Press release
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Sony World Photography Awards

Sony World Photography Awards 2011
L'Iris D'Or and winners announced

www.worldphoto.org

- Argentinean photographer Alejandro Chaskielberg wins the coveted L'Iris D'Or Sony World Photography Awards Photographer of the Year 2011
- Chan Kwok Hung announced as overall Open winner
- Professional category winners and Student Focus Award winner revealed
- Bruce Davidson receives the Outstanding Contribution to Photography Award

Argentinean photographer Alejandro Chaskielberg has tonight, 27 April 2011, been announced as this year's winner of the illustrious L'Iris D'Or, the 2011 Sony World Photography Awards Photographer of the Year. Over 105,000 images were entered into the 2011 competition from 162 countries. Chaskielberg was presented with the award during the Sony World Photography Awards Gala ceremony at the Odeon Leicester Square. Previously held at Cannes' prestigious Palais des Festivals, this is the first year that the awards have been held in London.

Beginning his career at the age of 18 as a photojournalist for a local newspaper, 34 year old Buenos Aires born Chaskielberg has spent 16 years developing a highly successful career as a photographer. His winning photographs offer a rare and insightful look into the lives of a community of islanders who live on the Parana River Delta. Devoting himself entirely to his 'High Tide' project, Chaskielberg lived with the islanders for two years, immersing himself in their daily life in order to document the way they live and work. Chaskielberg said of his series of striking night time portraits, "Using photography I have been able to present another version of the Parana River Delta and its community that has been photographically ignored throughout the years."

Chaskielberg was chosen as the winner of the L'Iris D'Or by a panel of 12 judges. In addition to winning a $25,000 cash prize plus Sony digital SLR camera equipment, he joins previous L'Iris d'Or winners David Zimmerman, Vanessa Winship and Tommaso Ausili as a member of the World Photographic Academy. Attending the gala award ceremony at the Odeon Leicester Square, Chairman of the 2011 Honorary Judging Committee Francis Hodgson said, "The judging process is never straightforward when comparisons are made between imagery of so many different types on such a wide range of subjects. Yet this year's panel of judges found no great difficulty in agreeing to honour the powerful work of Alejandro Chaskielberg's series High Tide. These carefully directed pictures tell solid truths - about toil and communality and marginal economic survival - in a splendidly allusive way."

The Sony World Photography Awards Open Photographer of the Year title was awarded to Chan Kwok Hung for his stunningly dramatic image 'Buffalo Race'. The 37 year old jewellery manufacturer from Hong Kong was at the awards ceremony to collect his $5,000 cash prize as well as Sony digital SLR camera equipment. Chan purchased his first SLR camera in 2006 and using books and the internet taught himself basic photography skills. He began to develop a passion for travelling to undeveloped places, and hearing about the buffalo race, Chan made a special trip to Indonesia in search of his spectacular image. After an early start and hours of waiting, Chan's patience paid off, and what he describes as an unforgettable trip culminated with his winning photograph.

Other announcements on the night included the professional category winners, covering Current Affairs to Commercial, Travel to Fine Art Portraiture. Among the winners are Javier Arcenillas from Spain who, after being shortlisted in four categories, triumphed in the Current Affairs and Contemporary Issues categories, and the UK's Adam Hinton, winner of the Commercial Campaign category, who began his photographic career at the age of 12 when his father bought him an SLR camera.

Astrid Merget, Creative Director, said: "Alejandro's spectacular winning images are testimony to the incredibly high standard we have seen this year. We have been extremely impressed with the quality of entries across all categories, notably the standard of entries for the Open competition. The Student Focus Award also continues to flourish year on year and it is very exciting to be working with the next generation of photographer."

Tatsuya Akashi, Vice President of Digital Imaging at Sony Europe, said: "This year's entrants have once again amazed and enthralled us with the sheer diversity and high caliber of entries submitted from across the globe. We would like to congratulate all the winners on their fantastic achievements."

The Winners' Showcase is the flagship exhibition and one of several photography exhibitions running as part of the World Photography Festival at Somerset House, London, 26 April – 22 May. Featuring a vast collection of international contemporary photography, spanning genres including documentary, sport, portraiture, landscape, fashion and much more, the Showcase captures a unique view of the world in 2010/11 as recorded through the lens of winning photographers who entered this year's competition.

Outstanding Contribution

A further highlight of tonight's gala ceremony was ground-breaking photographer Bruce Davidson receiving the Outstanding Contribution to Photography Award. Davidson, 77, has a career spanning more than half a century, and is one of America's most distinguished photographers. An exhibition of his work is being shown as part of the World Photography Festival at Somerset House. The exhibition, selected by Bruce Davidson with Simon Baker, curator of photography and international art, Tate, will include some of his most famous works from the East 100th Street and Circus collections.

Student Focus

Tonight's Leicester Square event also saw student photographer Louis Boulet from École Nationale Supérieure Louis Lumiere, France announced as the winner of the Student Focus award. Recognised as the world's most high-profile student photography prize and open to universities worldwide, Louis fought off fierce competition from entries from over 200 institutions across six continents.

Created in partnership with the Young Tate Online, Tate's digital programme for young creative's, photographers from each of the shortlisted institutions were given one month to produce a series of images on the subject of 'Actions speak louder than words' with Sony Alpha cameras. Having been flown to London to receive their prize, as overall winners they have been awarded approximately 45,000 Euros worth of Sony digital imaging equipment.

Chosen by the 2011 Honorary Judging Committee, chaired by Francis Hodgson, the professional category winners are:

PHOTOJOURNALISM & DOCUMENTARY

Current Affairs

- Winner: Javier Arcenillas (Spain)
- 2nd: Robin Hammond (New Zealand) / Panos
- 3rd: Ahmad Masood, (Afghanistan) / Reuters

Contemporary Issues

- Winner: Javier Arcenillas (Spain)
- 2nd: Christian Lutz (Switzerland) / Agence VU
- 3rd: Balazs Gardi (Hungary) / basetrack.org

People

- Winner: Alejandro Chaskielberg (Argentina)/ Michael Hoppen Gallery
- 2nd: Denis Rouvre (France)
- 3rd: Lucia Herrero (Spain)

Sport

- Winner: Pavel Wolberg (Israel)
- 2nd: Javier Arcenillas (Spain)
- 3rd: Palmer + Pawel (United Kingdom)

Arts and Culture

- Winner: Amit Madheshiya (India)
- 2nd: Tommaso Bonaventura (Italy)
- 3rd: Mahesh Shantaram (India)

COMMERCIAL

Campaign

- Winner: Adam Hinton (United Kingdom) / Saatchi & Saatchi
- 2nd: Richard Bailey (United Kingdom)
- 3rd: Tomg Meng (China)

Travel

- Winner: Liz Loh-Taylor (Australia)
- 2nd: Javier Arcenillas (Spain)
- 3rd: Andrew McConnell (Ireland) / Panos

Lifestyle

- Winner: Saja Seus (Germany)
- 2nd: Frank Bayh & Steff Rosenberger-Ochs (Germany)
- 3rd: Fabrizio Cestari (Italy)

FINE ART

Architecture

- Winner: Alnis Stakle (Latvia)
- 2nd: Frank Meyl (Germany)
- 3rd: Frank Bayh & Steff Rosenberger-Ochs (Germany)

Portraiture

- Winner: Alain Willaume (France)/ Tendance Floue /Galerie Vu
- 2nd: David Kretschmer (Germany)
- 3rd: Paolo Verzone (Italy) / Agence VU

Landscape

- Winner: Florence Iff (Switzerland)
- 2nd: Guido Castagnoli (Italy) / Periscope Creative
- 3rd: Frank Day (United States)

Still Life

- Winner: Renhui Zhao (Singapore)
- 2nd: Peter Franck (Germany)
- 3rd: Charles Emerson (United Kingdom)

Conceptual

- Winner: Paul Gisbrecht (Germany)
- 2nd: Ana Cop (Canada)
- 3rd: Zhongyin Gao (China)

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OVERALL WINNERS

Please note, all images are © Photographer's name courtesy of Sony World Photography Awards 2011 unless otherwise stated

L'IRIS D'OR/SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

©Alejandro Chaskielberg / Michael Hoppen Gallery

SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS OPEN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

© Chan Kwok Hung

STUDENT FOCUS WINNER

© Louis Boulet

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY WINNERS

Photojournalism & Documentary

Current Affairs
© Javier Arcenillas

Contemporary Issues
© Javier Arcenillas

Sport
© Pavel Wolberg

Arts and Culture
© Amit Madheshiya

Commercial

Campaign
© Adam Hinton

Travel
© Liz Loh-Taylor

Lifestyle
© Saja Seus

Fine Art

Architecture
© Alnis Stakle

Conceptual
© Paul Gisbrecht

Landscape
© Florence Iff

Portraiture
© Alain Willaume/ Tendance Floue /Galerie Vu

Still Life
© Renhui Zhao

Notes to editors

- Interviews with the winning photographers, judges and spokespeople from the World Photography Organisation are available via Colman Getty
- The winning images were selected from 53,223 Professional category submissions and 51,878 Open category photography submissions from 162 countries
- Images are available to download via the press area of www.worldphoto.org. Use of images must comply with SWPA terms and conditions. Password details are available from Colman Getty

- The Sony World Photography Awards Winners' Exhibition will be on show at Somerset House, London from 26 April – 22 May

- A large retrospective of work by Bruce Davidson will also be exhibited at Chris Beetles Fine Photographs, London, to coincide with the show at Somerset House, from 4-28 May.

- Bruce Davidson - Davidson is one of America's most distinguished photographers. He joined a circus in 1958, followed a gang in Brooklyn in 1959; chronicled the civil rights movement from 1961 to 1965; documented one neglected block of East Harlem from 1966 to 1968; discovered colour in the NYC Subway in 1980 and explored Central Park from 1992 to 1995. Bruce Davidson was born in Oak Park, Illinois in 1933. He attended the Rochester Institute of Technology and Yale University. After completing his military service in 1957 he worked as a photographer for *Life* Magazine and in 1958, Henri Cartier-Bresson invited him to join Magnum Photos. He continues to be an active member. His work has been exhibited at many major institutions including The Museum of Modern Art, The Smithsonian Museum of American Art, The International Center of Photography, The Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego, Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris, The Aperture Foundation in New York, and The Foundation Cartier-Bresson in Paris and Tate Modern in London. He has received two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Guggenheim Fellowship, The Lucie Award for Outstanding Achievement in Documentary Photography in 2004 and the Gold Medal Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Arts Club in 2007. His photographs have appeared in numerous publications and his prints have been acquired by major museums worldwide. He has also directed three films. At the age of 77, Davidson continues to lecture, conduct workshops and produce astounding images. He lives in New York City with his wife, Emily.

- Created by the World Photography Organisation, the World Photography Awards, sponsored by Sony, launched in 2007. The World Photography Organisation supports professional, amateur and student photography, lending a global platform for the photographic industry to communicate, converge and showcase current trends in Photojournalism, Fine Art and Commercial photography. Delivering various initiatives and programmes across this global community under the "World Photography" brand, these programmes involve the photographer in commercial, cultural and educational activities within the many industry sectors, whilst also creating cultural activities for the public to participate in. Also currently included within the World Photography portfolio are the World Photography Student Focus Competition; the World Photography Festival, the World Photography Focus Programme and the World Photography Collection.

- The WPO website - www.worldphoto.org features an online gallery and news section. It also includes comprehensive information about the Awards, the categories, a current list of World Photographic Academy members, and key dates.

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with its electronics, music, pictures, game and online businesses, Sony is one of the world's leading digital entertainment brands, employing approximately 170,000 people worldwide.

Through its long-term football partnerships as an official sponsor of the UEFA Champions League until 2012, Official FIFA Partner until 2014 and global sponsor of the FIFA World Cup™ in 2010 and 2014, Sony is inspiring a sense of excitement for the millions of football fans around the world.

For more information on Sony Europe, please visit http://www.sony-europe.com and http://www.sony-europe.com/presscenter

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WPO
World Photography Organisation