other locations.

Commenting on behalf of the jury, Monica Allende, Chair of the Jury, says: *'The finalist and shortlisted work in the Professional competition for the Sony World Photography Awards 2026 demonstrates a remarkable growth in the craft and commitment to photography as a powerful storytelling medium. Across the many series we judged, I was deeply struck by the celebration of the human experience, and of love, kindness, and quiet resilience woven into complex and often challenging realities. Many of the most powerful images focused on intimate moments and small acts of heroism, revealing the enduring strength and spirit found in everyday life.'*

The three finalist projects in each category of the Sony World Photography Awards 2026 Professional competition are:

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Everyday Structures by **André Tezza** (Brazil) shines a light on the modest architecture of neighbourhood grocery stores in southern Brazil. In *Homes of Haor* **Joy Saha** (Bangladesh) documents the vernacular architecture of Bangladesh's Haor region, where homes are built on raised mounds that become islands during the monsoon. **Chen Liang's** (China Mainland) series explores watchtowers in Jiangmen, in China's Guangdong Province, a unique blend of Chinese and international architectural influences.

CREATIVE

The Black Album by **Pablo Ramos** (Mexico) explores Mexico's disappeared through silhouettes cut from archival photographs, transforming the images into a haunting collective portrait of absence. In *The Palm, On Piru* **Ben Brooks** (United Kingdom) depicts the spiritual connections and collective identities of rappers from South Los Angeles. In *Bilha, Stories of My Sisters*, photographer **Citlali Fabián** (Mexico) uses a mix of portraits and digital illustrations to bring to life the stories of inspiring women in southern Mexico, collaborating with activists and artists from Indigenous communities in the region.

DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS

Santiago Mesa's (Colombia) *Under the Shadow of Coca* follows the farmers whose livelihoods depend on this illicit economy, and the armed group that controls the cocaine trade in Colombia. In *Sixteen and a Half: Eight Months in a Juvenile Prison* **Alexandre Bagdassarian** (France) documents the daily lives of detainees in one of France's juvenile prisons. **Colin Delfosse's** (Belgium) series *Restitution* explores the journey of African masks between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Belgium, from their original use to their display in museums, examining the issues surrounding restitution.



ENVIRONMENT

Shane Hynan's (Ireland) series *Beneath / Beofhód*, 'life beneath the sod' in Irish, evokes the primal significance of bogs in Celtic tradition, and the interplay of cultural and environmental imperatives. **Matteo Trevisan's** (Italy) *Jinê Land: Where Women Keep the Earth Alive* documents women-led ecological and social rebuilding in Rojava, Syria, where communities come together in an experimental vision for the future. In *Notes on How to Build a Forest* **Isadora Romero** (Ecuador) explores forests as cultural territories, inhabited and shaped by multiple human and non-human groups over time.

LANDSCAPE

Dafna Talmor's (United Kingdom) *Constructed Landscapes* stem from the photographer's personal archive, and employ hand-printed and collaged colour negatives, reconfigured into abstracted landscape representations. **Andreas Secci's** (Germany) series presents abstract landscapes formed by aerial views of oyster farms on the French coast of Normandy and Brittany. **Michael Blann** (United Kingdom) uses photopolymer etching to depict iconic European mountain roads.

PERSPECTIVES

Living Photographs by **Hayate Kurisu** (Japan) documents the experience of the photographer and his wife, following the loss of a child to stillbirth, and the days spent together as a family before the cremation. In **Fredrik Lerneryd's** (Sweden) *Country Music in Kenya*, the photographer captures the International Cowboy Day festival in Nairobi, a major event for country music fans in Kenya. **Seungho Kim's** (Korea, Republic Of) *Sunny Side Up: A Portrait of the Most Average K-Parenting Today* turns the lens on the photographer's family, to capture the delightful pandemonium of his household - where parents, dog, and baby collide.

PORTRAITURE

Federico Borella (Italy) documents the Koryo-saram community in Uzbekistan, as a new generation influenced by the 'K-Wave' are embracing their Korean identity. **Jean-Marc Caimi & Valentina Piccinni's** (Italy) *The Faithful* captures portraits from the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square, Vatican City, between the death of one pope and the election of the next; a pilgrimage that took on the traits of fandom. **Marisa Reichert's** (Germany) series *be:longing* documents the lives of older Muslim trans people in Yogyakarta, Java, Indonesia where they are faced with the challenge of reconciling their faith, their identity and societal expectations.

SPORT

Todd Antony's (New Zealand) series looks at 'Buzkashi' (literally meaning 'goat pulling' in Persian), the fierce, ancient sport of Tajikistan. In *It's a Dog's Life*, **Rob Van Thienen** (Belgium) attended sighthound training sessions, producing a dynamic series of images of dogs in action as they



chase an artificial rabbit around a track. **Morgan Otagburuagu's** (Nigeria) *Beneath the Bridge* chronicles a makeshift gym in Lagos, Nigeria where amateur boxers train, far from the gleam of professional rings.

STILL LIFE

The Bronte Pistachio, by **Daniele Vita** (Italy) is a long-term study of the pistachio nuts of Sicily, photographing them one by one to capture their unique qualities up close. **Gargi Sharma's** (India) *Experiments in Stillness* explores the dialogue between the object and the viewer, allowing space for multiple interpretations and moments of stillness. **Vilma Taubo's** (Norway) *Talking Without Speaking* is a series of photographs of everyday objects that have become symbols of protest.

WILDLIFE & NATURE

Wolfgang Duerr's (Germany) series *WILD* was made by a camera activated via motion sensors, capturing various wildlife in action in black and white. **Anita Pouchard Serra's** (Argentina) series captures the clash between the neighbourhood capybaras and the residents of a private development in Buenos Aires, Argentina. **Will Burrard-Lucas's** (United Kingdom) *Crossing Point* captures wildlife in Kenya's Maasai Mara National Reserve; a remote camera trap set up to monitor endangered black rhinoceroses ultimately revealed an array of animals gathering at the forested river crossing.

The jury of the 2026 Professional competition are:

- Monica Allende, Independent Curator and Photography Consultant, Chair of the Jury
- Daniel Brena, Director, Centro de las Artes de San Agustín, Mexico
- Yumi Goto, Independent Curator, Editor, Researcher and Publisher, Japan
- Zack Hatfield, Managing Editor, *Aperture* magazine, USA
- Paul Ninson, Founder and Executive Director, Dikan Center, Ghana
- Bindi Vora, Artist and Senior Curator, Autograph, 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.



ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Finalists

André Tezza, Brazil
Chen Liang, China Mainland
Joy Saha, Bangladesh

Shortlist

Cristopher Rogel Blanquet Chavez & Daniel Ochoa de Olza, Mexico
Farshid Rahimi Kalahroudi, Iran, Islamic Republic Of
Jean-Marc Caimi & Valentina Piccinni, Italy
Mathieu Moindron, France
Peter Lipton, Netherlands
Stephan Zirwes, Germany
Tomasz Kawecki, Poland

ENVIRONMENT

Finalists

Isadora Romero, Ecuador
Matteo Trevisan, Italy
Shane Hynan, Ireland

Shortlist

Borja Abargues, Spain
Eduardo Valenzuela, Ecuador
Hossein Sadri Nobarzad, Iran, Islamic Republic Of
Jacob Paley, United States
Mahé Elipe, France
Tommy Trenchard, United Kingdom
Yi-Hsuan Lin, Taiwan

PORTRAITURE

Finalists

Federico Borella, Italy
Jean-Marc Caimi & Valentina Piccinni, Italy
Marisa Reichert, Germany

Shortlist

Caroline Gutman, United States
Ed Alcock, United Kingdom
Hans-Juergen Burkard, Germany
János Bódey, Hungary
Ron Timehin, United Kingdom
Shaohan Fang, China Mainland
Wei Kuai, China Mainland

CREATIVE

Finalists

Ben Brooks, United Kingdom
Citlali Fabián, Mexico
Pablo Ramos, Mexico

Shortlist

Abbey Hepner, United States
Armin Graca, Bosnia And Herzegovina
Daniela Balestrin, Brazil
Persia Campbell, Mexico
Sarah Ketelaars, United Kingdom
Sergio Meléndez Cava, Peru
Zula Rabikowska, United Kingdom

LANDSCAPE

Finalists

Andreas Secci, Germany
Dafna Talmor, United Kingdom
Michael Blann, United Kingdom

Shortlist

Daniel Clavería, Chile
David Baxter III, United States
Florian Ruiz, France
Julia Mustonen-Dahlkvist, Sweden
Liam Man, United Kingdom
Nathalie Ericson, Sweden
Peter Franck, Germany

SPORT

Finalists

Morgan Otagburuagu, Nigeria
Rob Van Thienen, Belgium
Todd Antony, New Zealand

Shortlist

Alain Schroeder, Belgium
Delfina Pignatiello, Argentina
Irina Werning, Argentina
Luis Henry Agudelo Cano, Colombia
Mariusz Śmiejek, Poland
Qiu Yan, China Mainland
Yi Xiao, China Mainland

DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS

Finalists

Alexandre Bagdassarian, France
Colin Delfosse, Belgium
Santiago Mesa, Colombia

Shortlist

Anne Mocaër, France
Dong Wei, China Mainland
Mário Cruz, Portugal
Sandile Ndlovu, South Africa
Seamus Murphy, Ireland
Ye Hyun Kim, Korea, Republic Of
Yris Pablo, Venezuela

PERSPECTIVES

Finalists

Fredrik Lerneryd, Sweden
Hayate Kurisu, Japan
Seungho Kim, Korea, Republic Of

Shortlist

Brian Mena Laureano, Mexico
Camille Nivollet, France
Dara Petrova, Ukraine
Kanyuan Li, China Mainland
María Fernanda García Freire, Ecuador
Maria Fynsk Norup, Denmark

STILL LIFE

Finalists

Daniele Vita, Italy
Gargi Sharma, India
Vilma Taubo, Norway

Shortlist

Alessandro Gandolfi, Italy
Andrzej Pilichowski-Ragno, Poland
Carlos Espinosa, Ecuador
Francesco Amorosino, Italy
Md Harun Or Rashid, Bangladesh
Ruston Banal, Philippines
Yi-Hsuan Lin, Taiwan



WILDLIFE & NATURE

Finalists

Anita Pouchard Serra, Argentina
Will Burrard-Lucas, United Kingdom
Wolfgang Duerr, Germany

Shortlist

Benjamin Pawlica, France
Fei Xin, China Mainland
Hugo Hebbe, France
James Ross, United Kingdom
Loren Elliott, United States
Marcus Westberg, Sweden
Sunita Mandal, United States

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A selection of press images is available to download on 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

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

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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 (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

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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.*

