












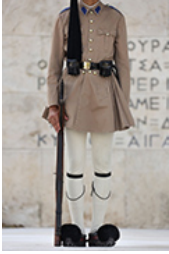


OVERALL WINNER: TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2022: MATJAZ KRIVIC, SLOVENIA



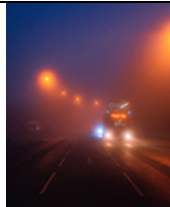
			
<p>Winner, Travel Photographer of the Year 2022 Matjaz Krivic, Slovenia</p> <p>OI Pejeta Conservancy, Nanyuki, Kenya: Najin 33 one of the last two Northern White rhinos left in the world resting under a hot afternoon sun with her friend and caretaker Zachary Mutai in OI Pejeta Conservancy.</p> <p>The northern white rhino is all but extinct. The two last males died several years ago. The two females are still with us, but too feeble to bear babies. In an Italian lab their eggs are now artificially fertilised by sperm from the late males, and kept at minus 196 celsius, in hopes that surrogate rhinos from another sub species can carry the northern white back from the brink.</p>	<p>Winner, Travel Photographer of the Year 2022 Matjaz Krivic, Slovenia</p> <p>OI Pejeta Conservancy, Nanyuki, Kenya: OI Pejeta Conservancy, Nanyuki, Kenya: Najin (33) one of the last two Northern White rhinos left in the world, with her good friend and caretaker Zachary Mutai just after receiving her evening treat, a bunch of carrots.</p> <p>The northern white rhino is all but extinct. The two last males died several years ago. The two females are still with us, but too feeble to bear babies. In an Italian lab their eggs are now artificially fertilised by sperm from the late males, and kept at minus 196 celsius, in hopes that surrogate rhinos from another sub species can carry the northern white back from the brink.</p>	<p>Winner, Travel Photographer of the Year 2022 Matjaz Krivic, Slovenia</p> <p>OI Pejeta Conservancy, Nanyuki, Kenya: Najin, one of the world's last two remaining Northern White rhinos being caressed by her keeper Zachary Mutai in OI Pejeta Conservancy.</p> <p>The northern white rhino is all but extinct. The two last males died several years ago. The two females are still with us, but too feeble to bear babies. In an Italian lab their eggs are now artificially fertilised by sperm from the late males, and kept at minus 196 celsius, in hopes that surrogate rhinos from another sub species can carry the northern white back from the brink.</p>	<p>Winner, Travel Photographer of the Year 2022 Matjaz Krivic, Slovenia</p> <p>OI Pejeta Conservancy, Nanyuki, Kenya: Shadow of a rhino keeper Zachary Mutai on Najin (33), one the last two Northern White rhinos left in the world, in OI Pejeta Conservancy.</p> <p>The northern white rhino is all but extinct. The two last males died several years ago. The two females are still with us, but too feeble to bear babies. In an Italian lab their eggs are now artificially fertilised by sperm from the late males, and kept at minus 196 celsius, in hopes that surrogate rhinos from another sub species can carry the northern white back from the brink.</p>

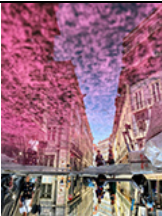



			
<p>Winner, Travel Photographer of the Year 2022 Matjaz Krivic, Slovenia</p> <p>Cumbre Vieja volcano, Tacande, La Palma, Spain: An aerial view of the Cumbre Vieja volcano with several active volcano vents in an ash-covered forest. On November 28th a new vent opened on the east side of volcano, destroying many new houses on its way towards the sea.</p> <p>Lava has reached the Atlantic at two places, falling off cliffs into the ocean making the island bigger for around 48 hectares.</p>	<p>Winner, Travel Photographer of the Year 2022 Matjaz Krivic, Slovenia</p> <p>El Paso, La Palma, Spain: An abandoned horse searches for food in an evacuated village below the volcano.</p> <p>Eruption of the Cumbre Vieja volcano on La Palma Island is the island's longest-running volcano eruption. Huge rivers of lava and enormous amounts of continuously falling volcanic ash have transformed this Spanish holiday paradise. 7000 people have been evacuated; more than 1700 buildings were destroyed by the volcano. Strong earthquakes and permanent tremors were traumatising the local population.</p>	<p>Winner, Travel Photographer of the Year 2022 Matjaz Krivic, Slovenia</p> <p>Tacande, La Palma, Spain: Footage of a ravaged mountain side with a single tree withstanding the lava flow.</p> <p>Eruption of the Cumbre Vieja volcano on La Palma Island is the island's longest-running volcano eruption. Huge rivers of lava and enormous amounts of continuously falling volcanic ash have transformed this Spanish holiday paradise. 7000 people have been evacuated; more than 1700 buildings were destroyed by the volcano. Strong earthquakes and permanent tremors were traumatising the local population.</p>	<p>Winner, Travel Photographer of the Year 2022 Matjaz Krivic, Slovenia</p> <p>El Paso, La Palma, Spain: As the new vent opened lava found new ways down the mountain, destroying new houses at the neighbourhood of El Paso on November 30th.</p> <p>Eruption of the Cumbre Vieja volcano on La Palma Island is the island's longest-running volcano eruption. Huge rivers of lava and enormous amounts of continuously falling volcanic ash have transformed this Spanish holiday paradise. 7000 people have been evacuated; more than 1700 buildings were destroyed by the volcano. Strong earthquakes and permanent tremors were traumatising the local population.</p>


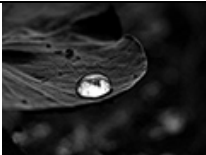

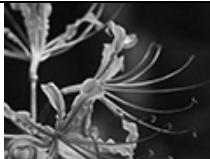




YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2022

			
<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2022: Cal Cole, UK (age 18)</p> <p>Manchester, UK: An image of Manchester's newest skyscrapers shrouded in mist. The image is very much inspired by the imagery of the movie Bladerunner and I feel it represents the city's rapidly growing urban landscape.</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2022: Cal Cole, UK (age 18)</p> <p>Manchester, UK: A desolate basketball court dwarfed by skyscrapers. Again I think this shows the inspiring urban landscape and contrast occurring in the city.</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2022: Cal Cole, UK (age 18)</p> <p>Manchester, UK: High rise apartments in the city at night. The layers and density of this scene really caught my eye.</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2022: Cal Cole, UK (age 18)</p> <p>Manchester, UK: A Metrolink station during a winter storm. The cold tones combined with the spacing between each subject felt almost dystopian to me when I captured it.</p>




			
<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 15-18 YEARS: Isabella Smith, USA (age 18)</p> <p>Athens, Greece: One of the Evzones soldiers starts his shift in front of the Greek Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. For this particular image I wanted to capture the anonymity and uniformity that all Evzones hold.</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 15-18 YEARS: Isabella Smith, USA (age 18)</p> <p>Athens, Greece: Before the changing of the guard at the Greek Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a superior officer corrects any item out of place and fixes it for the soldier, whether it is pulling up his socks, wiping sweat off his brow or straightening his tassel, the soldier stays completely still... except for his eyes.</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 15-18 YEARS: Isabella Smith, USA (age 18)</p> <p>Athens, Greece: The changing of the guards in front of Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a spectacle for tourists and locals alike. Large groups gather to record and photograph the event. Unable to reach the front of the crowd, I opted to use the 'frame' of the arms of a fellow photographer in order to capture the theatrical event.</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 15-18 YEARS: Isabella Smith, USA (age 18)</p> <p>Athens, Greece: The slow and distinct movement of the soldiers after standing stockstill for four hours was not only interesting to watch but does serve an important purpose. A century ago, the belief was that if they moved too quickly after standing still for so long, they might collapse. Therefore, their initial movements are at a snail's pace - kicking their legs up in perfect unison, and then holding their feet still at the top of the maneuver before they stomp their feet back down in a series of motions. These movements also pose as the perfect opportunity to capture their unique shoes, which are quite striking with the large pompoms sitting on top.</p>







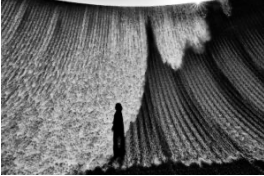
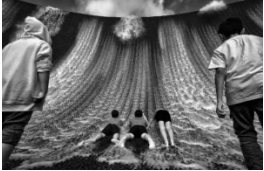
			
<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 15-18 YEARS: Cal Cole, UK (age 18)</p> <p>Prestwich, Greater Manchester, UK: An image of a desolate junction at 11pm on a foggy January night. The colours of the traffic lights seemed to glow in the mist.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 15-18 YEARS: Cal Cole, UK (age 18)</p> <p>Prestwich, Greater Manchester, UK: A small woodland located next to a busy junction on a foggy evening. I feel the contrast between nature and urban is very interesting.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 15-18 YEARS: Cal Cole, UK (age 18)</p> <p>Whitefield, Greater Manchester, UK: a petrol station during a misty dawn morning in December.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 15-18 YEARS: Cal Cole, UK (age 18)</p> <p>Prestwich, Greater Manchester, UK: An image taken two minutes from my home, where my street appears almost unrecognisable in the blanket of fog. I think the glowing bus really compliments the mood of the scene.</p>







			
<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 14 AND UNDER: Kaia Tham (age 14), Australia</p> <p>Lisbon, Portugal: The city sways in the patch of water, strewn carelessly on the ground by rainfall. Passerbys tread around the puddle, a low plastic bag blows into it. But there is beauty in the mundane; another world to be seen.</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 14 AND UNDER: Kaia Tham (age 14), Australia</p> <p>Lisbon Portugal: Across the smooth gloss of checkered tiles, chess pieces lay invisible. The reflection of three figures and a city is cast into the shine; where their feet connect, two worlds collide.</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 14 AND UNDER: Kaia Tham (age 14), Australia</p> <p>Lisbon Portugal: Gravel bubbles up through a patch of water and gives us a glimpse into another universe- a parallel impostor to ours. A car whizzes by a second after and our looking glass disappears. But it was there for a second and, in here, an eternity.</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 14 AND UNDER: Kaia Tham (age 14), Australia</p> <p>Lisbon, Portugal: A pastel illusion pressed into the roof of a car, dewdrops glimmering and casting the city into a new light. Here is Lisbon- reflected among the things we forget to look for.</p>

			
<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 14 AND UNDER: Zhiyu Zheng (age 14) - China</p> <p>Dayang Mountain, Suzhou, Jiangsu province, China: Metapress japonica at the foot of Dayang Mountain. Metapress japonica is particularly popular in this season. We picked the mature ones and peeled them carefully. While my friend carefully blew them, I took the photo.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 14 AND UNDER: Zhiyu Zheng (age 14) - China</p> <p>Hengjing Town, Suzhou, Jiangsu province, China: Dew on the leaves near a small pond. There was a layer of fluff on the leaves and dew reflected the surrounding environment just like amber. Before the dewdrop met the sun, I wanted to record this fleeting beauty.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 14 AND UNDER: Zhiyu Zheng (age 14) - China</p> <p>East bank of Taihu Lake, Suzhou, Jiangsu province, China: the short-lived beauty of a dandelion in the breeze.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 14 AND UNDER: Zhiyu Zheng (age 14) – China</p> <p>Yuyang Mountain, Suzhou, Jiangsu province, China: Lycoris flowers look warm and unrestrained in form, but represent sadness and parting in Chinese flower language. Therefore, it is also known as the 'other shore flower', which means that two people are separated on both sides of the river and will never see each other again.</p>
			
<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 14 AND UNDER: Rohan Shah (age 14) - Kenya</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 14 AND UNDER: Rohan Shah (age 14) - Kenya</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 14 AND UNDER: Rohan Shah (age 14) - Kenya</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 14 AND UNDER: Rohan Shah (age 14) - Kenya</p>
<p>Maasai Mara, Kenya: One ox-pecker guards its nest, embedded cleverly in the tree, as the other gets ready to fly off in search for food.</p>	<p>Maasai Mara, Kenya: The beauty of this eastern chanting goshawk was seen as it spread its wings, and picked up a lizard, in its gorgeous, orange beak.</p>	<p>Maasai Mara, Kenya: Mating southern ground hornbills, put up a show, portraying the behaviour of these birds in courtship.</p>	<p>Maasai Mara, Kenya: The grey heron managed to get a hold of a very slimy skink, by piercing the creature's head. The heron flew away, showing off its large wingspan.</p>









THE ART OF MONOCHROME (PORTFOLIO)









			
<p>WINNER: Roie Galitz, Israel</p> <p>Van Mijenfjorden, Svalbard, Norway: White Wedding. Polar bear courtship is very rare, as they usually mate once every three years. During this honeymoon, a blizzard and a whiteout made it very difficult for humans, but the polar bear couple didn't seem to care.</p>	<p>WINNER: Roie Galitz, Israel</p> <p>Dickson Fjorden, Svalbard, Norway: Arctic Foxes are the ultimate survivors of the high Arctic. They don't have the body mass of the polar bears or the walrus, so they must put their trust in the most insulating fur in the animal kingdom. This curious fox was interested in my camera. In his eyes' reflection, you can actually see me and the snowmobiles of the expedition I was leading.</p>	<p>WINNER: Roie Galitz, Israel</p> <p>Edgeøya, Svalbard, Norway: Walrus are among the giants of the high Arctic. This is the beach master, the alpha male. He watches as his kingdom melts in the early summer. To photograph this image, I crawled on the ground enough to safely get closer to this gentle giant. It took me around 30 minutes to get this close safely, without stressing the walrus</p>	<p>WINNER: Roie Galitz, Israel</p> <p>Kennedybukta, Svalbard, Norway: Not everything is great in the polar bear realm. This starving polar bear mother and her two young cubs hadn't eaten anything in a long time, since the ice melted sooner than before. Due to the extreme starvation, the mother's milk has dried out long ago and two days after this photo was taken, we heard reports that both cubs died. This image is a testimony of climate change's impact.</p>
			
<p>RUNNER-UP: Dana Allen, USA</p> <p>On the Barents Sea, somewhere above the Arctic Circle, Svalbard, Northern Norway: A Polar bear studies a slight movement of my camera.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Dana Allen, USA</p> <p>Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe: An African elephant among the herd.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Dana Allen, USA</p> <p>Makgadikgadi Pans, Botswana: A lone Burchell's Zebra crosses the dry Makgadikgadi salt pans.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Dana Allen, USA</p> <p>Kunene Sand Sea, Northern Namibia: Oryx crossing the vast Kunene Sand Sea.</p>


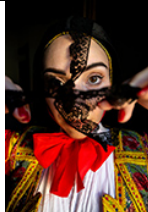
			
<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Trevor Cole, Ireland</p> <p>Dus, Omo Valley, Ethiopia: A young shepherd with a baby goat in his care tends to his flock.</p> <p>The people of the Ilemi triangle (South Sudan, Omo Valley Ethiopia and Turkana, Kenya) are predominantly pastoralists. Cattle, sheep and camels are integral to their lives and their cultural traits are a reflection of this.</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Trevor Cole, Ireland</p> <p>Dus, Omo Valley, Ethiopia: A young Kara tribes boy herding his goats in the early morning in Dus which is in a remote area of the Omo on the banks of the river.</p> <p>The people of the Ilemi triangle (South Sudan, Omo Valley Ethiopia and Turkana, Kenya) are predominantly pastoralists. Cattle, sheep and camels are integral to their lives and their cultural traits are a reflection of this.</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Trevor Cole, Ireland</p> <p>Dus, Omo Valley, Ethiopia: The men and boys of the Kara tribe herd their goats in the early morning.</p> <p>The people of the Ilemi triangle (South Sudan, Omo Valley Ethiopia and Turkana, Kenya) are predominantly pastoralists. Cattle, sheep and camels are integral to their lives and their cultural traits are a reflection of this.</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Trevor Cole, Ireland</p> <p>Dus, Omo Valley, Ethiopia: A Kara tribesman herding his goats in the Omo Valley.</p> <p>The people of the Ilemi triangle (South Sudan, Omo Valley Ethiopia and Turkana, Kenya) are predominantly pastoralists. Cattle, sheep and camels are integral to their lives and their cultural traits are a reflection of this</p>
			
<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Shyjith Onden Cheryath, India</p> <p>Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates: From the start of Expo 2020 Dubai, this unique water feature became one of the biggest attractions. Visitors stop off to dip their feet in the waterfall that crashes to the ground before disappearing into the stone. The water also dances to music as people frolic in the tumbling stream below.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Shyjith Onden Cheryath, India</p> <p>Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates: From the start of Expo 2020 Dubai, this unique water feature became one of the biggest attractions. Visitors stop off to dip their feet in the waterfall that crashes to the ground before disappearing into the stone. The water also dances to music as people frolic in the tumbling stream below.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Shyjith Onden Cheryath, India</p> <p>Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates: From the start of Expo 2020 Dubai, this unique water feature became one of the biggest attractions. Visitors stop off to dip their feet in the waterfall that crashes to the ground before disappearing into the stone. The water also dances to music as people frolic in the tumbling stream below.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Shyjith Onden Cheryath, India</p> <p>Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates: From the start of Expo 2020 Dubai, this unique water feature became one of the biggest attractions. Visitors stop off to dip their feet in the waterfall that crashes to the ground before disappearing into the stone. The water also dances to music as people frolic in the tumbling stream below.</p>




			
<p>WINNER, BEST SINGLE IMAGE IN AN ART OF MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO: Dana Allen, USA</p> <p>Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe: An African elephant among the herd.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Trevor Cole, Ireland</p> <p>Terekeka, South Sudan: A female Mundari herder awaiting her cattle to tether them, in a cattle camp close to the White Nile in South Sudan. They are seen leading their cows to their stakes where they spend the night. These people have a very sustainable existence and their connection with nature should be a message to us all.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Quim Fàbregas Elias, Spain</p> <p>Pongo-Songo, Republic of Cameroon: Chimpanzees in Cameroon are under constant threat from poaching for bush meat, by deforestation and by trafficking in the babies. Pongo-Songo island is a sanctuary on the Sanaga river, managed by Papaye, France, where rescued injured and orphaned chimpanzees are able to roam freely and safely in their natural habitat.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Donell Gumiran, Philippines</p> <p>Kalash Valley, Chitral, Pakistan: The Kalasha are a Dardic indigenous people, considered unique among the peoples of Pakistan. Their richly embroidered clothes serve as the most obvious symbol of identity for the Kalash community.</p>
			
<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Artur Stankiewicz, Poland</p> <p>Northern Serengeti/Tanzania: Dramatic wildebeest crossing of the Mara river in northern Serengeti. The vast number of animals raised massive dust clouds as they crossed.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Cui Zhoufan, China</p> <p>Heilongjiang, China: A fierce gale tore through the landscape, panicking a group of horses in a pen.</p>		

CULTURES (portfolio)





			
<p>WINNER: Magdaléna Straková, Czech Republic</p> <p>Oostduinkerke, Belgium: Only a handful of true horse fishermen are left in the world, keeping the rare Flemish tradition alive. They use large and calm Belgian draft horses, and in the low tide look for shrimps together. Nowadays, they became a major tourist attraction, attracting large crowds each time they set out to fish.</p>	<p>WINNER: Magdaléna Straková, Czech Republic</p> <p>Oostduinkerke, Belgium: Only a handful of true horse fishermen are left in the world, keeping the rare Flemish tradition alive. They use large and calm Belgian draft horses, and in the low tide look for shrimps together. Nowadays, they became a major tourist attraction, attracting large crowds each time they set out to fish.</p>	<p>WINNER: Magdaléna Straková, Czech Republic</p> <p>Oostduinkerke, Belgium: Only a handful of true horse fishermen are left in the world, keeping the rare Flemish tradition alive. They use large and calm Belgian draft horses, and in the low tide look for shrimps together. Nowadays, they became a major tourist attraction, attracting large crowds each time they set out to fish.</p>	<p>WINNER: Magdaléna Straková, Czech Republic</p> <p>Oostduinkerke, Belgium: Only a handful of true horse fishermen are left in the world, keeping the rare Flemish tradition alive. They use large and calm Belgian draft horses, and in the low tide look for shrimps together. Nowadays, they became a major tourist attraction, attracting large crowds each time they set out to fish.</p>
			
<p>RUNNER-UP: Alain Schroeder, Belgium</p> <p>Thailand, Surin: Fighters gather to be paired off before a competition in Surin.</p> <p>In Isan (Thailand), kids are enrolled in Muay Thai training camps (the traditional martial art that is the country's national sport) as early as 5, and can be competing by 6-7 years old. Betting is fierce and the pressure on the children is palpable. Few will become champions, but for poor kids, with limited options, Muay Thai is a way to meet the cultural expectation of helping their families and a chance at a better life.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Alain Schroeder, Belgium</p> <p>Thailand, Surin: In preparation, fighters wait around the stadium to oil their bodies and hair and wrap their hands and wrists to minimize injuries.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Alain Schroeder, Belgium</p> <p>Thailand, Surin: Two 9-year-old fighters in the 26 kg category engage in a merciless 3 round fight.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Alain Schroeder, Belgium</p> <p>Thailand, Surin: After too many hard blows, this young fighter, is scared and does not want to continue. He sits in the corner as he receives the count from the referee ending the fight.</p>



			
<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Athanasios Maloukos, Greece</p> <p>Canosa di Puglia, Italy: La Desolata, is one of the most poignant processions in the Christian world during Holy Week, in the village of Canosa di Puglia, Italy.</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Athanasios Maloukos, Greece</p> <p>Canosa di Puglia, Italy: The Desolata women cover their heads and hide their faces under a large black veil. Completely dressed in mourning black, they intone the 'Stabat Mater', a 13th century hymn, honouring the pain of Desolate Mary for the loss of her child, Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Athanasios Maloukos, Greece</p> <p>Canosa di Puglia, Italy: The women hold each other tightly along the path of the procession, evoking grief and sorrow. It is not their identity that counts but their intense participation, all united by the universal pain to which every earthly mother joins that of Mary.</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Athanasios Maloukos, Greece</p> <p>Canosa di Puglia, Italy: The Procession of the Sorrow goes far and beyond tradition and folklore. It is an expression of faith and religious devotion celebrating the incomparable feeling that exists between a mother and her child. The procession lasts for several hours, while the grieving hymn reverberates through the streets of the small town.</p>
			
<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Li Yushan, China</p> <p>Inner Mongolia, China: The Lele car, an ancient means of transportation used by the Mongolian people, has been largely replaced by modern vehicles. Its production techniques have been included in China's intangible cultural heritage.</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Li Yushan, China</p> <p>Inner Mongolia, China: Mongolian wedding customs are rich in content, grand and warm atmosphere, highlighting the Mongolian rugged and swarthy, brisk and passionate, culture-oriented, etiquette and other national characteristics, which are part of the intangible cultural heritage of China.</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Li Yushan, China</p> <p>Inner Mongolia, China: Mongolian wrestling has a history that dates back more than 1,000 years. The wrestlers wear traditional costumes which include waistcoats, trousers, overalls, and colourful silk belts. Still very popular, Mongolian wrestling is part of the intangible cultural heritage of China.</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Li Yushan, China</p> <p>Inner Mongolia, China: There are many Mongolian folk songs, mainly divided into two categories: ceremonial songs and pastoral songs. Among them, the long song is more typical, with fewer words and longer accents, high-pitched and distant, soothing and free, very popular, all part of China's intangible cultural heritage.</p>


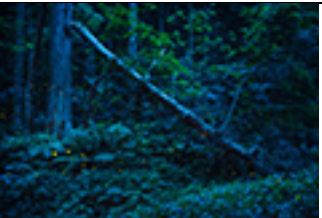
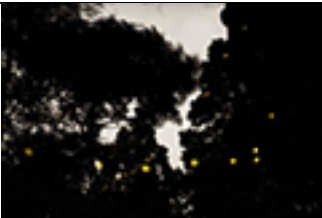

			
<p>COMMENDED: Nicolas Castermans, France</p> <p>Ausangate, Peru: When the sun rises on Pacha Mama and reveals in its light those who live there in harmony, peacefully.</p>	<p>COMMENDED: Nicolas Castermans, France</p> <p>Ausangate, Peru: When the sun rises on Pacha Mama and reveals in its light those who live there in harmony, peacefully.</p>	<p>COMMENDED: Nicolas Castermans, France</p> <p>Ausangate, Peru: When the sun rises on Pacha Mama and reveals in its light those who live there in harmony, peacefully.</p>	<p>COMMENDED: Nicolas Castermans, France</p> <p>Ausangate, Peru: When the sun rises on Pacha Mama and reveals in its light those who live there in harmony, peacefully.</p>
			
<p>WINNER, BEST SINGLE IMAGE IN A CULTURES PORTFOLIO: Athanasios Maloukos, Greece</p> <p>Canosa di Puglia, Italy: La Desolata, is one of the most poignant processions in the Christian world during Holy Week, in the village of Canosa di Puglia, Italy.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Katy Gomez Catalina, Spain</p> <p>Southeast Cameroon: A diminutive, graceful figure appears from the jungle, a faint accent of colour in a vanishing world. For thousands of years Baka pygmies have lived in harmony with magnificent jungles in southeast Cameroon, but within a generation much of their unique lifestyle will be gone forever due to deforestation and industrial interests, the policies of sedentarization and preservation of protected areas that has forced them to abandon their traditional life.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Marina Spironetti, Italy</p> <p>Desulo, Sardinia, Italy: Daniela wears her grandmother's traditional costume, which she received as a gift from her. Historically isolated and with little contact with the outside world, the small town of Desulo has managed to preserve the originality of its costume, which is undoubtedly one of the most distinctive in Sardinia. Until the early 1980s, it was not uncommon to see it worn on a daily basis.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Johnny Haglund, Norway</p> <p>Karni Mata Temple, Rajasthan, India: In Karni Mata Temple the black rat is worshipped. And the temple has around 25 000 of them. It is believed that when a person from the Charan-kaste dies, he or she will be reborn as a rat. The rats were actually humans in their previous life; therefore, people treat them with love. It is also believed that saliva from a rat has a healing effect. So, people share their food with them.</p>


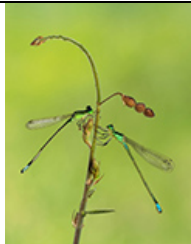


			
<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Michael Runkel, Germany</p> <p>A unnamed shabono village of the Yanomani people in southern Venezuela: Young Yanomami children form a circle in the middle of their shabono, a traditional communal housing. The Yanomanis are indigenous people who live in in some 250-300 villages in the Amazon rainforest along the border between Venezuela and Brazil.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Frank Lynch, Ireland</p> <p>Jerusalem, Israel: A blind man at the door of the Ethiopian Chapel, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem. Easter is the most religious and spiritual holiday in the Christian calendar. It commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, and his resurrection. Orthodox and Catholic Christians focus their celebrations on Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City of Jerusalem, where they have marked crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus since the fourth century.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Nicolas Castermans, France</p> <p>Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia: The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is the highest coastal mountain range in the world. It is located in northern Colombia, on the shores of the Caribbean Sea, and is still inhabited by four indigenous communities, direct descendants of the Tayronas. They are: the Kogis, the Wiwas, the Arhuacos and the Kankuamos. I was there on an exploration to develop a documentary project about the people of the region, the Kogis especially, who mostly live in the low lands of the mountain range, in a pristine jungle environment. These morning scenes, for a brief moment, gave me a glimpse of what the beginning of civilization was. Dressed of white in these sublime atmospheres, these Kogis left me with an impression of true harmony with nature, and with an idyllic image of their people and lifestyle.</p>	




GREEN PLANET, BLUE PLANET (PORTFOLIO)

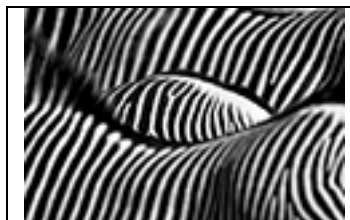

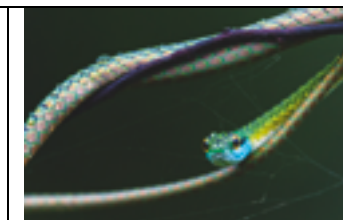
			
<p>WINNER: Alexej Sachov, Germany</p> <p>Marsa Alam, Egypt: In this series, you will meet 'new inhabitants' of the underwater world, be they animals or eerie creatures. Dive in and enjoy!</p> <p>It's hard to catch a rabbit, especially if it is underwater. This modern rabbit is now so advanced that it does not need any food — unlike our land rabbits. The best feature is that it also barely ages and stays in shape for a very long time, so you will have all the time in the world to admire its 'beauty'.</p> <p>Human replaces endangered species with a more advanced one — the plastic-made species are now ruling the underwater world.</p>	<p>WINNER: Alexej Sachov, Germany</p> <p>Marsa Alam, Egypt: In this series, you will meet 'new inhabitants' of the underwater world, be they animals or eerie creatures. Dive in and enjoy!</p> <p>Imagine diving outside a bay, along the reef, enjoying the underwater world, and suddenly you see something moving — an exciting and new type of jellyfish! What a surprise, but nowadays, the population of these 'beautiful' jellyfish is rising, so you don't need to worry at all; everyone will get a chance to see them in real life.</p> <p>Human replaces endangered species with a more advanced one — the plastic-made species are now ruling the underwater world.</p>	<p>WINNER: Alexej Sachov, Germany</p> <p>Marsa Alam, Egypt: you will meet 'new inhabitants' of the underwater world, be they animals or eerie creatures. Dive in and enjoy!</p> <p>An elegant net-built horse joins in enriching the underwater family. You have to be careful not to make too much noise since this species is very shy. Even though it does not feed on the same food that land horses do, it will very much appreciate a couple of nice, shiny air bubbles from the spectator. So make sure to provide some next time you come across its elegant habitant!</p> <p>Human replaces endangered species with a more advanced one — the plastic-made species are now ruling the underwater world.</p>	<p>WINNER: Alexej Sachov, Germany</p> <p>Marsa Alam, Egypt: In this series, you will meet 'new inhabitants' of the underwater world, be they animals or eerie creatures. Dive in and enjoy!</p> <p>The big difference between the ghost above and below water is that the underwater ghosts are visible to the human eye. You have always questioned if ghosts are real? Well, here there are, in all their glory!</p> <p>This particular ghost was pointing directly at me and was not very happy that I disturbed his day.</p> <p>Human replaces endangered species with a more advanced one — the plastic-made species are now ruling the underwater world.</p>

			
<p>RUNNER-UP: Laura Storm, UK</p> <p>Bonaire, Leeward Antilles, Caribbean Sea: Hiding within a brilliantly-coloured Azure vase sponge, a Yellowline arrow crab makes itself at home. The soft-bodied sponge is embedded firmly within its coral reef environment, unable to move. An unmissable, neon-hued sanctuary. Spreading out its long spider-like legs, the crab has claimed its daytime territory. Once night falls, the delicate critter will head off to forage.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Laura Storm, UK</p> <p>Bonaire, Leeward Antilles, Caribbean Sea: Finding fresh ways to bring to life intricate detail on a reef is something I love doing. This is a Supermacro view of Brain coral, showing a colony of genetically identical polyps. A defunct tube worm hole provides a secure dwelling for a resident Secretary blenny, measuring around 2cm long. The entire coral head may be a few hundred years old.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Laura Storm, UK</p> <p>Bonaire, Leeward Antilles, Caribbean Sea: With its tentacles waving gently about, a Giant anemone nestles into a spot on the reef. Often referred to as a 'flower animal', its beautiful pink and yellow texture belies its powerful sting. Immune to the sting after acclimatising itself, a colourful Pederson shrimp enjoys shelter and protection. In return, the delicate shrimp cleans the tentacles of the anemone, picking off dead cells and marine debris.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Laura Storm, UK</p> <p>Bonaire, Leeward Antilles, Caribbean Sea: Coexisting among this bright, yellow star coral is a Peppermint goby. It sits out the day adorning the top of its favoured coral head, a tiny jewel on a crown composed of millions of individual animal polyps.</p>

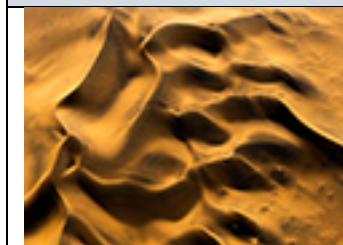

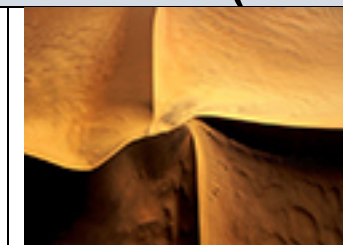

			
<p>RUNNER-UP: Kazuaki Koseki, Japan</p> <p>Yamagata, Japan: Fireflies in the forest on a summer night look like Christmas illuminations. They will only live for ten days, but they shine so brightly during that time. This image was taken with multiple exposures inside the camera.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Kazuaki Koseki, Japan</p> <p>Yamagata, Japan: Fallen trees becomes nurseries for living things, such as fireflies, and the richness of the forest circulates through repeated regeneration. This image was taken with 10 multiple exposures inside the camera.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Kazuaki Koseki, Japan</p> <p>Yamagata, Japan: The rainy season in Japan. There are days when the wind doesn't stop, but the fireflies still fly. This image was taken with 10 multiple exposures inside the camera.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Kazuaki Koseki, Japan</p> <p>Yamagata, Japan: Dusk comes to the forest and fireflies begin to fly. The sight of a firefly flying slowly in front of a giant rowan tree was fantastic and signalled the beginning of the firefly time.</p>




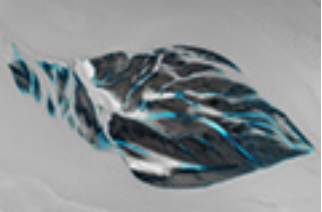




			
<p>COMMENDED: Ngar Shun Victor Wong, Hong Kong</p> <p>Sai Kung, New Territories, Hong Kong: An Asian Trampsnail wanders from one plant to the other under the morning sunlight. The plants held together by its magic glue form an artistic triangle.</p>	<p>COMMENDED: Ngar Shun Victor Wong, Hong Kong</p> <p>Tuen Mun, New Territories, Hong Kong: Two Common Bluetail Damselflies held on the same plant for about 45 seconds. After a short rest, they then flew away looking for their partners during this busy season of mating.</p>	<p>COMMENDED: Ngar Shun Victor Wong, Hong Kong</p> <p>Sai Kung, New Territories, Hong Kong: A colourful Kidney Garden Spider travelling through branches, leaving behind traces of spider silk. The yellow plant with the green background correlates well with the colour of the spider itself.</p>	<p>COMMENDED: Ngar Shun Victor Wong, Hong Kong</p> <p>Lui Kung Tin, Yuen Long, Hong Kong: Two snails happened to glide in opposite direction on the same plant creating a kissing scene under the sunlight.</p>








			
<p>WINNER: BEST SINGLE IMAGE IN A GREEN PLANET, BLUE PLANET PORTFOLIO: Panos Laskarakis, Greece</p> <p>Okavango Delta, Botswana: A large male lion peers through the remains of a buffalo killed the day before.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Xianghe Liu, China</p> <p>Shaoyang City, Hunan Province, China: The wonderful moment when a Mountain Bulbul picks wild berries.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Scott Portelli, Australia</p> <p>Antarctica: Adelie penguin chicks find refuge in an intricate tunnel system calved into nearby icebergs. Using these passageways to avoid predators, they group together for safety. Leopard seals patrol the surrounding waters, while skuas survey the vulnerable chicks from above.</p>	

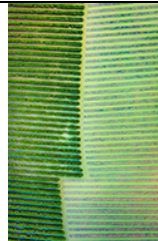

			
<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Yaron Schmid, USA</p> <p>Samburu, Kenya: A group of endangered Grevy's zebras. I</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Yaron Schmid, USA</p> <p>Stratford, Connecticut, USA: Capturing a snowy owl in the snow was a dream shot for me, and after multiple failed attempts, I finally managed to capture one. After watching her for a few hours from a safe distance, she finally flew into the snowstorm leaving me with a personal favourite shot.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Jason Edwards, Australia</p> <p>Tres Chimbadas Oxbow Lake, Tambopata National Reserve, Peru: A Black-skinned Parrot Snake draping its elongated body over a branch above an oxbow lake. I always take the time to search trees overhanging rivers and lakes, as wildlife use these transition zones to hunt and rest.</p>	

DESERTS TO RAINFORESTS (PORTFOLIO)


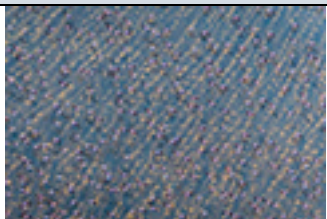
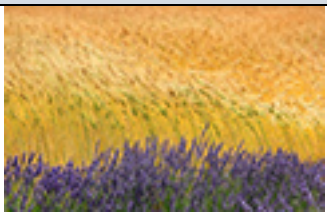

			
<p>WINNER: Jaroslav Hora, Czech Republic</p> <p>Sesriem, Namib desert, Namibia: Curves of the Namib desert. The photo series was created in Namibia in the Namib desert using a helicopter. During the flight I tried to capture the unusual shapes created by the sun, light and shadow, along with the sand dunes.</p>	<p>WINNER: Jaroslav Hora, Czech Republic</p> <p>Sesriem, Namib desert, Namibia: Curves of the Namib desert. The photo series was created in Namibia in the Namib desert using a helicopter. During the flight I tried to capture the unusual shapes created by the sun, light and shadow, along with the sand dunes.</p>	<p>WINNER: Jaroslav Hora, Czech Republic</p> <p>Sesriem, Namib desert, Namibia: Curves of the Namib desert. The photo series was created in Namibia in the Namib desert using a helicopter. During the flight I tried to capture the unusual shapes created by the sun, light and shadow, along with the sand dunes.</p>	<p>WINNER: Jaroslav Hora, Czech Republic</p> <p>Sesriem, Namib desert, Namibia: Curves of the Namib desert. The photo series was created in Namibia in the Namib desert using a helicopter. During the flight I tried to capture the unusual shapes created by the sun, light and shadow, along with the sand dunes.</p>

			
<p>RUNNER-UP: Marek Biegalski, Poland Iceland: Glacial rivers become visible only when you are high up in the sky. They're called 'braided river systems', as they often resemble an intricate jumble of patterns, intertwining in an almost inexplicable fashion and colours.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Marek Biegalski, Poland Iceland: Glacial rivers become visible only when you are high up in the sky. They're called 'braided river systems', as they often resemble an intricate jumble of patterns, intertwining in an almost inexplicable fashion and colours.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Marek Biegalski, Poland Iceland: Glacial rivers become visible only when you are high up in the sky. They're called 'braided river systems', as they often resemble an intricate jumble of patterns, intertwining in an almost inexplicable fashion and colours.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Marek Biegalski, Poland Iceland: Glacial rivers become visible only when you are high up in the sky. They're called 'braided river systems', as they often resemble an intricate jumble of patterns, intertwining in an almost inexplicable fashion and colours.</p>
			
<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Stephan Fürnrrohr, Germany</p> <p>West Greenland / Disko Bay Area Greenland: Year after year the same natural spectacle takes place on the Greenland Icecap. As the summer approaches, large meltwater lakes appear at the edge of the icet, which are drained towards the sea by a network of streams, rivers and crevasses. The water filters all spectral colours from daylight until only blue tones remain, which are scattered and reflected on the icy bottom of the lakes. All photos were taken from within a small plane.</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Stephan Fürnrrohr, Germany</p> <p>West Greenland / Disko Bay Area Greenland: Year after year the same natural spectacle takes place on the Greenland Icecap. As the summer approaches, large meltwater lakes appear at the edge of the icet, which are drained towards the sea by a network of streams, rivers and crevasses. The water filters all spectral colours from daylight until only blue tones remain, which are scattered and reflected on the icy bottom of the lakes. All photos were taken from within a small plane.</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Stephan Fürnrrohr, Germany</p> <p>West Greenland / Disko Bay Area Greenland: Year after year the same natural spectacle takes place on the Greenland Icecap. As the summer approaches, large meltwater lakes appear at the edge of the icet, which are drained towards the sea by a network of streams, rivers and crevasses. The water filters all spectral colours from daylight until only blue tones remain, which are scattered and reflected on the icy bottom of the lakes. All photos were taken from within a small plane.</p>	<p>West Greenland / Disko Bay Area Greenland: Year after year the same natural spectacle takes place on the Greenland Icecap. As the summer approaches, large meltwater lakes appear at the edge of the icet, which are drained towards the sea by a network of streams, rivers and crevasses. The water filters all spectral colours from daylight until only blue tones remain, which are scattered and reflected on the icy bottom of the lakes. All photos were taken from within a small plane.</p>

			
<p>COMMENDED: Jaroslav Hora, Czech Republic Šardice, Jižní Morava, Czech Republic: Early morning light paints the waves of the so-called Moravian Tuscany in South Moravia. I am fascinated by the minimalist elements and shapes created by humans and nature together in this landscape.</p>	<p>COMMENDED: Jaroslav Hora, Czech Republic Šardice, Jižní Morava, Czech Republic: Early morning light paints the waves of the so-called Moravian Tuscany in South Moravia. I am fascinated by the minimalist elements and shapes created by humans and nature together in this landscape.</p>	<p>COMMENDED: Jaroslav Hora, Czech Republic Šardice, Jižní Morava, Czech Republic: Early morning light paints the waves of the so-called Moravian Tuscany in South Moravia. I am fascinated by the minimalist elements and shapes created by humans and nature together in this landscape.</p>	<p>COMMENDED: Jaroslav Hora, Czech Republic Šardice, Jižní Morava, Czech Republic: Early morning light paints the waves of the so-called Moravian Tuscany in South Moravia. I am fascinated by the minimalist elements and shapes created by humans and nature together in this landscape.</p>
			
<p>WINNER, BEST SINGLE IMAGE IN A DESERTS TO RAINFORESTS PORTFOLIO: John Seager, UK Salar de Arizaro, Puna de Argentina, Argentina: 'El Cono Arita', a spectacular geological formation where erosion has shaped an almost perfect cone that seems to be lost in a vast desert of the Salar de Arizaro. Using a drone, I was able to capture the magnificent shadow of Arita on this beautiful, cloudless evening.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Kazuaki Koseki, Japan Mount Zao, Yamagata, Japan. A rare Lenticular cloud – said to be the sign of bad weather – looms over the 'snow monsters', the snow-covered trees - on Mount Zao as night approaches.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Scott Portelli, Australia Vatnajökull National Park, Skaftafell, Iceland: The rivers and glacial run off intertwine to create intricate patterns across the waterways in a phenomenon that occurs in only a few places in the world. Fractal patterns stretch outward across the glacial rivers, growing and disappearing with the changing seasons. The only way to really appreciate this is from 3000 feet above in a small plane.</p>	

			
<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Alex Cao, Vietnam</p> <p>Quang Ngai, Vietnam: Bau Cau Cai is the 'green lunch' of the key industrial economic zone of Vietnam. White-flowered mangroves have been planted in the natural breakwater to strengthen resilience to the impact of climate change for vulnerable communities along the country's coast.</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION: Scott Portelli, Australia</p> <p>Vatnajokull National Park, Skaftafell Iceland: The rivers and glacial run off intertwine to create intricate patterns across the waterways in Iceland's Vatnajokull National Park. A phenomenon that occurs in only a few places in the world. Iceland. Fractal patterns stretching outward across the glacial rivers growing and disappearing with the changing seasons. The only way to really appreciate the diverse landscape and unique patterns is from 3000 feet above in a small plane.</p>		

CREATIVE TRAVEL

			
<p>WINNER: Lorenz Berna, Italy</p> <p>Bangkok, Thailand: I took this image with the intention of conveying the theory of reincarnation in Buddhist philosophy, the shadows of the other monks who were walking out of shot representing past lifetimes of refinement towards final enlightenment. I used a slow exposure time to give a sense of impermanence and movement.</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP: Dana Allen, USA</p> <p>Makgadikgadi Pans, Botswana: A flamboyance of flamingos dances across the flooded Makgadikgadi salt pans, Botswana.</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED: Veronika K Ko, Bulgaria</p> <p>Luberon, Aix-en-Provence, France: One of my favorite places in the world is Provence, France, because of its unique beauty and because it is the cradle of Impressionism. I like to watch how the mistral wind shakes the ripe barley and smell the scent of the lavender while my eyes sink into these enchanting colours—the colours of Vincent van Gogh, the colours of impressionism, the colours of Provence.</p>	<p>COMMENDED: Robert Lie, Indonesia</p> <p>Malacca, Malaysia: The Encore is a famous building in Malacca, Malaysia. It is an art performance and cultural centre for international and local events.</p>

MARK OF MANKIND



WINNER: Angiolo Manetti, Italy

San Quirico d'Orcia, Tuscany, Italy:
A typical Tuscan landscape of cypresses and cultivated fields. I was struck by the contrast between the earth and the human figure at the centre of it.



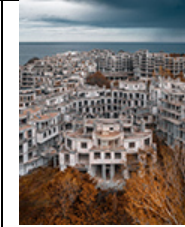
RUNNER-UP: Johnny Haglund, Norway

Murmansk, Russia: Murmansk is the world's biggest city north of the Polar Circle. A chimney rises above the smog, just on the outskirts of the city, as the cold weather creates frost on the trees.



HIGHLY COMMENDED: Edmond Terakopian, UK

Canary Wharf, London, UK. Altered Realities. A man taking his dog out for a walk is seen in the reflection on the external ceiling of a building's portico. Whilst nothing in the photograph has been altered, the image has been rotated by 180 degrees, creating this puzzling effect.



COMMENDED: Dimitar Karanikolov, Bulgaria/UK

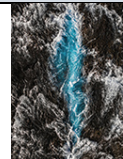
Tsarevo, Bulgaria: This is a photo of unfinished development on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, called Costa del Croco. Its construction started in 2007 and was abandoned several years later. The complex consists of 18 buildings occupying 23,000m² of land.

WATER



WINNER: Alexej Sachov, Germany

Marsa Alam, Egypt: Mobius loop underwater. Most wave photographs are taken above water from a shore. This image was taken on a scuba dive during the storm. The picture does not fit ordinary underwater photography because it investigates the surface and not the deep of the sea. This is the view normally seen by underwater creatures who are curious about the world beyond their natural environment just as humans are curious about the world under the surface.



RUNNER-UP: Jochen Bongaerts, Belgium

Brekkuskógur, Iceland: An aerial view of Bruarfoss, often called Iceland's bluest waterfall, showing the flow of glacial water through the river.



HIGHLY COMMENDED: Romain Miot, France

Oualata, Mauritania: I met this salt caravan after a four-day expedition into the middle of the Sahara desert. No roads lead to this place, so we navigated by compass. Hundreds of dromedaries and their masters were present on this desert plain where nothing lives. Two wells had been dug to water the camels before they left for Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso to sell the salt. When I returned from the trip I realised that this image of a camel owner ordering the dromedaries looked like a conductor with an orchestra.



COMMENDED: Weizhong Deng, Singapore

Isa city, Kagoshima, Japan: On this day, temperatures dipped below freezing point. I was initially disappointed to see the entire Sogi-No-Taki Waterfall covered with a thick mist upon arriving before dawn. I decided to try my luck and waited. Fortunately, when the sun rose, it lit up the falls beautifully and cleared away some of the mist.

SMART SHOT: ITRAVELLED



WINNER: Marina Spironetti, Italy

Avignon, France: A shadow self-portrait.



RUNNER-UP: Yu Chunshui, China

One day in November 2021, when the weather was fine after rain, my wife (shown reflected in the car's mirror) and I were driving east when we saw a garbage truck overloaded with waste beverage bottles driving ahead of us.



HIGHLY COMMENDED: Dimitar Karanikolov, Bulgaria/UK

Vik, Iceland: I travelled to Iceland in July, 2021. As Iceland to me is the most otherworldly looking place on the planet I bought a special prop with me - an astronaut costume and helmet. The Vik beach looks like a scene straight from 'Interstellar' and I asked a friend to put on the costume and we started walking as all the other tourists around started smiling and taking pictures of him. I did many shots with pro cameras at this spot, but this iPhone photo is my favorite.



COMMENDED: Kazi Mushfiq Hossain, Bangladesh

Mecca, Saudi Arabia: Pilgrims touching the door of the Holy Kaaba, Bab ar-Rahmah, which is called the Door of Mercy, in order to seek forgiveness and pray for what they wish for. Kaaba is located near the centre of the Great Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and is considered by Muslims everywhere to be the most sacred spot on Earth.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD



WINNER: Romain Miot, France

Oualata, Mauritania: I met this salt caravan after a four-day expedition into the middle of the Sahara desert. No roads lead to this place, so we navigated by compass. Hundreds of dromedaries and their masters were present on this desert plain where nothing lives. Two wells had been dug to water the camels before they left for Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso to sell the salt. When I returned from the trip I realised that this image of a camel owner ordering the dromedaries looked like a conductor with an orchestra.