Open call: the curated selection

by World Photography Organisation 7 years ago

We are pleased to present the curated selection of 18 projects from the inaugural Sun Event and the World Photo Organisation open call. Directed towards emerging artists working in the medium of photography, this opportunity attracted 1,157 photographers who submitted a total of 10,119 images.

Submissions were judged by Mike Trow, curator, editor and chair of the Professional competition of the 2018 Sony World Photography Awards.

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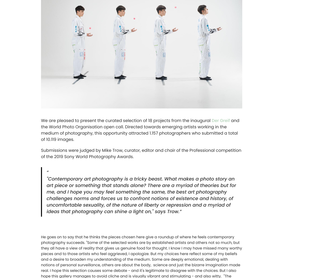
"Contemporary art photography is a tricky beast. What makes a photo story on art piece or something that stands alone? There are a myriad of theories but for me, and I hope you may feel something the same, the best art photography challenges views and forces us to confront notions of existence and history, of uncomfortable sexuality, of the nature of liberty or repression and a myriad of ideas that photography can shine a light on," says Trow."

He goes on to say that he thinks the pieces chosen here give a roundup of where he feels contemporary photography succeeds. "Some of the selected works are by established artists and others not so much but they all have a view of reality that gives us genuine food for thought. I know I may have missed many worthy projects but I hope that those that I have chosen will be seen by a wider audience. I'm also hoping that artists and curators will be drawn to look deeper into the medium. Some are deeply emotional, dealing with notions of personal surveillance, others are about the body, science and just the bizarre imagination made real. I hope this selection causes some debate – and it is impossible to disagree with all of them. But that's hope this gallery manages to avoid cliche and is visually vibrant and stimulating – and also witty. "The work can speak to you in many ways, how much in the way we like different music at different times and depending on the emotional state we are in.

"One finds that to be able to look through so much work from around the world, by photographers who believe in what they do, think deeply about what it is they want to say and then to be able to execute the ideas so well is a privilege. I found it very challenging mentally to have to make decisions on such personal work. The process of editing down made me question much about what is to like something and why. I like all the submissions here very much and because they are quite varied I have no particular favorites. But Del Shell's work on resilience in Hurricane Katrina struggles to long dry soil in the face, it creates debate and gives us a sense of place and time. Ultimately I hope that this gallery will be seen by a wider audience and that more images, they work with so many terrific curators and artists and I am fortunate to be a small part of this. Doing this gallery in conjunction with the World Photography Organisation will, I hope] bring this work to a wider global audience and drive artists to push and experiment more with their practice."



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1. ashes to ashes_ by Noémi Szécsi

Noémi Szécsi was born in Budapest, where she is currently studying at the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design. Szécsi was a finalist at the 2018 Breda Photo Talent Program and at the 2018 Budapest Projekt Gallery. #MYTagging: To Infinity and Beyond.

2. Body Editor by Ewa Doroszenko

Ewa Doroszenko (b. 1982) is a Warsaw-based artist whose creative practice employs a mixture of painting, photography and digital media. She earned a Doctor of Fine Arts degree (Painting Specialization) from the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland. Ewa Doroszenko is a winner of the Competition for the Full Scholarship of the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (2009), the Silver Medal at the Hagenberg Debut 2014 - Lithuanian Photographers Association (2014), she is a beneficiary of many residency programs, including Kidpaddo Culture Promotion Association (Lithuania 2017), Atelierhaus Salzamt in Linz (Austria 2015). The Ministry of Culture and Heritage (Greece 2015), Kunstverein Messen in Bonk (Norway 2015), Foundation AIAVC Hangar in Barcelona (Spain 2014), Fondazione Del Bianco in Florence (Italy 2009). Ewa Doroszenko's work has been exhibited in numerous countries, including Poland, Lithuania, Germany, Greece, the USA, Electronic Language International Festival in Sao Paulo, Instituto Cervantes in Vienna, the International Symposium on Electronic Art in Vancouver, Ifa Dot Festival in Dallas, SIGNEAN'10 Festival for Electronic Arts in Singapore, The Wrong New Digital Art Biennale in Rio de Janeiro, among others. Her photographs have been featured in publications and blogs such as Der Greif, Vice, NEO3, The Forumist, 1617 Magazine, The Culture Journal, Daily Serving, Metal, Flaz Magazine and Fotofabrika. #MYTagging: Photography.

3. Aqueous by Elina Ruka

Elina Ruka lives and works in Latvia. Her artistic interest centres upon examining the human relationship with water and photographic medium, questioning the knowledge on both subjects and juggling between reality and illusion. Ruka is also interested in culture, especially linguistic and symbolic aspects of water. She is working together to make it difficult to communicate. She has received her M.A in Photography from the Latvian Academy of Culture (2016) and her B.A in Photography from the Art Academy of Latvia (2014). She has been awarded at Riga Photo Biennial, Jūrmala Photography Festival, Working for Pluto, in the U. S., Ruth and Harold Cherkasov Foundation artist award and has been funded by State Cultural Capital Foundation of Latvia numerous times. Ruka's work has been published in Foto Rīga Festival Catalogue (2017), Latvian Photography Yearbook (2012) and Generation of Place: Image, Memory and Fiction in the Baltics (2011). Her work is part of Kerstin Bergmann Collection Hallen Halle, and the Zuzēns collection. She has exhibited in Latvia, Lithuania, Belgium, Denmark, France and the United States and numerous online exhibitions. Elina Ruka has taught photography at Latvian Culture College.

4. Ikigai by Rafa Raigón

Rafa Raigón was born in 1976 in Cordoba, Spain. In 2009 he moved to Berlin with his family. The difficulty to perform in German made him pick up a camera to illustrate that what he could not express due to the language barrier. Since then, being completely self-taught, he has developed his work and skills through festivals such as Fai Fai 13 in 2010 held in Granada, "Fuerzabruta" within the festival SOAS 2012 in Tarragona or X-RAMAD in Braga 2015. His work has been exhibited in Berlin in 2014 and 2015, Croatia 2015, Jaccia, Italy, in September 2016, Granada 2017 and Potsdam and Krakow in 2018.

5. Reaction (2017) by Olivia Malena Vidal

Olivia Malena Vidal is a Swiss artist living and working between Geneva (CH) and Amsterdam (NL). She obtained a Masters in Translation in 2016 at the University of Geneva and then studied photography at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam. She mainly questions the medium of photography through installation, sculpture and video. Her work is often inspired by the human body and the way it relates to relationships and physical spaces. Her artistic media: Kraft Magazine selected her as one of the 2017 New Dutch Photography Talent. She received the Experimental Film Award from the Amsterdam Film Festival for her short film "To the Lady on the Sea" (2016), was shortlisted for the Prix Photographie in Paris and exhibited at the Artifact Prize 2018. She has also completed two artist residencies, one in Leipzig (Germany) and one in Ireland (Switzerland) and has recently exhibited at the Center of Contemporary Art in Geneva.

6. Shame by Lana Kudinova

Lana Kudinova lives and works in Moscow. Since 2008 she has been engaged in photography, since 2015 – videography. since 2016 – video art. The organizer and the participant of group exhibitions in galleries and museums of Moscow Gallery of Classical Photography, Vsevolod Center, Photo center on Gogol Boulevard, The State Darwin Museum, the Central House of artists on Krymsky Val, Evrey Center (Contemporary Art), nominee of the Russian photographic competitions. In 2015-2016 lecturer and supervisor of diploma works of students of the faculty of photography in VGIK (Moscow). She graduated from the School of modern photography "Dve Stez Dve" (St. Petersburg).

7. 21.22.23 by girlon levin

Girlon Levin is an known artist and graduate of the Bezalel school of arts in Jerusalem. He was born in Ukraine in 1993 and after moving to Israel at a young age served as an IDF soldier where he drawn much inspiration for his photographic work. Levin's work is characterized by a dark and surreal style. His work is said to be created in his photographer's dreams. Levin's words, "what goes through my head during projects and in general, is a lot of silence, quietness, preoccupation with death and everything related to that." Girlon is strongly influenced from his days in the military and uses his experiences in the army as a source for his paratroopers unit as well as what is happening there today to create his art. The relationship between photography and reality is a complex one and photographers are often faced with the task of finding the right connection between the two. Photography is always done slowly as it takes time for him to find what he is looking for. He almost never photographs people, as he feels he has more control over inanimate objects. Perhaps the one feature that stands out the most in Girlon's photographs is their clean lines and minimalist aesthetic. What is undeniable is however neat and simple his photography may be, their bold message comes across and resonates with viewer in an impactful way.

8. The Poetics of Science by Sheung Yiu

Sheung Yiu is a self-taught independent photographer based in Hong Kong. His work explores the many facets of science and its relationship with photography. Sheung Yiu's work has been published in Vice, his work is featured on various media photo magazines such as Ignant, Lensfan, Obsessive, Igx and Addicted to, SPAOKA tumblr blog and Fotografia Magazine. He was shortlisted for the Lucie Foundation Scholarship Program in 2015. He run a tumblr blog (Lightsupersized) and a website (Sheung-yiu.squarespace.com). When he is not taking photographs, he writes about photography.

9. Cicatrici (Scars) by Silvia Bigi

Silvia Bigi was born in 1985 in Ravenna, Italy. In 2009 she gained a bachelor's degree at the University of Bologna, DAMS, Arts, Multimedia and Music Studies, and in 2012 at the Istituto Europeo di Design in Fotografia Aziende e Moda. She attended a course at the International Center of Photography, New York, and many workshops held by artists such as Guido Guidi, Silvio Caniparoli, Paul Graham. With her research she explores photography as a language, its boundaries, as well as its connections with other media. Her work reveals the illusion of reiterations and automatisms which affects our life, with a focus on the point of view of contemporary society. Her works have been exhibited internationally since 2009 in Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Serbia and recently in Iran. Her artworks have been published in various books and magazines, both national and international. This year, the group show "Engaged, active, aware – women's perspective now" which included her work, won the Lucie Awards as Best Exhibition 2018. She currently lives and works in Milan, where she is teaching photography.

10. Present Imperfect, Future Tense. Vol: 2. Atlantis by Susana Sanremán

Susana Sanremán (A Coruña) – She lives and works in London Spanish visual artist living in London and working in different media: Photography, Video Art, Installation and Performance. Since completing her B.A. (hons) in Photography at the LCC, University of the Arts London. She has been involved in numerous international exhibitions and artist residencies in Europe, Asia and America where her work has been selected and shown in several Art Fairs over the years. Exposure 2015 at Loures Museum, Venice Biennale 2017 and Art Fair Tokyo 2018 to name a few. Her work "Present Imperfect, Future Tense" was part of the Sony World Photography International 2017 and 2018 Art Awards. Spain Now 2015, 2016 & 2017, Kuvataiteilijat and Caja Madrid Generación 2008. She has been awarding internationally renowned artist Tom Hunter from 2008 to 2010. One year later 2009, her photographic essay "Women looking at women: the female gaze will be published. 12. Old Father Thames 2018 by Julia Fullerton-Batten

Julia Fullerton-Batten is a worldwide acclaimed and exhibited fine art photographer. Her more recent projects have been featured in Vogue Italia, Vogue Germany, Elle France, Elle Italy, Marie Claire Italy and Julia Julia Julia