















TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024 WINNING IMAGES


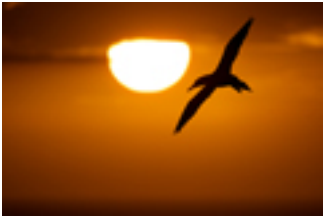


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<p>OVERALL WINNER – THE TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024</p> <p>PIPER MACKAY, USA</p>				
<p>American-born Piper Mackay lives in Kenya and has been exploring Africa’s wilds since 2004, capturing her journey through photography. Initially inspired by the untamed beauty, she began with vibrant color imagery. As technology evolved, she transitioned to a sophisticated monochromatic style, revisiting the wild places she first encountered to create powerful, evocative images.</p> <p>Her work has been featured at prestigious institutions such as the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., The Museum of History and Industry in Seattle, and The Art Wolfe Gallery. Her photographs are part of private collections worldwide.</p> <p>Mackay’s work has appeared in notable publications including National Geographic Traveler, Outdoor Photographer, and Nature Photographer. Her images have also been featured in National Geographic and Travel Africa. She has won several prestigious awards, including the African Wildlife Category at Nature’s Best and a highly commended portfolio in the 2020 Travel Photographer of the Year.</p>	<p>OVERALL WINNER – THE TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024 Piper Mackay, USA</p> <p>Loiyangalani, Northern Kenya</p> <p>A Rendile girl, adorned in elaborate traditional attire, is covered in beads and ornaments, symbolizing her readiness for marriage and attracting a husband. Her dress, rich in cultural significance, features layers of intricately woven beads, cowhide, and other handcrafted elements. She holds a calabash, a symbol of nourishment and abundance, with graceful poise. Captured in infrared, the surreal tones of the desolate environment amplify her presence as she stands alone amidst the emptiness as a symbol of resilience and grace.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z7 converted to Infrared, 24-70 2.8 lens, f4.5, 1/500s, ISO 125</p>	<p>OVERALL WINNER – THE TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024 Piper Mackay, USA</p> <p>Omorate, Omo Valley, Ethiopia</p> <p>A young Daasanach woman in traditional attire, embodying both strength and grace, holds a calabash—used for carrying liquids—amid the harsh landscape of the Omo Valley. The infrared photography lends the scene an ethereal glow, turning the rugged earth into soft, silky plains while accentuating her radiant skin. The calabash, a symbol of daily life and tradition, rests gently in her hands. Her calm expression contrasts with the harshness of the environment, reflecting resilience and a profound bond with the land.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z7 converted to Infrared, 24-70 2.8 lens, f7.1, 1/400s, ISO 200</p>	<p>OVERALL WINNER – THE TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024 Piper Mackay, USA</p> <p>Angola</p> <p>A stunning Macubal tribe woman, adorned in traditional attire of beautiful African cloth, gently rests her hands on her pregnant belly as she stands in the stark landscape of Southern Angola. The infrared image bathes the scene in an ethereal glow, with the deep contrast between the bright, glowing skin of the woman and the dark sky. The harsh environment seems to fade into shadows, emphasising her calm and strength.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z7 converted to Infrared, 24-70 mm lens, f4, 1/2500s, ISO 200</p>	<p>OVERALL WINNER – THE TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024 Piper Mackay, USA</p> <p>Baragoi, Northern Kenya</p> <p>A stunning young Turkana girl stands alone in front of her hut, set against northern Kenya's stark, expansive landscape. Her presence is serene and graceful against the vast, unforgiving land surrounding her. The scene captures a sense of solitude and strength, with the girl embodying resilience in this harsh environment. The photograph, taken in infrared, highlights the interplay of light and shadow that emphasises the raw beauty of the region.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z7 converted to Infrared, 24-70 2.8 lens, f5.6, 1/640s, ISO 250</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>





<p>OVERALL WINNER – THE TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024</p> <p>PIPER MACKAY, USA</p>				
	<p>OVERALL WINNER – THE TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024 Piper Mackay, USA</p> <p>Maasai Mara, Kenya</p> <p>Maasai giraffes cross the stormy plains of the Mara as the fading light of day pierces through the gathering clouds, casting a dramatic streak of illumination across their path. The streak of light seems almost divine, highlighting the creatures' graceful movements and emphasizing their majestic presence. Captured in infrared, the scene transforms into a surreal vision—the giraffes' patterns glowing softly against a backdrop of luminous grasses and an ominous, darkened sky.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z7 converted to Infrared, 14-30 4.0 lens, f4, 1/200s, ISO 250</p>	<p>OVERALL WINNER – THE TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024 Piper Mackay, USA</p> <p>Maasai Mara, Kenya</p> <p>A Maasai giraffe, a symbol of Africa's wild beauty, strides gracefully across the golden Mara Plains of Kenya. Its jagged, patterned coat contrasts with the vast skies. This was photographed in infrared from a low angle to add more drama to a simple image.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z7 converted to Infrared, 14-30 4.0 lens, f4, 1/8000s, ISO 500</p>	<p>OVERALL WINNER – THE TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024 Piper Mackay, USA</p> <p>Amboseli National Park, Kenya</p> <p>Two Maasai giraffes gracefully stroll across the stormy Amboseli plains, their slender necks rising against a dramatic backdrop of dark clouds and jagged hills. The setting sun illuminates the scene. The air is tense, and the storm's approach adds a sense of urgency to their slow, deliberate steps. Despite the ominous skies, their calm, majestic demeanour evokes a sense of resilience, a living testament to survival in the unforgiving wilderness of East Africa. This was photographed in infrared.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z7 converted to Infrared, 70-200 2.8 lens, f6.3, 1/1600s, ISO 640</p>	<p>OVERALL WINNER – THE TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024 Piper Mackay, USA</p> <p>Maasai Mara - Naboisho Conservancy, Kenya</p> <p>A young Maasai giraffe strides gracefully across the vast Mara plains in Kenya, its form captured in ethereal detail through the surreal lens of infrared photography. The low-angle shot emphasizes its towering stature, set against a glowing, otherworldly landscape where the grass shimmers in pale whites and the sky broods with wispy clouds. Its delicate movements exude elegance and vulnerability transform the scene into a living artwork that blurs the line between reality and imagination, a tribute to the beauty of nature redefined.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z7 converted to Infrared, 70-200 2.8 lens, f5.3, 1/1250s, ISO 160</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>



<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024, RAYMOND ZHANG, CHINA (AGE 14)</p>				
<p>14-year-old Raymond Zhang started taking photos when he received his first camera as a birthday gift from his father. Enjoying the view the world through the lens, Raymond began taking photographs of his surroundings. When he was 10 years old he took shots of birds in Shanghai, which sparked a new interest. When he learned that many bird habitats had been destroyed for economic development, he began to use his camera to reflect something deeper, and raise awareness, whether that is of the plight of birds, or the lives of train drivers working at a coal mine.</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024, Raymond Zhang, China (age 14)</p> <p>Sandaoling coal mine, Hami city, Xinjiang province, China</p> <p>From the black smoke in the background, we can see that the environment in the coal mine was really harsh. However, those workers persisted in working in this place every day, which must have taken a toll on their health. I was moved by their persistence and their silent contribution.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA</p> <p>Canon 77D, Tamron 18-400mm lens, f6.3, 1/800s, ISO 400</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024, Raymond Zhang, China (age 14)</p> <p>Sandaoling coal mine, Hami city, Xinjiang province, China</p> <p>The workers in the Sandaoling coal mine had worked there for more than forty years. However, soon the coal mine would be closed and they would face retirement (it has probably closed now). Facing their future, they felt confused, uncertain and sad. Moreover, it was Chinese New Year. They had to work instead of reuniting with their family.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA</p> <p>Canon EOS 77D, Tamron 18-400mm lens, f4, 1/100s, ISO 100</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024, Raymond Zhang, China (age 14)</p> <p>Sandaoling coal mine, Hami city, Xinjiang province, China</p> <p>Steam locomotives are still in use at this coal mine. Inside the train locomotive, one of the workers was moving coal into the stove to keep the train moving. This traditional energy not only made me admire the workers for their persistence, but also warned me of the potential risks to the environment of using coal as energy.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA</p> <p>iPhone XS Max, Apple lens, f1.8, 1/60s, ISO 320</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024, Raymond Zhang, China (age 14)</p> <p>Sandaoling coal mine, Hami city, Xinjiang province, China</p> <p>I took this picture during the workers' short break. I could only take a snapshot with my phone since they really didn't have much break time during their work. In the background, you can see the red traditional artwork which symbolizes Chinese New Year. Although the workers had to be at this harsh site and not with their family, they remained positive toward life.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA</p> <p>iPhone XS Max, Apple lens, f1.8, 1/60s, ISO 320</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>

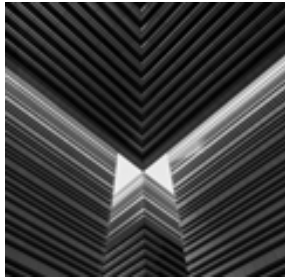

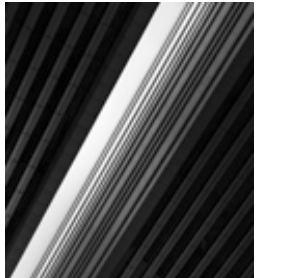
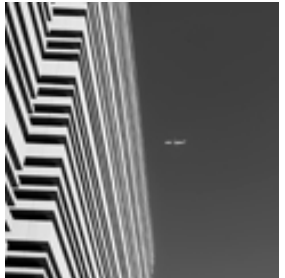
WINNER, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER LEONARDO MURRAY, AUSTRALIA (AGE 12)				
<p>Leonardo is a student from Kiama Public school in Australia. He shot his winning images on a trip around Namibia with his father, who is a professional photographer.</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER, Leonardo Murray, Australia (age 12)</p> <p>Namibia</p> <p>Namibia sand dunes</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z9, 70-200mm lens, f13, 1/640s, ISO 200</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER, Leonardo Murray, Australia (age 12)</p> <p>Namibia</p> <p>A person walks along the Namibian sand dunes.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z9, 70-200mm lens, f9, 1/250s, ISO 200</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER, Leonardo Murray, Australia (age 12)</p> <p>Namibia</p> <p>Namibia sand dunes at sunset.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z9, 70-200mm lens, f10, 1/400s, ISO 200</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER, Leonardo Murray, Australia (age 12)</p> <p>Namibia</p> <p>Namibia sand dunes</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z9, f9, 1/1600s, ISO 400</p>
REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER	13	14	15	16





<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER JAMIE SMART, UK (age 9)</p>				
	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER Jamie Smart, UK (age 9)</p> <p>Bempton Cliffs, Yorkshire, England</p> <p>Gannets enjoy a quiet moment together.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z9, 400mm lens, f4.5 1/1000s, ISO 450</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER Jamie Smart, UK (age 9)</p> <p>Bempton Cliffs, Yorkshire, England</p> <p>This photo was taken at 4:30am! We made the effort to get up really early to catch the sunrise at the cliffs. The colours were changing rapidly and I was trying to be patient waiting for a gannet to fly across the rising sun in the right position for this shot!</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z9, 800mm lens, f6.3, 1/1600s, ISO 110</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER Jamie Smart, UK (age 9)</p> <p>Bempton Cliffs, Yorkshire, England</p> <p>Squabbling gannets!</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z9, 400mm lens, f4.5, 1/1250s, ISO 360</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER Jamie Smart, UK (age 9)</p> <p>Bempton Cliffs, Yorkshire, England</p> <p>I had been trying for ages to get this shot of a gannet with wings spread out and looking at me down the lens. It finally happened and luckily I pressed the shutter button at the right time! It was definitely worth the long trip!</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z9, 135mm lens, f3.2, 1/4000s, ISO 100</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>



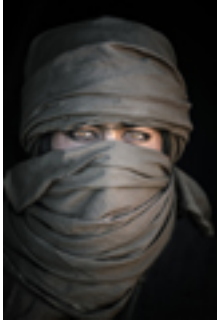

<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER SACHIN PRAKASH, UK (age 14)</p>				
	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER, Sachin Prakash, UK (age 14)</p> <p>New York City, New York, USA</p> <p>A beautiful pink hued image accurately depicting the 'city that never sleeps', with a diverse crowd of tourists, residents returning from jobs, and those there for the thrill of it; all by 42nd Avenue in Times Square, one of New York City's busiest streets.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS 250D, 50mm f/1.8 STM lens, f2.8, 1/160s, ISO 1600</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER, Sachin Prakash, UK (age 14)</p> <p>New York City, New York, USA</p> <p>With many steam chimneys across New York City, especially across the streets, I was able to capture the beauty that food brings people, bright flashy marketing in Times Square, and a puff of steam, which powerfully came together to form this image.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon 250D, 50mm lens, f2.8, 1/160s, ISO 200</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER, Sachin Prakash, UK (age 14)</p> <p>New York City, New York, USA</p> <p>This shot was taken to encompass the passion for food in New York City which I understood deeply on my travels. Upon further research, I found rent for hot-dog stand locations is up to \$250,000 in New York's prime locations; the average hot-dog stand makes 100,000 dollars a year, meaning small businesses such as these often make huge losses, but do it just to get about, or simply for the passion of it. This image depicts the front of a huge line snaking round a nearby building for a late night snack.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon 250D, 50mm lens, f3.5, 1/200s, ISO 100</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, YOUNG TPOTY 14 YEARS AND UNDER, Sachin Prakash, UK (age 14)</p> <p>New York City, New York, USA</p> <p>A colourful food truck, with its owner preparing a warm meal for a passer-by behind the camera. With the extremely tough, competitive environment for food trucks, pricing has to be extremely low and, coupled with the harsh rent pricing, this owner told me afterwards that getting by was tough.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon 250D, 50mm lens, f3.5, 1/250s, ISO 100</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>





<p>WINNER, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 MAKSYMILIAN PACZKOWSKI, POLAND (AGE 17)</p>				
<p>Maksymilian Paczkowski is a 17-year-old photographer from Poland with a passion for capturing the beauty of animals and nature. When not behind the lens, he's a high school student. In his photography, he loves experimenting with light to create art. But photography, to him, is more than just the interplay of light and shadow. It's about the story behind each shot, the effort and patience it takes to capture a fleeting moment, and freezing the past.</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 Maksymilian Paczkowski, Poland (age 17)</p> <p>Kórnik, Poland</p> <p>June brings sunny, cool sunrises that make early rising, even at 4:30am, worthwhile. One of the later-singing birds is the ortolan bunting, once common near residential areas but now rarely seen. Returning from a photo-session by the water, I heard a few singing in a field - finally an opportunity to photograph them on eye level. The next day, before dawn, I was already waiting for them, camouflaged. Sunny June sunrises created beautiful light, but during my closest encounter, a rare small cloud softened the light, highlighting his stunning colours.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R7, 100-400mm lens, f5.6, 1/500s, ISO 2000</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 Maksymilian Paczkowski, Poland (age 17)</p> <p>Środa Wielkopolska, Poland</p> <p>I was photographing shorebirds and rails at a puddle in the middle of reeds. On my third day a kingfisher sat right in front of me. He changed positions several times, allowing me to take a photo, as he was taking off, and then sat up on a reed.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R7, 100-400mm lens, f4, 1/2500s, ISO 1600</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 Maksymilian Paczkowski, Poland (age 17)</p> <p>Kórnik, Poland</p> <p>As I packed up after an evening photo-shoot, I heard a bird nearby. Thinking it was a quail, I got excited, as quails had been singing constantly but always far away. To my surprise, it was a partridge - a species whose European population has declined by 90% over the last 40 years and is particularly rare in Greater Poland. I returned there before the sunrise, camouflaged and waited on the same road. Eventually, a partridge appeared in front of me, while another was calling from behind me at a distance. Photographing it against the rising sun, I also captured steam rising from its beak, thanks to the right dew point and humidity.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R7, 400mm lens, f2.8, 1/1250s, ISO 1600</p>	<p>WINNER, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 Maksymilian Paczkowski, Poland (age 17)</p> <p>Kórnik, Poland</p> <p>In May, Poland shines with its yellow canola fields. Some birds forage on them because they attract insects. Every year, I try to find yellow wagtails in these yellow fields. After checking dozens of fields on my bike, I found nothing. My last hope was in the field closest to my house, and I got really fortunate - there was a pair of these beautiful birds.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R7, 100-400mm lens, f6, 1/2500s, ISO 400</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 VLAD PAULET, ROMANIA (AGE 18)</p>				
	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 Vlad Paulet, Romania (age 18)</p> <p>Cuejdel lake, Romania</p> <p>Last year I had the chance to enjoy this season in a place which was on my bucket list for quite some time. Cuejdel lake, located in Neamt county, Romania, is one of the most unique and beautiful places in my country, especially during this time of the year. The beautiful autumnal colors of the trees were reflected in the calm water, highlighted by the golden light of sunrise.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS 6D Mark II, 24-105 F4L IS USM lens, f16, 1/4 sec, ISO 100</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 Vlad Paulet, Romania (age 18)</p> <p>Cuejdel lake, Romania</p> <p>Last year I had the chance to enjoy this season in a place which was on my bucket list for quite some time. Cuejdel lake, located in Neamt county, Romania, is one of the most unique and beautiful places in my country, especially during this time of the year. The wide colour palette of the trees reflected in the lake create a beautiful view and, if you are lucky enough, you can also have a little fog on the surface of the water.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS 80D, 17-50mm lens, f11, 1/6s, ISO 200</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 Vlad Paulet, Romania (age 18)</p> <p>Cuejdel lake, Romania</p> <p>Last year I had the chance to enjoy this season in a place which was on my bucket list for quite some time. Cuejdel lake, located in Neamt county, Romania, is one of the most unique and beautiful places in my country, especially during this time of the year. The wide colour palette of the trees reflected in the lake create a beautiful view and, if you are lucky enough, you can also have a little fog on the surface of the water.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS 80D, 17-50mm lens, f4, 1/40s, ISO 250</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 Vlad Paulet, Romania (age 18)</p> <p>Cuejdel lake, Romania</p> <p>Last year I had the chance to enjoy this season in a place which was on my bucket list for quite some time. Cuejdel lake, located in Neamt county, Romania, is one of the most unique and beautiful places in my country, especially during this time of the year. The wide colour palette of the trees reflected in the lake create a beautiful view and, if you are lucky enough, you can also have a little fog on the surface of the water.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS 80D, 55-250mm lens, f5.6, 1/125s, ISO 200</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>32</p>





<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 ZHENG ZHIYU, CHINA (AGE 16)</p>				
	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 Zheng Zhiyu, China (age 16)</p> <p>Changzhou, China</p> <p>I was enroute to my grandmother's house to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Passing by Changzhou Cultural Square, I was immediately attracted by these landmark buildings. When I walked among the buildings, I noticed a visually striking composition. However, because I didn't have a tripod, I had to rest my arms on the railing. In order to perfectly intersect these endpoints of the upper and lower triangles, I spent over an hour overcoming hand tremors and visual deviations. I stayed in these buildings for a whole afternoon, taking pictures for about 4 hours, until I received a call from my grandmother urging us to go back and have a reunion dinner.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon R6 Mk II, 24-105mm lens, f5.6, 1/320s, ISO 200</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 Zheng Zhiyu, China (age 16)</p> <p>Changzhou, China</p> <p>I was enroute to my grandmother's house to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Passing by Changzhou Cultural Square, I was immediately attracted by these landmark buildings. When I walked among the buildings, I noticed a visually striking composition. However, because I didn't have a tripod, I had to rest my arms on the railing. In order to perfectly intersect these endpoints of the upper and lower triangles, I spent over an hour overcoming hand tremors and visual deviations. I stayed in these buildings for a whole afternoon, taking pictures for about 4 hours, until I received a call from my grandmother urging us to go back and have a reunion dinner.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon R6 Mk II, 24-105mm lens, f5.6, 1/400s, ISO 200</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 Zheng Zhiyu, China (age 16)</p> <p>Changzhou, China</p> <p>I was enroute to my grandmother's house to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Passing by Changzhou Cultural Square, I was immediately attracted by these landmark buildings. When I walked among the buildings, I noticed a visually striking composition. However, because I didn't have a tripod, I had to rest my arms on the railing. In order to perfectly intersect these endpoints of the upper and lower triangles, I spent over an hour overcoming hand tremors and visual deviations. I stayed in these buildings for a whole afternoon, taking pictures for about 4 hours, until I received a call from my grandmother urging us to go back and have a reunion dinner.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon R6 Mk II, 24-105mm lens, f5.6, 1/200s, ISO 125</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, YOUNG TPOTY AGE 15-18 Zheng Zhiyu, China (age 16)</p> <p>Changzhou, China</p> <p>I was enroute to my grandmother's house to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Passing by Changzhou Cultural Square, I was immediately attracted by these landmark buildings. When I walked among the buildings, I noticed a visually striking composition. However, because I didn't have a tripod, I had to rest my arms on the railing. In order to perfectly intersect these endpoints of the upper and lower triangles, I spent over an hour overcoming hand tremors and visual deviations. I stayed in these buildings for a whole afternoon, taking pictures for about 4 hours, until I received a call from my grandmother urging us to go back and have a reunion dinner.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon R6 Mk II, 24-105mm lens, f7.1, 1/250s, ISO 100</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>33</p>	<p>34</p>	<p>35</p>	<p>36</p>

<p>WINNER, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO</p> <p>MARICRUZ SAINZ DE AJA, MEXICO</p>				
<p>Now based in Miami, Maricruz is originally from Mexico. She focuses on on travel, documentary, and wildlife photography, her work driven by a deep respect for the diverse cultures, nature, people and wildlife. Through her photography, she aims to capture the beauty, resilience and complexity of the world around us, particularly the unique and often overlooked moments that define different communities. “It is an honor to be able to share these moments, and I feel privileged to have my work recognized in some international forums. Photography is a tool for connection and storytelling, and each photograph is a reflection of the world’s complexity and the emotions that bind us. I am committed to preserving these stories and contributing to a global interest about culture, nature, and humanity.”</p>	<p>WINNER, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Maricruz Sainz de Aja, Mexico</p> <p>Simbu Province, Central Highlands, Papua New Guinea</p> <p>Kneeling inside his modest thatched hut, an elder of the Wauga tribe plays his bamboo flute, a sacred instrument tied to his ancestral traditions. His weathered hands delicately hold the flute, producing melodies that echo the song of the bird, learned during his manhood initiation. The scene captures not only the essence of the elder’s deep connection to his heritage but also the simplicity and resilience of a way of life that persists despite the passage of time. This image is a tribute to the enduring beauty of tradition and the profound spirituality of the Wauga people.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA NIKON Z7, 24-70 mm lens, f3.5, 1/60, ISO 2000</p>	<p>WINNER, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Maricruz Sainz de Aja, Mexico</p> <p>Simbu Province, Central Highlands, Papua New Guinea</p> <p>The elder of the Wauga tribe is captured in profile, holding his bamboo flute with quiet dignity. The intricate details of his striking feathered headdress are beautifully illuminated by soft, natural light, highlighting the craftsmanship and cultural pride it represents. His weathered face, partially covered in black mud, reflects the wisdom and resilience of a life dedicated to preserving tradition. This moment offers a deeper glimpse into the spiritual connection between the elder, his instrument, and his fading culture, emphasizing the fragile balance between tradition and an ever-changing world.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA NIKON Z7, 24-70 mm lens, f1.8, 1/125S, ISO 1000</p>	<p>WINNER, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Maricruz Sainz de Aja, Mexico</p> <p>Simbu Province, Central Highlands, Papua New Guinea</p> <p>Elderly hands gently hold the bamboo flute, an instrument deeply tied to the ancestral traditions of the Wauga tribe from Papua New Guinea’s Central Highlands. This flute crafted from bamboo, is played during cultural ceremonies and its melodies are passed down through generations. The elder learned the bird’s song during his manhood initiation and has carried this tradition over the years. Now as these ceremonies slowly fade within the community, the connection to this sacred instrument and its cultural significance risks being lost.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA NIKON Z7, 85 mm lens, f3.2, 1/100s, ISO 2500</p>	<p>WINNER, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Maricruz Sainz de Aja, Mexico</p> <p>Simbu Province, Central Highlands, Papua New Guinea</p> <p>Two Wauga elders stand together, among the very few who remain as guardians of their tribe’s traditions. Their weathered faces, marked by deep wrinkles, reflect a lifetime of wisdom and resilience. Adorned with intricate feathered headdresses and covered in black mud, they represent a culture at risk of fading. The elder in the foreground gazes thoughtfully, bearing the responsibility of preserving their legacy. Behind him, the second elder mirrors the same quiet strength, their shared presence a symbol of the community’s enduring bonds. This powerful image captures the fragility of their cultural rituals, reminding us of the importance of safeguarding traditions before they are lost forever.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA NIKON Z7, 24-70 mm lens, f4.5, 1/80sec, ISO 2500</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>37</p>	<p>38</p>	<p>39</p>	<p>40</p>

<p>RUNNER-UP, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO TREVOR COLE, IRELAND</p>				
	<p>RUNNER-UP, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Trevor Cole, Ireland</p> <p>Herat, Western Afghanistan</p> <p>A Kuchi nomad from western Afghanistan with kohl around his eyes. The Kuchis constitute an important part of Afghanistan's cultural heritage. For centuries, they have migrated across the country in a search of seasonal pastures and milder weather. They were the main traders in Afghanistan, connecting South Asia with the Middle East. . But decades of war, forced internal displacement, climate change and resulting droughts, socioeconomic and technological changes, and a push toward a sedentary have rendered them one of the most marginalized communities in Afghanistan.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z8, 70-200mm lens, f52.8, 1/1000s, ISO 1600</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Trevor Cole, Ireland</p> <p>Herat, Western Afghanistan</p> <p>A young Kuchi nomad girl. Pashtun nomads hail from more than a dozen tribes of the larger Ghilzai group, were once one of the largest nomadic communities in the world. But decades of war, forced internal displacement, climate change and resulting droughts, socioeconomic and technological changes, and a push toward a sedentary have rendered them one of the most marginalized communities in Afghanistan.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z8, 70-200mm lens, f2.8, 1/640s, ISO 1600</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Trevor Cole, Ireland</p> <p>Herat, Western Afghanistan</p> <p>A Kuchi nomad from the border region of Afghanistan with Iran. The Kuchis constitute an important part of Afghanistan's cultural heritage. For centuries, they have migrated across the country in a search of seasonal pastures and milder weather. They were the main traders in Afghanistan, connecting South Asia with the Middle East.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z8, 70-200mm lens, f2.8, 1/640s, ISO 640</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Trevor Cole, Ireland</p> <p>Herat, Western Afghanistan</p> <p>Kuchi elder. A Kuchi nomad from western Afghanistan. The Kuchis constitute an important part of Afghanistan's cultural heritage. For centuries, they have migrated across the country in a search of seasonal pastures and milder weather. They were the main traders in Afghanistan, connecting South Asia with the Middle East.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z8, 70-200mm lens, f5.6, 1/100s, ISO 2500</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>41</p>	<p>42</p>	<p>43</p>	<p>44</p>

<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO IGNACIO PALACIOS, SPAIN/AUSTRALIA</p>				
	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>South Sudan</p> <p>Mundari people in their cattle camp.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon z9, 70-200mm lens, f4, 1/400s, ISO 1600</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>South Sudan</p> <p>Mundari people in their cattle camp.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon z9, 70-200mm lens, f2.8, 1/1000s, ISO 400</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>South Sudan</p> <p>An aerial view of Mundari people in their cattle camp.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mavic 2 pro, 10mm lens, f2.8, 1/20s, ISO 400</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>South Sudan</p> <p>Mundari people in their cattle camp.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon z9, 70-200 lens, f4, 1/640s, ISO 640</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>45</p>	<p>46</p>	<p>47</p>	<p>48</p>

<p>COMMENDED, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO IGNACIO PALACIOS, SPAIN/AUSTRALIA</p>				
	<p>COMMENDED, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>Paro monastery, Bhutan</p> <p>Portrait of two monks playing the trumpet.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon z9, 14-24mm lens, f9, 1/15 sec, ISO 3200</p>	<p>COMMENDED, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>Gangtey monastery, Bhutan</p> <p>A monk watches the dance festival at Gangtey monastery, Bhutan</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon z9, 14-24mm lens, f6.3, 1/800s, ISO 500</p>	<p>COMMENDED, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>Bhutan</p> <p>Young monk and prayer wheel, Paro monastery</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon z9, 24-70 lens, f2.8, 1/20s, ISO 200</p>	<p>COMMENDED, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>Kathmandu, Nepal</p> <p>Young monks at Bathakpur temple.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon z9, 70-200mm lens, f8, 1/320s, ISO 400</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>49</p>	<p>50</p>	<p>51</p>	<p>52</p>

<p>BEST SINGLE IMAGE IN FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO</p> <p>PARTHA PRATIM ROY, INDIA</p>				
<p>An avid and self-taught photographer who is an I.T. engineer by profession but a photographer by passion, Partha is a Singapore-based photographer, originally from Uttarpara, a small town in West Bengal, India. His passion and hobby in photography gradually made him a photographer, and he always liked to spend his free time with his camera and photography. He also enjoys traveling and flying. As a photographer, Partha can subliminally communicate emotions and feelings randomly hidden in life's compositions. Partha's work communicates emotions hidden within life's natural compositions, making him an artistic poet and storyteller who uses photographs as his vehicle.</p> <p>Partha's work spans travel and wildlife photography, but he started with landscape and cityscape photography. Over time, he learned that creativity and an understanding of art's true aesthetics are what allow a photographer to transcend boundaries.</p> <p>Throughout his career, Partha has garnered numerous prestigious photography awards, both internationally and locally. He holds multiple FIAP, PSA, GPU, and IAAP medals and distinctions, including the esteemed AFIAP honor. Partha continues to explore photography as a medium to capture the beauty of life, nature, and moments frozen in time.</p>	<p>WINNER, BEST SINGLE IMAGE IN FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Partha Pratim Roy, India</p> <p>Mount Bromo, Jawa Timur, East Java, Indonesia</p> <p>On the windswept sands of Mount Bromo, an Indonesian horseman struggles to control his aggressive, energetic horse. The man, gripping tightly, is thrown to the ground, volcanic dust clinging to his face lined with years of toil. Life here is unyielding, demanding strength and resilience from man and beast alike. For the Tenggerese, this is more than survival—it's a way of life, etched in their culture. The horseman, undeterred, reflects a people whose enduring spirit thrives even amidst the challenges of this untamed terrain.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon R5, 28-300mm lens, f5.6, 1/2000s, ISO 200</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Javier Herranz Casellas, Spain</p> <p>Northern Chad</p> <p>The Sahel is a vast transition zone between the African savannah and the Sahara desert. As it passes through northern Chad it becomes a territory of desert landscapes frequently hit by the harmattan, winds that carry sand haze and which, added to its remoteness. One of the most inhospitable regions of Africa, it is nevertheless inhabited by a multitude of ethnic groups and nomadic tribes that have adapted to these extreme conditions, preserving their culture almost intact. In the photo we can see a woman and her son next to their hut enveloped in a ghostly atmosphere produced by the sand haze.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon D810, 70-200mm lens, f8, 1/500s, ISO 400</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Chiara Felmini, Italy</p> <p>Tarakeka , Central Equatoria state, South Sudan</p> <p>The Mundari cattle disperse from the banks of the White Nile River into the long grasses of the floodplain and return instinctively before sunset, when dust rises near the herd and smoke from the fires mix to create an evocative atmosphere. The boys watch over and care for the cattle in a relationship that has something of a symbiotic effect</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony ILCE 9, 16-35mm lens, f7.1, 1/200s, ISO 2000</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION, FACES, PEOPLE, CULTURES PORTFOLIO Happy Mukerjee, India</p> <p>Maharashtra, India</p> <p>The Wari Palki festival showcases the spiritual unity and devotion of thousands of devotees in Maharashtra, India. An aerial view reveals an awe-inspiring sight: white-clad devotees arranged in perfect symmetry, forming concentric circles as they embark on this sacred pilgrimage. This harmonious arrangement reflects their collective journey toward the divine. At the center, the vibrant yellow umbrella of Lord Vitthal stands out, symbolizing divine guidance amidst the sea of white.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Air 2S, f2.8, 1/500s, ISO 100</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>53</p>	<p>54</p>	<p>55</p>	<p>56</p>



**SPECIAL MENTION, FACES,
PEOPLE, CULTURES
PORTFOLIO**
Jurica Galic, Croatia

South Sudan

Sunset at the cattle camp of the Mundari people of South Sudan. This ethnic group is known for breeding Ankole cattle with large horns. At sunset, they set fire to dried cow excrement to drive away mosquitos. This smoke creates a magical light backdrop.

TECHNICAL DATA
Honor Magic 5 Pro, f5.6,
1/2200s, ISO 50

**SPECIAL MENTION, FACES,
PEOPLE, CULTURES
PORTFOLIO**
Matt Jacob, UK

Varanasi, India


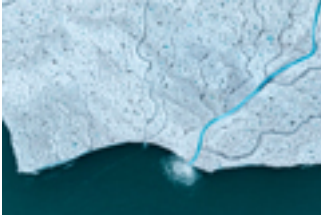


Human skulls sat at the feet of an Aghori Sadhu. Aghori Sadhus are known for engaging in rituals involving cremation grounds, consuming human ash, and using skulls in religious practices, symbolizing their renunciation of material attachments and fear of death.





TECHNICAL DATA
Hasselblad X2D, 55mm
lens, f/4, 1/180s, ISO 64





REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER





57





58

<p>WINNER, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO</p> <p>ROIE GALITZ, ISRAEL</p>				
<p>Roie Galitz is a professional wildlife photographer, environmentalist, and explorer whose work brings attention to the fragile beauty of our planet. With over two decades of experience, Roie has traveled to the most remote corners of the Earth, capturing breathtaking images of wildlife in their natural habitats. His photography not only showcases nature's wonders but also serves as a powerful tool to inspire conservation and raise awareness about the impact of climate change.</p> <p>As a Greenpeace Ambassador, Roie is taking part in campaigns to save fragile eco-systems. He is also serving on the board of several conservation NGOs. Galitz is also a Nikon Europe Ambassador, Gitzo and Lowepro Ambassador, and Sandisk Professional Ambassador.</p>	<p>WINNER, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Roie Galitz, Israel</p> <p>Bråsvellbreen, Svalbard</p> <p>An endless expanse of ice: Bråsvellbreen stretches to the horizon under the soft glow of the midnight Arctic sun. This panoramic view captures the majesty and scale of one of the longest glacier fronts in the world, highlighting its intricate surface textures and the vastness of the polar landscape.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mavic 3, 24mm lens, f2.8, 1/320S, ISO 100</p>	<p>WINNER, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Roie Galitz, Israel</p> <p>Bråsvellbreen, Svalbard</p> <p>Life flows through ice: A vibrant glacial river meanders across the surface of Bråsvellbreen, creating a vivid contrast against the stark white of the ice. From this bird's-eye perspective, the river's serpentine path tells the story of meltwater carving its way through the Arctic expanse which could resemble a human brain.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mavic 3 Pro, 24mm lens, f3.5, 1/200s, ISO 100</p>	<p>WINNER, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Roie Galitz, Israel</p> <p>Bråsvellbreen, Svalbard</p> <p>Meltwater cascades down Bråsvellbreen's sheer ice wall, meeting the churning Arctic Ocean below. This powerful interaction between ice and water not only highlights the glacier's fragile beauty but also underscores the profound impact of climate change. Bråsvellbreen, one of the world's largest glacier fronts, is rapidly melting as temperatures rise, with its vibrant blue meltwater contributing to the ocean's ever-increasing levels. This process is a stark reminder of the interconnectedness between polar regions and global sea-level rise.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mavic 3 Pro, 24mm lens, f2.8, 1/160S, ISO 100</p>	<p>WINNER, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Roie Galitz, Israel</p> <p>Bråsvellbreen, Svalbard</p> <p>More waterfalls carve the landscape of Bråsvellbreen. As ice caps and glaciers melt faster in our polar regions, we will lose so much of this fragile environment to climate change. As these waters flow into the ocean, they accelerate coastal threats worldwide, emphasizing the urgency of addressing climate change to protect vulnerable ecosystems and human populations alike.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mavic 3 Pro, 24mm lens, f3.5, 1/120s, ISO 100</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>59</p>	<p>60</p>	<p>61</p>	<p>62</p>

<p>RUNNER-UP, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO IGNACIO PALACIOS, SPAIN/AUSTRALIA</p>				
	<p>RUNNER-UP, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>Lake Eyre, Australia</p> <p>Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre contains the lowest natural point in Australia, at approximately 15M below sea level. On the rare occasions that it fills completely, it is the largest lake in Australia, covering an area of up to 9,500 km2 (3,668 sq mi).</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon z9, 70-200mm lens, f5.6, 1/2500s, ISO 800</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>Lake Eyre, Australia</p> <p>Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre contains the lowest natural point in Australia, at approximately 15M below sea level. On the rare occasions that it fills completely, it is the largest lake in Australia, covering an area of up to 9,500 km2 (3,668 sq mi).</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon z9, 70-200mm lens, f7.1, 1/1600s, ISO 1250</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>Lake Eyre, Australia</p> <p>Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre contains the lowest natural point in Australia, at approximately 15M below sea level. On the rare occasions that it fills completely, it is the largest lake in Australia, covering an area of up to 9,500 km2 (3,668 sq mi).</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon z9, 70-200 lens, f 7.1, 1/640s, ISO 1250</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>Lake Eyre, Australia</p> <p>Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre contains the lowest natural point in Australia, at approximately 15M below sea level. On the rare occasions that it fills completely, it is the largest lake in Australia, covering an area of up to 9,500 km2 (3,668 sq mi).</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon z9, 24-70mm lens, f8, 1/400sec, ISO 500</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>63</p>	<p>64</p>	<p>65</p>	<p>66</p>

<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO TAKAHIRO GAMOU, JAPAN</p>				
	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Takahiro Gamou, Japan</p> <p>Ibaraki, Japan</p> <p>This photo was taken at sunrise just after a typhoon, when the sea was at its most turbulent. Amidst the rough waters, the torii gate stood quietly, making it appear even more mystical as a symbol of Japanese culture. This place has long been revered as a sacred site where the gods descend. Captivated by the beauty of the torii, taking this photo became the catalyst for me to continue photographing this location from various angles.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony ILCE-7RM3, 24-70mm lens, f13, 1.0s, ISO 50</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Takahiro Gamou, Japan</p> <p>Ibaraki, Japan</p> <p>Despite the bad weather, I visited the torii gate and gazed out at the sea. The sea gradually calmed, and the setting sun began to shine through. At that moment, a large rainbow appeared in the sky, creating a breathtaking scene where the rainbow arched over the torii. Although the moment I had been aiming for had already passed, this was a miraculous scene the torii gifted me at that place.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony ILCE-9, 24-70mm lens, f2.8, 1/8s, ISO 50</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Takahiro Gamou, Japan</p> <p>Ibaraki, Japan</p> <p>In the middle of a thunderstorm, I visited this place with the torii gate as my destination. The rain, wind, and lightning were intense, making it a very dangerous situation. However, I was certain something was about to happen. Suddenly, a bolt of lightning flashed across in front of me. The lightning crossed the torii and formed an arc amidst the storm. Nature is unpredictable, and this scene perfectly captured that reality.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Fujifilm X-T5, 16mm lens, f4, 5, ISO 800</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Takahiro Gamou, Japan</p> <p>Ibaraki, Japan</p> <p>In this coastal area, mist forms during the colder seasons. When the sun rises, the mist and the waves of the sea are illuminated, turning everything pure white. By using a drone to capture the scene from above, I witnessed a divine view that could never be seen from the ground.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Hasselblad L1D-20c, 28.0 mm lens, f11, 1/20s, ISO 100</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>67</p>	<p>68</p>	<p>69</p>	<p>70</p>

<p>COMMENDED, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO MAURO TRONTO, ITALY</p>				
	<p>COMMENDED, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Mauro Tronto, Italy</p> <p>Geamana Lake, Romania</p> <p>The contaminated Geamana Lake is a stunning example of the contrast between natural beauty and the impact of human activity on the environment. Its history is linked to mining in the region, particularly copper extraction. The waters of the lake have taken on intense colours and surprising shapes due to the toxic waste from the surrounding mines. Chemical-containing sediments have transformed the lake into a palette of incredible colours, ranging from deep blue to emerald green and rusty red. These bright colours create a visually fascinating image, but behind it lies an alarming ecological reality.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mini 3 PRO, 24 mm lens, f1.7, 1/160s, ISO 110</p>	<p>COMMENDED, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Mauro Tronto, Italy</p> <p>Geamana Lake, Romania</p> <p>The contrast between the majesty of nature and the destructive impact of human activity here highlights the importance of sustainable practices and environmental responsibility. Through images and narratives of places like the contaminated Geamana Lake, it is hoped that public awareness will increase and measures will be taken to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mini 3 PRO, 24mm lens, f1.7, 1/350s, ISO 100</p>	<p>COMMENDED, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Mauro Tronto, Italy</p> <p>Geamana Lake, Romania</p> <p>The contrast between the majesty of nature and the destructive impact of human activity here highlights the importance of sustainable practices and environmental responsibility. Through images and narratives of places like the contaminated Geamana Lake, it is hoped that public awareness will increase and measures will be taken to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mini 3 PRO, 24mm lens, f1.7, 1/15s, ISO 110</p>	<p>COMMENDED, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Mauro Tronto, Italy</p> <p>Geamana Lake, Romania</p> <p>The waters of the lake have taken on intense colors and surprising shapes due to the toxic waste from the surrounding mines. Chemical-containing sediments have transformed the lake into a palette of incredible colors, ranging from deep blue to emerald green and rusty red. These bright colors create a visually fascinating image, but behind it lies an alarming ecological reality.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mini 3 PRO, 24mm lens, f1.7, 1/15s, ISO 120</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>71</p>	<p>72</p>	<p>73</p>	<p>74</p>

<p>BEST SINGLE IMAGE IN PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO</p> <p>ALAIN SCHROEDER, BELGIUM</p>				
<p>Belgian photojournalist Alain Schroeder has been working in the industry for over four decades. First as a sports photographer in the 80s, then shooting books and editorial pieces in art and human stories. In 2013, he uprooted his life, trading-in his shares in Reporters, to pursue life on the road with a camera. He now travels the world shooting stories focusing on social issues and people.</p> <p>He has won many international awards including PX3, IPA, MIFA, BIFA, PDN, Nikon Japan, Nikon Belgium, Days Japan, and specifically; 9 TPOTY, 5 Trieste Photo Awards, 2 The Fence, 2 LensCulture, 2 Felix Schoeller, 4 Istanbul Photo Awards, 10 Siena, 7 POYI, and 3 World Press Photo</p>	<p>WINNER, BEST SINGLE IMAGE IN PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Alain Schroeder, Belgium</p> <p>Jeruksari near Pekalongan, Indonesia</p> <p>Mutiari, 4 years old, plays with a friend in the flooded streets of Jeruksari. The sea level in Indonesia has risen by an alarming 4mm annually since 1992, a tangible consequence of climate change. Northern coastal cities are the most rapidly and severely affected, compounded by tidal flooding that inundates villages with slow-receding water. Poorly planned urbanization and infrastructure development also contribute to flooding in these low-lying areas.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA FUJIFILM X-T4, 10mm lens, f4, 1/400s, ISO 400</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Mauro Tronto, Italy</p> <p>Castelluccio di Norcia, Umbria, Italy</p> <p>When the snow begins to fall heavily on Castelluccio, the landscape quickly transforms. The vast open spaces of the Piano Grande are gradually enveloped by a white blanket that seems to have no end. Snow covers every surface, from the rolling hills to the ancient stone buildings of the village, creating a sense of continuity and purity. The sound of falling snow is soft and muffled, almost a whisper, and every noise seems to fade until it disappears, leaving room for absolute tranquility. It is an experience that remains etched in the memory, evoking a profound sense of wonder and serenity.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R5, 100-400mm lens, f8, 1/5000s, ISO 400</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Alexey Kharitonov, Israel</p> <p>Leningradskaya oblast', Vyborg district, Russia</p> <p>It was a delightful morning in the northern region of lakes and marshes. Although it was June, at night it was below zero Celsius, so when we walked through the swamp, the ice crunched under our feet. But then the sun rose up and the clouds of fog rising from the water glowed in its rays, and the dew glistened on the grass and flowering cotton grass</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA SONY 7RM3A, 150-600mm lens, f22, 1/80s, ISO 320</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO Stephan Fürnröhr, Germany</p> <p>Russel Glacier, Kangerlussuaq, Greenland</p> <p>A large, strange shape in the frozen lake in the glacial moraine of the Russell Glacier. As a result of climate change, the glacier has retreated considerably in recent years. In summer, a lake always forms between the glacier and its former terminal moraine, which then freezes over during the winter. As the water level dropped, the ice sheet settled onto a rock, and the rock's own weight caused this hole to be broken through the ice surface. The question of what the glacier will give birth to has sparked my imagination. It probably won't be anything good (in the context of climate change).</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mavic 3, 24mm lens, f2.8, 1/160s, ISO 100</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>75</p>	<p>76</p>	<p>77</p>	<p>78</p>



SPECIAL MENTION, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO

Guillaume Petermann, France

Bräsvellbreen glacier, Svalbard archipelago, Norway

The 42-kilometre front of the Bräsvellbreen glacier forms a cliff of ice between 10 and 35 metres above sea level. It extends underwater to depths of between 30 and 100 metres. In summer, when the surface of the glacier is exposed to the sun, the snow and surface ice accumulated during the winter melts. The meltwater then falls in spectacular cascades. Svalbard is a place where the effects of global warming are absolutely obvious. The climate is warming faster here than anywhere else on Earth. Since 1971, temperatures have risen by 4°C, five times faster than the global average.

TECHNICAL DATA
NIKON D810, 80-400mm lens, f8, 1/1000s, ISO 400

SPECIAL MENTION, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO

Henrique Murta, Brazil

Bardenas Reales, Navarra, Spain

The Bardenas Reales is a semi-desert area just 70km from the Pyrenees. Designated by UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve, this is a region of unique and beautiful landscape covering some 42,500 hectares between Tudela and Carcastillo. These are natural abstract sculptures.

TECHNICAL DATA
Hasselblad L1D-20C, 28mm lens, f3.2, 1/240s, IO 100

SPECIAL MENTION, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO

Yan Li, China

Puno, Peru

Between Calm and Catastrophe: On Lake Titicaca, a tranquil floating village stands in stark contrast to the approaching wildfire, a dramatic testament to nature's dual disposition.

TECHNICAL DATA
Hasselblad L2D-20c, 24mm lens, f/4, 1/200s, ISO 400

SPECIAL MENTION, PLANET EARTH - LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE & WATER PORTFOLIO

Sabine Weise, Germany

Drangarnir, Faroe Island

The two sea stacks - called Drangarnir - placed between the island of Vágar and Tindhólmur islet, are probably the most famous and unique sights in the Faroe Islands. The waves at that evening were quite calm and gentle but crashed with enough power into this crevice to form a dramatic foreground for the mighty rocks. Words really can't describe the beauty and magic of this place...

TECHNICAL DATA
Canon EOS R5, 15-35mm lens, f11, 0.3s, ISO 50




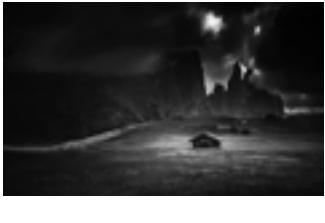
REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER





79





80





81



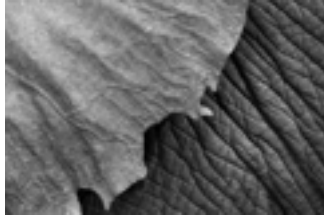

82

WINNER, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO ALEŠ KRIVEC, SLOVENIA				
<p>Aleš is a web designer and developer who focuses on developing WordPress themes. In his spare time, he spends much time photographing nature and vast landscapes. Most of his images are from his home country, Slovenia, but he also likes to explore the mighty mountains of the Dolomites</p>	<p>WINNER, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Aleš Krivec, Slovenia</p> <p>Seiser Alm, Dolomites, Italy</p> <p>Old shepherd cottages were once used for the practical means, but now they are mostly used for tourism.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mavic 3, DJI lens, f4.5, 1/240s, ISO 100</p>	<p>WINNER, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Aleš Krivec, Slovenia</p> <p>Seiser Alm, Dolomites, Italy</p> <p>Old shepherd cottages were once used for the practical means, but now they are mostly used for tourism.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mavic 3, DJI lens, f4, 1/160s, ISO 100</p>	<p>WINNER, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Aleš Krivec, Slovenia</p> <p>Seiser Alm, Dolomites, Italy</p> <p>Old shepherd cottages were once used for the practical means, but now they are mostly used for tourism.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mavic 3, DJI lens, f11, 1/200s, ISO 100</p>	<p>WINNER, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Aleš Krivec, Slovenia</p> <p>Seiser Alm, Dolomites, Italy</p> <p>Old shepherd cottages were once used for the practical means, but now they are mostly used for tourism.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon D800, Nikkor 28-120 lens, f11, 1/800s, ISO 100</p>
SELECT IMAGE NUMBER	83	84	85	86

<p>RUNNER-UP, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO LINDA WRIDE, UK</p>				
	<p>RUNNER-UP, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Linda Wride, UK</p> <p>Avenos, Cappadocia, Turkey</p> <p>Pottery is an age old tradition in the village of Avanos, in the Cappadocia region of Turkey. Gokhan carries on the tradition, using clay from the nearby Red River to make pots for everyday use. Known as Kızılırmak clay, this natural resource is renowned for its plasticity, strength, and fine texture, making it ideal for shaping into various forms of pottery.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z 7_2, 24-120mm lens, f4.0, 1/400s, ISO 1,000</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Linda Wride, UK</p> <p>Avenos, Cappadocia, Turkey</p> <p>While most of Gokan's pots are utilitarian, designed for everyday use, he also creates more decorative pieces, such as this circular pot used as a wine decanter.</p> <p>Nikon Z 7_2, 24-120mm lens, f13, 1/200s, ISO 1,000</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Linda Wride, UK</p> <p>Avenos, Cappadocia, Turkey</p> <p>Gokan works at his foot-driven potter's wheel, surrounded by pots and jugs made earlier, lined up in regimented rows ready to go into the kiln for firing later.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z 7_2, 24-120mm lens, f8, 1/132s, ISO 640</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Linda Wride, UK</p> <p>Avanos, Cappadocia, Turkey</p> <p>I watched Gokan make one of his traditional pots. The process took 1 minute 12 seconds. When I showed him the timer on my phone, he laughed. It usually takes just a minute he said, but talking to us slowed him down. Held up against sunlight streaming through the studio window, you appreciate the beautiful simplicity of the shape, silhouetted in the rays. He can repeat this over and over again, somehow achieving a uniformity of shape and size without stopping to check or measure.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z 7_2, 224-120mm lens, f4.0, 1/2500s, ISO 1,000</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>87</p>	<p>88</p>	<p>89</p>	<p>90</p>

<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO JAKUB RYBICKI, POLAND</p>				
	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Jakub Rybicki, Poland</p> <p>Jerusalem, Israel</p> <p>All four pictures were shot next to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Right next to it there's an entrance to Talmudic school. It is one of the most fascinating places I've ever seen, full of orthodox Jews. There's a lot going on there so I decided to simplify the images by reframing them so there are only silhouettes and walls left (and a chair). You can see young, middle-age and old Jews all dressed according to tradition. A wall of peace in this troubled land.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Olympus E-M1 MkII, 40-150mm lens, f4, 1/16000s, ISO 800</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Jakub Rybicki, Poland</p> <p>Jerusalem, Israel</p> <p>All four pictures were shot next to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Right next to it there's an entrance to Talmudic school. It is one of the most fascinating places I've ever seen, full of orthodox Jews. There's a lot going on there so I decided to simplify the images by reframing them so there are only silhouettes and walls left (and a chair). You can see young, middle-age and old Jews all dressed according to tradition. A wall of peace in this troubled land.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Olympus E-M1 MkII, 40-150mm lens, f4, 1/12800s, ISO 800</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Jakub Rybicki, Poland</p> <p>All four pictures were shot next to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Right next to it there's an entrance to Talmudic school. It is one of the most fascinating places I've ever seen, full of orthodox Jews. There's a lot going on there so I decided to simplify the images by reframing them so there are only silhouettes and walls left (and a chair). You can see young, middle-age and old Jews all dressed according to tradition. A wall of peace in this troubled land.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Olympus E-M1 MkII, 40-150mm lens, f3.5, 1/32000s, ISO 400</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Jakub Rybicki, Poland</p> <p>All four pictures were shot next to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Right next to it there's an entrance to Talmudic school. It is one of the most fascinating places I've ever seen, full of orthodox Jews. There's a lot going on there so I decided to simplify the images by reframing them so there are only silhouettes and walls left (and a chair). You can see young, middle-age and old Jews all dressed according to tradition. A wall of peace in this troubled land.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Olympus E-M1 MkII, 40-150mm lens, f3.5, 1/12800s, ISO 320</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>91</p>	<p>92</p>	<p>93</p>	<p>95</p>

<p>COMMENDED, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO TOM BOURDON, UK</p>				
	<p>COMMENDED, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Tom Bourdon, UK</p> <p>Shukhuti, Georgia</p> <p>The game begins with reverence and tradition. In front of the church, the priest raises the 16-kilogram leather ball, filled with sawdust, sand and throws it into the waiting crowd. Lelo Burti is more than just a game; it's a ritual that unites the 2 entire villages. This heavy, hand-stitched ball symbolizes strength, resilience, and the shared pride of generations who've carried this tradition forward.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony a7iii, 55mm lens, f5, 1/500s, ISO 640</p>	<p>COMMENDED, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Tom Bourdon, UK</p> <p>Shukhuti, Georgia</p> <p>As soon as the ball is thrown, chaos erupts. The crowd surges, pushing, shoving, and shouting, every man determined to gain control. Faces contort with effort, sweat glistens under the midday sun, and the sheer physicality of Lelo Burti comes alive. It's a battle of strength, endurance, and teamwork - a sport where there are no sidelines and very few rules.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony a7iii, 55mm lens, f5, 1/500s, ISO 640</p>	<p>COMMENDED, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Tom Bourdon, UK</p> <p>Shukhuti, Georgia</p> <p>Near the edge of the field, the battle takes a dangerous turn. Players scramble down a steep embankment, refusing to let go of the ball despite the dirt and bruises. Every moment is a fight for control, every stumble a reminder of the game's brutal yet exhilarating nature. Lelo Burti isn't just played—it's survived.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony a7iii, 55mm lens, f5.6, 1/500s, ISO 800</p>	<p>COMMENDED, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Tom Bourdon, UK</p> <p>Shukhuti, Georgia</p> <p>The winning team carries the leather ball triumphantly back to their village. It's not just a celebration - it's a solemn tradition. The ball will be placed next to the grave of the most recently deceased villager, honoring their memory. In Lelo Burti, victory is more than glory; it's about community and reverence for the past.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony a7iii, 55mm lens, f5.6, 1/2000s, ISO 200</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>95</p>	<p>96</p>	<p>97</p>	<p>98</p>

<p>BEST SINGLE IMAGE IN TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO</p> <p>LINDA WRIDE, UK</p>				
<p>Linda is a freelance photographer based in Oxford, UK. Throughout her career she has been involved in design in one form or another, and this manifests itself in her photography with a love of shape, form and pattern, often resulting in abstract images with a graphic quality. Linda's photography goes hand in hand with a passion for travel, both in the UK and abroad. Her interest in people and other cultures has fed into some of the subjects she now explores photographically. The other main influence on her photographic style is a love of art in all its forms, both 2 and 3 dimensional art, as well as the performing arts.</p> <p>Although self-taught, Linda's work has been exhibited widely in the UK and abroad, featured in photography magazines and websites, on social media, and published in the Guardian Weekend Magazine. Her work has also received recognition in a variety of photography competitions, including Travel Photographer of the Year, Wanderlust Magazine Photo of the Year, Landscape Photographer of the Year, Pink Lady Food Photographer of the Year, the Art of Building and the Architectural Photography Awards. She holds several photography distinctions (ARPS, AFIAP, DPAGB) and is a member of SheClicks</p>	<p>WINNER, BEST SINGLE IMAGE IN TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO Linda Wride, UK</p> <p>Avanos, Turkey</p> <p>The age old art of pottery making thrives in the town of Avanaos, in the Cappadocia region of Turkey. The Red River provides the raw material which is turned into pots for practical everyday use by skilled potters, such as Gokhan Ozgul who features in this series.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z 7_2, 224-120mm lens, f4.0, 1/2500s, ISO 1,000</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO: Piper Mackay, USA</p> <p>Baragoi, Northern Kenya</p> <p>A regal portrait of a Turkana girl, elegantly draped in vivid beads that encircle her neck and form a radiant crown. The intricate craftsmanship of her adornments showcases the deep cultural traditions of her community. The colours used are also of significance to the wearer. White - Purity Red - Danger Black - Hardship Orange/Yellow – Hospitality</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z7 converted to Infrared, 70-200mm lens, f4.5, 1/160s, ISO 1600</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO: Vicky Fry, UK</p> <p>South Luangwa Valley, Zambia</p> <p>The South Luangwa Valley offers superb opportunities for close encounters with wildlife. I was staying in a treehouse, and elephants often congregated by the viewing platform. I wanted to get an abstract image of the wonderful patterns and textures in the elephant's ear and had many unsuccessful attempts. On this occasion the light was just right and the elephant obliged by keeping his ears still for a brief moment.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon 5D Mark III, 100-400mm lens, f8, 1/320s, ISO 640</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME PORTFOLIO: Shyjith Onden Cheriyaath, India</p> <p>Dubai, United Arab Emirates</p> <p>In the early morning light at the Dubai Crown Prince Camel Racing Competition, a camel handler is seen guiding his camel onto the racetrack. The striking silhouette created by the backlight emphasizes the bond between the keeper and his camel, casting a powerful image of tradition, strength, and the anticipation of the race. The high-contrast black and white composition draws attention to the outlines, highlighting the elegance of both the man and the animal as they prepare for the day's challenge.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Fujifilm XT-3, 100-400mm lens, f6.4, 1/1600s, ISO 200</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>99</p>	<p>100</p>	<p>101</p>	<p>102</p>

**SPECIAL MENTION, TRAVEL IN MONOCHROME
PORTFOLIO:
THIBAUT GERBALDI, FRANCE**

Pampallacta, Peru

This photograph captures Roccio, surrounded by her alpacas, all gazing towards the viewer, creating a striking sense of unity. By taking the photograph from the same level as my subjects, I aim to seamlessly integrate the viewer into the scene, making them feel like a silent witness to this intimate moment. The image symbolizes the symbiotic relationship between Andean communities and their alpacas—a bond built on mutual reliance. My focus here is not on the folkloric aspect, but on capturing the pride, resilience, and inherent dignity of the farmer. I aim to reveal the deeper values of my subject, highlighting her strength and character that go beyond tradition, and showcasing her unwavering connection to the land and animals.





TECHNICAL DATA





Leica SL2, 24-90mm lens, f3.2, 1/4000s, ISO 200



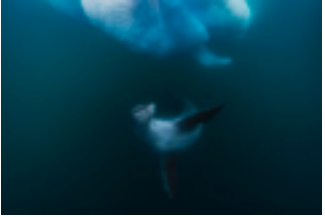
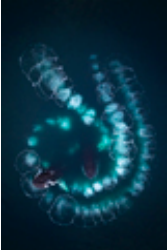


REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER




103

<p>WINNER, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO,</p> <p>JENNY STOCK, UK</p>				
<p>Jenny is a highly-trained Shooting Producer/Director with extensive professional experience gained over twenty years in the television industry. Her specialism is shooting observational documentaries, wildlife programming and format entertainment. She has excellent underwater photography skills and was awarded British Underwater Photographer of the year 2024 – she has a passion for photographing and filming animals and wildlife.</p> <p>In her personal work as an award-winning wildlife photographer, Jenny has honed her technical skills in visual story-telling. Using a variety of cameras, and her own unique creative methods she has achieved awards in high-profile competitions, including European Wildlife Photographer of the Year, Underwater Photographer of the Year, and Wildlife Photographer of the Year. Her animal images have also featured in National Geographic, on the BBC, in UNESCO advertising, in magazines and on billboards (to name just a few locations). To gain this portfolio she has travelled the world solo, organised location schedules with local people, negotiated budgets and solved problems when they arose. Not to mention swam with sharks and crocodiles in the wild!</p>	<p>WINNER, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO, Jenny Stock, UK</p> <p>Jardines de la Reina, Cuba</p> <p>For years I was terrified of crocodiles. Then, like the flip of a switch, I longed to snorkel with one. I watched this hefty beast from the safety of my boat as it swam above the sea grass in the mangroves of Cuba. After plucking up the courage I slipped into the water and approached the six-foot crocodile with my camera in hand. As I moved towards it, it moved towards me. For a brief moment it flipped its tail into a beautiful arch behind its menacing teeth. Exhilarated I took some shots, remaining alert as it brushed right past me.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon 5D Mk IV, 16-35mm lens, f18, 1/125s, ISO 800</p>	<p>WINNER, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO, Jenny Stock, UK</p> <p>Jardines de la Reina, Cuba</p> <p>Close-up macro shot of a crocodile's eye. Once I had attached my macro lens to my camera it was clear that I was going to have to get up-close and personal with this crocodile. Being up close to such a powerful animal will make your heart race. They move incredibly fast and you can't take your eyes off them. Because, for sure, they are watching you.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon 5D Mk IV, 100mm lens, f22, 1/100s, ISO 400</p>	<p>WINNER, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO, Jenny Stock, UK</p> <p>Jardines de la Reina, Cuba</p> <p>Crocodiles have a very low profile above the water line once they are swimming, in order to keep their presence well hidden from their pray. For a photographer trying to achieve a split shot - half above the water, half below - with a crocodile is quite the challenge. I wanted this powerful beast's eye to just pop out above the waterline and had to take many photos like this to eventually achieve this image.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon 5D Mk IV, 16-35mm lens, f2.8, 1/140s, ISO 1600</p>	<p>WINNER, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO, Jenny Stock, UK</p> <p>Jardines de la Reina, Cuba</p> <p>Photographically a crocodile's open mouth seemed like a thrilling place to capture imagery. What is a crocodile without teeth? These reptiles often lose teeth whilst capturing their prey, but as can be seen in my 'snap' this croc has a full set. Crocodiles' teeth are quickly replaced and one crocodile can go through more than 8,000 teeth in a lifetime. As I approached the croc it was unfazed by my presence. It stayed calm, with its mouth slightly agape - they do this to keep cool. Now I had to keep my cool whilst I got close and fired a few shots off at the dangerous end of this powerful beast.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon 5D Mk IV, 100mm lens, f22, 1/100s, ISO 400</p>
<p>SELECT IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>104</p>	<p>105</p>	<p>106</p>	<p>107</p>

<p>RUNNER-UP, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO PASCAL BEAUDENON, FRANCE</p>				
	<p>RUNNER-UP, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO Pascal Beaudenon, France</p> <p>New York City, New York, USA</p> <p>A migratory flight of Canadian geese passing near the Liberty Tower in Manhattan. All the symbolism of this image, of a flight of wild birds, free to move and evolve in the urban environment of one of the largest megacities in the world. The paradox is that New York City has become, over the decades, a place of permanent residence for some of these migratory birds,...</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon D500, 150-600 mm lens, f8, 1/1000s, ISO 640</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO Pascal Beaudenon, France</p> <p>New York City, New York, USA</p> <p>Canada geese have taken up residence throughout the year in New York City and its surroundings. Originally migratory birds, this new behavior, certainly due to past human actions as well as climate change, does not always work in their favor and its detractors are numerous. During their travels, they take among other things the natural routes of the Hudson and the East River, but also frequently fly over the megalopolis in its heart. The idea is to try to bring together two extrinsic worlds through a minimalist aesthetic. The gigantism of the structures flown over by these magnificent wild birds that fly over it and adapt to it with resilience.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon D500, 150-600 mm lens, f8, 1/2000s, ISO 1000</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO Pascal Beaudenon, France</p> <p>New York City, New York, USA</p> <p>I had just left the subway station and was heading to take up position as I have every morning for weeks towards the end of a dock, when suddenly... In a characteristic and announcing chatter, these two Canadian geese emerged from the north and fly over the Hudson River towards Liberty Park, one of the places where they gather peacefully to overfeed on the surrounding lawns. The image is completed by the natural reflection of the sun on the glass facades of the buildings adjoining the docks. A moment captured in 1/1000th of a second by the magic of photography which reveals a vision of osmosis between two worlds.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon D500,150-600 mm lens, f8, 1/1000s, ISO 3200</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO Pascal Beaudenon, France</p> <p>New York City, New York, USA</p> <p>A flight of Canadian geese passing near the grandiose facades of the heart of Manhattan against the backdrop of two emblematic monuments. The spires of St. Paul's Chapel and the futuristic Oculus of the World Trade Center. This image, like that of the migratory flight passing near the Liberty Tower, links us to this wild world that always appears as surprising by its vitality in the occupation of spaces.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon D500, 150-600 mm lens, f11, 1/2000s, ISO 1400</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>108</p>	<p>109</p>	<p>110</p>	<p>111</p>

<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO SCOTT PORTELLI, AUSTRALIA</p>				
	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO Scott Portelli, Australia</p> <p>Antarctica</p> <p>Crabeater seals are the most abundant seal in the Antarctic region and outnumber all other seal species. These large mammals can often be found in large groups in the Antarctic oceans where sea ice and icebergs create a natural platform for these Antarctic residents.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Olympus OM-1, 40-150mm lens, f5.6, 1/1000s, ISO 640</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO Scott Portelli, Australia</p> <p>Antarctica</p> <p>Adelie chicks find refuge in an intricate tunnel system calved into nearby icebergs. Using these passageways to avoid predators, they group together for safety. In the water below, leopard seals patrol the surrounding waters, patiently waiting for the vulnerable penguin chicks to enter the water. While skuas survey the vulnerable chicks from above. At the age of 7 weeks, they are ready to go to sea and will also face the harsh Antarctic elements. The instinct to stick together in groups is key to their survival.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R5, 15-35mm lens, f9, 1/1000s, ISO 200</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO Scott Portelli, Australia</p> <p>Antarctica</p> <p>Antarctica is a very fragile environment with some of the most diverse inhabitants on the planet. Leopard seals are a dominant apex predator in Antarctica and can be seen roaming the frozen oceans in search of food. Although their diet consists primarily of krill, they are known to take on larger prey including penguins towards the end of the polar summer in the southern hemisphere. Being in the presence of such a large prehistoric looking predator is intimidating to say the least, but the nature, curiosity and intelligence of such a unique species shows a different story.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R5, 15-35mm lens, f5.6, 1/250s, ISO 320</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO Scott Portelli, Australia</p> <p>Antarctica</p> <p>Humpback whales spend several months in their Antarctic feeding grounds where they gauge on fat rich krill to ensure their blubber reserves are sufficient for the long migratory journey to their breeding grounds in the tropics. Using a technique called bubble netting they encompass the krill, pushing them towards the centre, before lunge feeding through the middle to effortlessly feed.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mavic 3, Hasselblad lens, f2.8, 1/120s, ISO 800</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>112</p>	<p>113</p>	<p>114</p>	<p>115</p>

<p>COMMENDED, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO PANAGIOTIS DALAGIORGOS, GREECE</p>				
	<p>COMMENDED, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO Panagiotis Dalagiorgos, Greece</p> <p>Sikinos, Greece</p> <p>A backlit shot of an Iris oratoria during sunrise. The sun's reflection on the Aegean Sea is visible in the background, while the mantis in the foreground gives an unusual perspective of what we're used to see in Greek island photos.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony A7, 60mm macro lens, f2.8, 1/2500s, ISO 200</p>	<p>COMMENDED, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO, Panagiotis Dalagiorgos, Greece</p> <p>Servia, Greece</p> <p>A backlit shot of a Mantis religiosa. I drew inspiration from the mythological Erebus, the god of a dark region of the underworld and the personification of darkness.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony A7, 60mm macro lens, f2.8, 1/2000s, ISO 100</p>	<p>COMMENDED, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO, Panagiotis Dalagiorgos, Greece</p> <p>Athens, Greece</p> <p>A backlit shot of a Rivetina balcanica among some plants. I used a diffusion umbrella in my background to make it more uniform and shifted my white balance towards blue to enhance the sense of darkness. I drew inspiration from Chrysostomos Tsaprailis' book 'Pagan Lore of Rural Thessaly'</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony A7, 60mm macro lens, f2.8, 1/4000s, ISO 100</p>	<p>COMMENDED, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO, Panagiotis Dalagiorgos, Greece</p> <p>Polyrracho, Greece</p> <p>A nighttime silhouette shot of a Hierodula tenuidentata. I utilized the streetlights for this shot, keeping a minimal composition with some theatrical and dramatic elements.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony A7, 60mm macro lens, f2.8, 1/125s, ISO 800</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>116</p>	<p>117</p>	<p>118</p>	<p>119</p>

<p>BEST SINGLE IMAGE IN WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO WINNER JOSHUA HOLKO, AUSTRALIA</p>				
<p>Joshua Holko is a full-time professional Nature photographer with over 30 years' experience. Specialising in the Polar regions of the globe, his work celebrates the incredible wildlife and landscapes found at the world's extreme latitudes. A passionate photographer, teacher and adventurer, Joshua runs workshops for other photographers to some of the most remote and beautiful places on earth.</p>	<p>WINNER, BEST SINGLE IMAGE IN WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO Joshua Holko, Australia</p> <p>Steppe Region of Eastern Mongolia</p> <p>A Pallas cat lies flat in the snow at first light, their method for camouflage. The cat is covered in hoar frost in the freezing -35° Celsius morning temperature in this region of Mongolia in winter and was likely out hunting all night.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon R3, 600mm lens, f8, 1/640s, ISO 800</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO: Scott Portelli, Australia</p> <p>Antarctica</p> <p>Humpback whales spend several months in their Antarctic feeding grounds where they gauge on fat rich krill to ensure their blubber reserves are sufficient for the long migratory journey to their breeding grounds in the tropics. Using a technique called bubble netting they encompass the krill, pushing them towards the centre, before lunge feeding through the middle to effortlessly feed.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mavic 3, Hasselblad lens, f2.8, 1/120s, ISO 800</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO: Doron Talmi, Israel</p> <p>Agamon Hula park and reserve, Upper Galilee, Israel</p> <p>The Hula marsh reserve and park (AKA 'Agamon') in northern Israel are an enjoyable stop for a huge gathering - tens of thousands of Common Cranes (Grus grus) on their winter migration from Europe to Africa. This image was captured on a cold, foggy, early January morning from a mobile tractor-towed hide and slow shutter speeds were used to blur motion. Here, as the mobile hide is approaching the cranes a huge commotion begins when they all start running and flying away.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon R6, 100-400mm lens, f36, 1/5s, ISO 200</p>	<p>SPECIAL MENTION, WILDLIFE, NATURE & UNDERWATER PORTFOLIO: Scott Portelli, Australia</p> <p>Antarctica</p> <p>Antarctica is a very fragile environment with some of the most diverse inhabitants on the planet. Leopard seals are a dominant apex predator in Antarctica and can be seen roaming the frozen oceans in search of food. Although their diet consists primarily of krill, they are known to take on larger prey including penguins towards the end of the polar summer in the southern hemisphere. Being in the presence of such a large prehistoric looking predator is intimidating to say the least, but the nature, curiosity and intelligence of such a unique species shows a different story.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R5, 15-35mm lens, f5.6, 1/250s, ISO 320</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>120</p>	<p>121</p>	<p>122</p>	<p>123</p>



**SPECIAL MENTION
WILDLIFE, NATURE &
UNDERWATER
PORTFOLIO:
Jia Chen, Canada**

Ontario, Canada

In winter, snowy owls travel from the Arctic to southern Ontario, Canada, gliding over snowy fields as they hunt for voles.

TECHNICAL DATA
Sony ILCE-1, 600mm lens,
f5.6, 1/2500s, ISO 800.

**SPECIAL MENTION
WILDLIFE, NATURE &
UNDERWATER
PORTFOLIO:
Mostahfiz Gani, UK**

**Richmond Park, Surrey,
England**





Most of the photographers in Richmond Park were focussing on the big rutting stags. I noticed the sunbeams streaming through a wooded glade. I was sincerely hoping that a deer would be amongst the gorgeous light. I was in luck, a group of young stags had wandered into the glade. However, the fog was so dense, the lens found it difficult to focus, but I persevered and managed to take the shot.

TECHNICAL DATA
Fujifilm XHT2, 200mm lens,
f 2.8, 1/2000s, ISO 160

REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER

124

125

<p>ONE SHOT: CITIES, TOWNS, STREETS WINNER: MATTHEW DESANTIS, USA</p>				
<p>Matt is one of Bhutan’s longest residing non-natives, with a relationship to Bhutan that dates back to his youth. He is the founder of MyBhutan, Bhutan’s boutique luxury travel designer and outfitter, and a technology company, Beyul Labs, that provides Bhutan’s first online payments platform. He also created Sangwa Camp — featured in TIME’s 2024 World’s Greatest Places — a collection of hidden luxury tented camps, privately arranged in the deepest and most secluded regions of Bhutan. Matt and his team found, fund, and develop various nonprofit projects. These have included a historic national preservation initiative to document, digitize, and archive Bhutan’s tangible cultural art and religious history, a multi-district community forest afforestation project, the introduction of baseball and its recognition as a national sport, and the founding of The Explorers Club Bhutan Chapter, which Matt chairs.</p> <p>Unrelated to his work, Matt serves as the U.S. State Department Warden of Bhutan. An avid explorer himself, Matt has surveyed some of the least explored regions of the Himalayas. His expeditions have reached beyond Bhutan as well. In 2019, Matt was part of the paleontology expedition team honored with the Citation of Merit from the Explorers Club for their work in the Gobi Desert.</p>	<p>WINNER, ONE SHOT: CITIES, TOWNS, STREETS Matthew DeSantis, USA</p> <p>Thimphu, Bhutan</p> <p>Against the majestic Buddha Dordenna Statue in Thimphu, Bhutanese teens play street baseball, blending tradition and modernity in their gho attire. This reflects Bhutan's decade-long baseball journey, inspired by HRH Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck’s vision to nurture a sports culture. This game on concrete echoes their humble beginnings, symbolizing resilience and hope for baseball’s future in Bhutan, while showcasing the Kingdom’s unique harmony of heritage and progress.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony Alpha 7, 10-18mm lens, f4, 1/250s, ISO 160</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, ONE SHOT: CITIES, TOWNS, STREETS Shyjith Onden Cheryyath, India</p> <p>Dubai, United Arab Emirates</p> <p>The Aweer Market Bridge stands as one of Dubai's most vital lifelines, constantly buzzing with relentless activity. Day and night, it serves as the artery for countless laborers who rely on it to cross the iconic Sheikh Zayed Road, navigating their daily routines. This bridge never sleeps - 24/7 it's alive with the hum of cyclists and pedestrians. A perfect embodiment of Dubai's fast-paced lifestyle, always on the move, always in motion — an unyielding testament to the city's unstoppable energy.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R5, 100-400mm lens, f14, 1/1600s, ISO 400</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, ONE SHOT: CITIES, TOWNS, STREETS Dinos Michail, Greece</p> <p>Al Hajarayn, Yemen</p> <p>A group of girls in black clothes return home after school in Al Hajarayn, Yemen. Although infant mortality is high, children in Yemen are culturally, socially and religiously valued.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon D200, 18-200 mm lens, f6.7, 1/350s, ISO 100</p>	<p>COMMENDED, ONE SHOT: CITIES, TOWNS, STREETS Tuan Nguyen Tan, Vietnam</p> <p>Tam Tien, Quang Nam, Vietnam</p> <p>Fishermen busily bring fish ashore to sell to traders at Tam Tien fish market, Quang Nam, Vietnam.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Mavic 3pro, 24mm lens, f3.5, 2s, ISO 100</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>126</p>	<p>127</p>	<p>128</p>	<p>129</p>



COMMENDED, CITIES,
TOWNS, STREETS
Alain Schroeder, Belgium



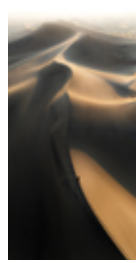

Manhattan, New York City,
USA





In the meatpacking district a
mural collides with a scene of
daily life.


TECHNICAL DATA
Fujifilm x-Pro1, 18mm lens,
f5.6, 1/250s, ISO 800
xpro1, 18mm, 5,6, 1/250, 800




REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER



130




<p>ONE SHOT: ESCAPE WINNER, NGAR SHUN VICTOR WONG, HONG KONG</p>				
<p>Ngar is a private practicing Ear, Nose & Throat surgeon in Hong Kong. He embarked on his photography journey in 2017 with a passion for capturing the world through his lens. Nature and landscape photography quickly became favourites, as he finds deep inspiration in the serene beauty of the natural world. This fascination led him to delve into night astrophotography, and more recently he has chosen to explore the stories woven into human cultures. "Each photograph I take becomes a narrative, a glimpse into the lives and traditions of people from different backgrounds, capturing the essence of their journeys. Through my lens, I aim to celebrate both the beauty of nature and the richness of human experience, creating a body of work that resonates with viewers on multiple levels."</p>	<p>WINNER: ONE SHOT: ESCAPE Ngar Shun Victor Wong, Hong Kong</p> <p>Sveti Tomaz, Slovenia</p> <p>In this serene paradise, a quaint church perches atop a gentle hill, surrounded by delicate trees draped in soft snow. The tranquil atmosphere, illuminated by a gentle glow, invites introspection. Wisps of mist weave through the landscape, creating a dreamlike quality that embodies peace and timeless beauty.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon R5, 100-400mm lens, f11, 5s, ISO 50</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, ONE SHOT: ESCAPE Ignacio Palacios, Spain/Australia</p> <p>San Pedro de Atacama, Chile</p> <p>Aerial view of Moon Valley area, San Pedro de Atacama, Atacama desert, Chile.</p> <p>Mavic 2 pro, 10.3mm lens f 2.8, 1/30s, ISO 160</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED, ONE SHOT: ESCAPE Matt Jacob, UK</p> <p>Death Valley, California, USA</p> <p>A moment of silence, in the middle of nowhere, not a sound, not a peep, not even a rustle of wind. Even the drone was high enough I couldn't hear it! The purest moment of escapism in one of the most oppressive environments and areas of the land. I stand in the photo in awe, mindful of this special moment to myself, before I returned to the world of noise.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Mini 4 Pro, 24mm lens, f1.7, 1/800s, ISO 800</p>	<p>COMMENDED, ONE SHOT: ESCAPE Marsel van Oosten, Netherlands</p> <p>Socotra, Yemen</p> <p>The dragon blood tree is native to the Socotra archipelago, part of Yemen, located in the Arabian Sea. It is named after its dark red resin, known as "dragon's blood". Overgrazing by goats and climate change are the main threats to these trees. The goats eat all the young saplings so no new trees can grow on the island. The existing trees are often hundreds of years old and get much moisture from the mist and fog. Climate change has caused the air to dry, causing trees to die. The locals drill holes in the trees to get the resin out, weakening them and causing them to snap during the many storms that hit the island.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon D850, 14-24mm lens, f2.8, 2.5s, ISO 3200</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>131</p>	<p>132</p>	<p>133</p>	<p>134</p>

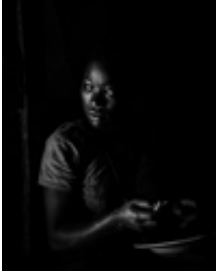

<p>ONE SHOT: FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS WINNER JO KEARNEY, UK</p>				
<p>Jo Kearney is a video journalist/photographer working for broadcasters such as the BBC and Al Jazeera and the international press agency Associated Press. She has worked all over the world covering news, features and making documentaries.</p> <p>Jo has exhibited her photos internationally and won the International Portrait Photographer environmental category in 2023 and Food Photographer of the Year "Politics of Food" category in 2024; she has been shortlisted in Travel Photographer of the Year 3 times and runner-up for the Royal Photographic Society's Joan Wakelin Bursary competition. She recently achieved her Associate distinction with the Royal Photographic Society.</p>	<p>WINNER, ONE SHOT: FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS Jo Kearney, UK</p> <p>Rumbur, Kalash Valleys, near Chitral, Pakistan</p> <p>Girls celebrate during 'Chilam Joshi,' also known as the Kalash Spring Festival. The Kalash people are always exotically dressed but during the festival they wear more outlandish headdresses including feathers and embroidered dresses and beads. The Kalash people believe that Chilam Joshi brings about the balance of nature and ensures the fertility of the land and so during the festival, the Kalash people perform rituals to honor their gods and goddesses. The festival provides an opportunity for the community to come together, strengthen social bonds, and pass on cultural traditions to younger generations.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z6, 24-70mm lens, f2.8, 1/160s, ISO 900</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, ONE SHOT: FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS Tittu Shaji Thomas, India</p> <p>Nandagaon, Uttar Pradesh Mathura, India</p> <p>This vibrant moment from the Holi festival in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, reflects the essence of this celebration. Among a sea of red, a striking burst of yellow powder fills the air, symbolizing unrestrained joy and energy. Holi is more than colours it's about unity, love, and releasing inhibitions. As people throw colours, laughter mixes with happy aggression, amplifying the excitement. This intensity fosters bonds, creating a communal celebration where emotions flow freely. Holi is not just a festival but a celebration of life, embracing its chaos and beauty, and bringing people together in a vivid explosion of colour and emotion.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Fujifilm X-T3, 16-55mm lens, f10, 1/250s, ISO 300</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED. ONE SHOT: FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS Athanasios Maloukos, Greece</p> <p>Kano emirate, north Nigeria</p> <p>During the Blacksmith ceremony 'Wasan Maqera' the blacksmiths dance to the drum's rhythm and display their special skills in fire handling. They heat iron until it is glowing red, then play with it in their hands and against their bodies, heads and mouths, but are not burnt by it. They believe to have a secret antidote which prevents them from being burnt by fire. They are fully protected against sharp and pointed instruments by charms.</p> <p>Most of these traditional activities have been eliminated by Islamic teachings, although some are still practiced in remote areas of the emirate.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R5, 15-35mm lens, f4, 1/30s, ISO 5000</p>	<p>COMMENDED, ONE SHOT: FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS Yan Li, China</p> <p>Meghalaya Hills, Bangladesh</p> <p>Bangladeshi farmers celebrate their harvest along the river with boats filled with colourful, freshly harvested vegetables, creating a lively tapestry of culture and tradition. The gathering highlights the vibrant spirit of community and the joy of the season's bounty.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Hasselblad L2D-20c, 24mm lens, f5.6, 1/320s, ISO-200</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>135</p>	<p>136</p>	<p>137</p>	<p>138</p>




<p>ONE SHOT: WOMEN IN WORLD CULTURE</p> <p>ERHAN CORAL, TURKEY</p>				
<p>Erhan considers himself a lifelong student of photography. What started as a simple curiosity quickly grew into a way to connect with the world around him. He's always been fascinated by the interplay of light, shadow, and emotion, and photography gives him a way to explore these elements while telling stories.</p> <p>He's particularly drawn to documenting everyday life, those quiet, often overlooked moments that reveal so much about who we are. He believes every place and person has a unique story to tell, and he feels privileged to capture even a small part of it.</p> <p>For Ethan, photography is a quiet, ongoing journey, and he's grateful for every step along the way.</p>	<p>WINNER, ONE SHOT: WOMEN IN WORLD CULTURE Erhan Coral, Turkey</p> <p>Oaxaca, Mexico</p> <p>The Día de los Muertos in Oaxaca, Mexico is a deeply spiritual and culturally rich celebration of life and death. The elderly woman sits contemplatively among the graves adorned with bright orange marigolds, candles, and personal mementos. Her expression reflects a mixture of sorrow and peace, perhaps as she communes with the spirits of her loved ones. The warm glow of candlelight illuminates the scene, creating a sacred and intimate atmosphere.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony ILCE-7RM2, 28-70mm lens, f2.8, 1/8s, ISO 1600</p>	<p>RUNNER-UP, ONE SHOT: WOMEN IN WORLD CULTURE Jo Kearney, UK</p> <p>Rumbur, Kalash Valleys, near Chitral, Pakistan</p> <p>I took this photograph the day before the Chilam Joshi festival so the children were wearing their festival clothes to school. These included vibrant colours and headdresses with feathers. The children weren't in the mood for studying as they were excited by the festival which is characterised by vibrant and colourful traditional clothing, music, and dances.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon Z6, 24-70mm lens, f2.8, 1/160s, ISO 6400</p>	<p>HIGHLY COMMENDED. ONE SHOT: WOMEN IN WORLD CULTURE Priska Seisenbacher, Austria</p> <p>Passu, Upper Hunza Valley, Pakistan</p> <p>In most parts of Pakistan it would be unthinkable that girls wear jerseys and play football in public. But for the Wakhi women in the remote Karakoram Mountains it is a given. Soccer brings joy to the girls, gives them self-confidence and has become part of everyday life. In this remote, mountainous area on the border with Afghanistan, women have freedoms that are unthinkable in many parts of the country.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS 5D Mark III, 24-70mm lens, f4, 1/800s, ISO 500</p>	<p>COMMENDED, ONE SHOT: WOMEN IN WORLD CULTURE Partha Pratim Roy, India</p> <p>Kabupaten Banyuwangi, Jawa Timur, East Java, Indonesia</p> <p>An elderly woman prepares a feast for her family. Morning light streams through the bamboo roof, casting patterns on the earthen floor as she stirs a bubbling pot over a wood-fired stove. Her food embodies her culture, uniting her family in love and gratitude. Across the world, women like her—of every ethnicity and background—stand as silent architects of their communities, weaving life's fabric with devotion.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R5, 16-35mm lens, f5.6, 1/50s, ISO 200</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>	<p>130</p>	<p>140</p>	<p>141</p>	<p>142</p>


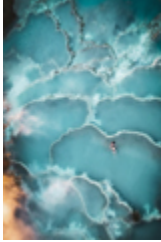

RISING TALENT				
WINNER, RISING TALENT FLORIAN KRIECHBAUMER, GERMANY				
<p>Florian is a Dubai-based business executive who developed a passion for photography over the last 15 years. He likes to combine the artistic and technical aspects of the domain and enjoys applying his creativity across a broad spectrum of styles rather than a single specialization. Florian's work ranges from travel and documentary to cityscape, aerial, astro, and deep sky photography, as well as timelapse films, always looking to capture compositions not yet seen before.</p>		<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Florian Kriechbaumer, Germany</p> <p>Dubai, UAE</p> <p>A panoramic view of Downtown Dubai, Business Bay, and the Sheikh Zayed Road skyline. The beautiful blue hues of the morning light slowly turn orange and yellow from the rising sun in the east, illuminating the world's tallest building while thick fog rolling in from the desert covers the ground, creating the illusion of a city in the clouds. While many images of this rare phenomenon exist by now, I've always been looking for a new angle and composition - through persistence and patience I've been able to achieve this goal through a panoramic photo from the roof of a skyscraper that's a little bit set back from the rest of the skyline.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Olympus E-M1 III, 10-25mm lens, f5, 1/3s, ISO 200</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Florian Kriechbaumer, Germany</p> <p>Dubai, UAE</p> <p>A camel herder looks back as he leads his camels to the raceTrack during Dubai's Al Marmoon Camel Race Festival.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Olympus OM1, 40-150mm lens, f8, 1/250s, ISO 200</p>	<p>F WINNER, RISING TALENT lorian Kriechbaumer, Germany</p> <p>Tam Tien Fish Market, Vietnam</p> <p>Early morning beach activity on central Vietnam's coastline, as the fishermen return with their catch using small coracle boats, while the women sort, negotiate, and sell on the shores.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA FC 8282, FC lens, f1.7, ISO 100</p>
REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER		143	144	145


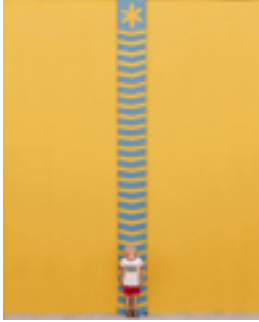

<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT KAZ ROLLISON, UK</p>				
<p>Kaz Rollison is a British amateur photographer based in Tyneside. She developed her love of travelling as a teenager and it was whilst travelling that a friend showed her his SLR camera. She was hooked.</p> <p>She received her first SLR camera for her 21st birthday. It became her companion for travels whilst at medical school and trips and trails whilst working overseas as a junior doctor. Then real life caught up with her and parental responsibilities and a busy life as a paediatrician relegated her camera to capturing family events and holidays.</p> <p>Five years ago, she decided to retire early so that she could travel more and redevelop her photography skills. She now spends her time reading the books, watching the online tutorials and getting out and about with her camera whenever she can.</p> <p>She enjoys all genres of photography, but travel photography is her calling. To her there is no greater pleasure than exploring a new place and seeing it through the lens of her camera. She believes strongly in the power of visual storytelling and that, although our screens may appear to be saturated with images, there are still many more stories to be told.</p>		<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Kaz Rollison, UK</p> <p>Kalta Minor Minaret, Itchan Kala, Khiva, Uzbekistan</p> <p>In the low morning light, the streets of Itchan Kala, the Old Town of Khiva, glow with reflections from the glazed tiles covering the many minarets and madrasahs. This view showcases the different patterns of tiling seen across the city and highlights the striking contrast in colours between the turquoise, cobalt blue and white tiles and the sand coloured bricks. On the left stands the magnificent Kalta Minor Minaret, the only Khiva minaret to be entirely covered in glazed tiles. The wooden bridge leads to the Muhammad Amin Khan Madrasa, its arched gate bordered by intricate blue, white and turquoise mosaic patterns.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Lumix G9 II, 14 - 140 mm lens, f8, 1/200s, ISO 100</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Kaz Rollison, UK</p> <p>Chorsu Bazaar, Tashkent, Uzbekistan</p> <p>Chorsu Bazaar dates back to the Middle Ages when it was one of the important destinations on the Silk Road. A wide variety of food is for sale. We were wandering through one of the many passageways around lunch time, when we passed this group of women sitting chatting, surrounded by bags of onions and potatoes. On our travels through Uzbekistan I had noticed several groups of women sitting chatting together in their work breaks, often in quite unusual places - next to flower beds where they had been gardening or on the kerbs of streets that they had been cleaning. This was probably the most unusual of all.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Lumix G9 II, 42.5mm lens, f4.5, 1/50s, ISO 200</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Kaz Rollison, UK</p> <p>Hotel Ideal, Samarkand, Uzbekistan</p> <p>This is Halva - a traditional Uzbek delicacy. It is sold in many shops and cafes and eaten regularly throughout Uzbekistan, often with a cup of tea. I had been trying to find some confectionery to photograph whilst in Uzbekistan as it is an integral part of the country's culture. We were served this sliced halva one morning for our breakfast in Samarkand. Luckily the restaurant was on the roof of the hotel, the early morning light coming through the large windows, so I was able to capture this image showing the concentric rings of brown sugar and the colourful mix of nuts and then to enjoy the halva with my cup of coffee.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Lumix G9 II, 42.5mm lens, f9, 1/50s, ISO 400</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>		<p>146</p>	<p>147</p>	<p>148</p>

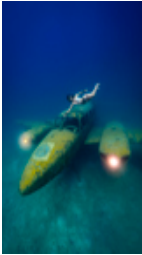
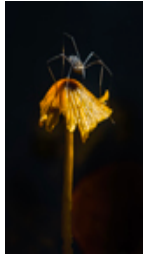

<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT DMYTRO GESHENGORIN, GERMANY</p>				
<p>Dmytro Geshengorin is a street and wildlife photographer from Dortmund, Germany, and he has recently also ventured into fine art photography. He bought his first camera during the first Covid lockdown in 2020 and has been hooked ever since.</p>		<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Dmytro Geshengorin, Germany</p> <p>Minden, Germany</p> <p>Lying flat on the ground and waiting for the deer to take a look at me I heard a pheasant's call, saw the deer looking into the call's direction and was quick enough to press the shutter button when I saw the bird flying across the path. This male pheasant being watched by a roe deer in flight reminds me of the legendary phoenix due to the sun rays illuminating its tailfeathers.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony A7III, 200-600mm lens, f6.3, 1/640s, ISO 500</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Dmytro Geshengorin, Germany</p> <p>Pantanal, Brazil</p> <p>The jaguar rushed for the caiman crossing the river and getting hold of her prey before it could escape into deeper water. After a short but intense fight, the big cat dragged the caiman onto the bank, killing it by biting through its throat as shown in the image. To me, this moment looks like the jaguar is embracing and kissing its prey - an act of imaginary tenderness that will cost the big reptile its life.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony A7R5, 200-600mm lens, f11, 1/640s, ISO 800</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Dmytro Geshengorin, Germany</p> <p>Duesseldorf, Germany</p> <p>One day, waiting for a train in a city close to the one I live in, I noticed that the opposite platform looked like a theatre stage with all the commuters having arranged themselves perfectly for a brief moment and I quickly took the shot. This is the beauty of photography. No great travel is needed to make a great photograph; some luck and an awareness of one's surroundings are enough.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony A7III, 28-75MM lens, f8, 1/125s, ISO 2000</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>		<p>149</p>	<p>150</p>	<p>151</p>




<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT THIBAUT GERBALDI, FRANCE</p>				
<p>As an avid traveller, Thibault Gerbaldi was drawn to the diverse cultures and landscapes he encountered, leading him to use photography as a means of documenting these experiences. It offered a creative escape from his work in macro econometrics and life as a parent. During the COVID lockdowns, after a trip to Ethiopia, he had the opportunity to self-publish his first book. Subsequent travels to Namibia and beyond inspired more self-published books and his first solo exhibition at Leica Miami, followed by exhibitions in Los Angeles, Venice, and Paris in 2024. Through his photography, he aims to explore the interplay between the impermanence of nature and the resilience of human cultures, often in harsh environments such as Greenland, Iceland, and Namibia. His work contrasts fragile landscapes with the strength of marginalized communities, like the Andean alpaca farmers, Mongolian eagle hunters, and Himba people, showcasing their enduring strength against external pressures. In 2019, Thibault joined The Forgotten International's board, using his work to support charitable causes. Through the sale of prints and books, he hopes to raise awareness and contribute to projects that support communities in need.</p>		<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Thibault Gerbaldi, France</p> <p>Jinka region, Ethiopia</p> <p>In a remote Ethiopian village without electricity, life unfolds under the natural light that guides daily activities, emphasizing a culture where life, work, and socialising predominantly occur between sunrise and sunset. Early in the morning, we shared breakfast with a local family. I was captivated by how the light entering the hut through a distinctive opening to the outside world illuminated the face of this beautiful Ethiopian woman.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Leica SL2, 50mm lens, f2.8, 1/50s, ISO 400</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Thibault Gerbaldi, France</p> <p>Maras, Peru</p> <p>In Peru's Maras Salt Mines, this photo captures the resilience of local workers. Amidst the vibrant salt pools' orange hues, they toil in the mountainside's intricate veins, extracting nature's precious crystals. The image showcases both the breathtaking beauty of the landscape and the silent dedication of those who labor to extract the salt of the earth, illustrating the enduring human spirit in high-altitude rural communities.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Leica SL2, 24-90mm lens, f6.3, 1/2500s, ISO 200</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Thibault Gerbaldi, France</p> <p>Pampallacta, Peru</p> <p>In the Andean mountains of Peru, Inca traditions form an integral part of the culture and daily life of its people. I was deeply moved by the cultural reverence demonstrated by the family I lived with towards their customs and ancestral past. A profound sense of community permeated every aspect of life there. The use of embroidery is not just decorative; it is a vibrant expression of the rich heritage and traditions passed down through generations. These intricate designs often carry symbolic significance, representing elements of nature, history, or spirituality that hold deep importance for the community.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Leica SL2, 24-90mm lens, f4.5, 1/4000s, ISO 200</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>		<p>152</p>	<p>153</p>	<p>154</p>




<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT GILBERTO COSTA, PORTUGAL</p>				
<p>Gilberto Costa was born in Luanda, Angola, and since the age of 4 he has lived in Portugal. Professionally, he works as a civil engineer, a job which has taken him to many places around the world. He travels whenever he can, and he's always taking photos of those trips. Because "there's no travel without photos."</p> <p>When he was a child his parents gave him a Reader's Digest globes, which came with a book describing the main places in the world, and which was equipped with a locating mechanism that shone a spotlight on the point where one manually entered the coordinates provided in the book. That was when he really started to travel, virtually from the comfort of his childhood bedroom. Later, as a teenager, he saw the birth of his first nephew and, to record the child's growth, he decided to start photographing. Gilberto quickly combined his two passions, travel and photography, and, taking advantage of opportunities both in my personal and professional life, he started collecting what he calls 'the photography trilogy' of places, people and nature (for him, the true essence of travel photography).</p>		<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Gilberto Costa, Portugal</p> <p>Volcan El Fuego, Antigua, Guatemala</p> <p>To capture this photo of an eruption, I had to spend a cold and windy night on the adjacent mountain of Acatenango. The conditions for shooting were hard, the wind was blowing extremely strong and I even had to wear gloves while adjusting the camera settings, the focus and the framing of the image. Eventually, I managed to take some pictures worth showing. This, I believe, is one of those. It looks like a fireworks show, but in this case completely natural and without a single human intervention.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon 5D Mark IV, 70-200 mm lens, f8, 3.2s, ISO 1600</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Gilberto Costa, Portugal</p> <p>Bekopaka, Madagascar</p> <p>The Manabolo River in Madagascar, has several caves on its limestone banks. When we visited one of these caves I noticed the unique texture of the entrance ceiling, which almost looked like a reflection of the sand floor. I stood there trying to capture these textures when one of the canoe drivers inattentively placed himself in the middle of the scene, posing for me completely unnoticed. I took advantage of the moment and added the elegant figure of the man to the stone and sand textures, with the boats and the river in the background.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony ILCE-7RM3, 16-35 mm lens, f9, 1/30s, ISO 250</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Gilberto Costa, Portugal</p> <p>Grand Central Station, New York, USA</p> <p>When contemplating the grandeur of the Grand Central Terminal, and the incessant rhythm of passengers leaving and entering the station, I had the idea of capturing this movement in the immensity of the main hall. Using as a tripod one of the stair walls, I took some photos with a slow shutter speed to capture the movement. This image stood out from the others because right in the middle of the terminal, a stranger remained static, looking at his cell phone, while the other passersby walked around and left their blurred trail in the shot.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Olympus E-3, 12-60 mm lens, f8, 2s, ISO 100</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>		<p>155</p>	<p>156</p>	<p>157</p>


<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT AGNIESZKA WIECZOREK, POLAND</p>				
<p>Agnieszka Wieczorek describes herself as “a dog lover, life enjoyer, and a photographer, among other things.” She believes that photos are something more than just seconds frozen in time. They are memories, struggles, or moments of happiness, personal and the most intimate treasures. You can look back to cherish them, remember them, but most importantly, pass them on to new generations.</p> <p>She started her photography journey some years ago, but is now looking to turn professional this year. Previously, she has worked as a cabin crew, fitness instructor, and in a travel agency.</p>		<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Agnieszka Wieczorek, Poland</p> <p>Kyoto, Japan</p> <p>Walking around Gion in Kyoto, I was unlucky and did not see any Geiko (so-called Geisha). In 1920, it there was an estimated 90,000 geishas in Japan, nowadays this number has decreased to several hundred. There is a high probability that the traditional work of a Geisha will disappear or turn into a tourist attraction. During the night walk, a Japanese man whispered to me that the taxi driver was waiting for a real Geiko. I quickly changed the lens and selected the settings, and literally had seconds to do so.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon D750, 85mm lens, f2.2, 1/13a, ISO 2500</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Agnieszka Wieczorek, Poland</p> <p>Cascades di Mulino, Saturnia, Tuscany, Italy</p> <p>The famous Cascades di Mulino in Saturnia is a natural and unique place to visit in Italy. The thermal springs are located in Tuscany. As my partner and I like places just for ourselves, we went there in winter, at sunrise, to fully experience the tranquil atmosphere. We were there alone for the whole morning. The drone perspective shows the uniqueness of the place.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA DJI Air 2s, 22mm lens, f2.8, 1/180s, ISO 100</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Agnieszka Wieczorek, Poland</p> <p>Fagradasfjall, Iceland</p> <p>The Fagradasfjall eruption was the hottest spot in Europe in 2021. I'm not just talking about the heat but about the crowds. It was the number one attraction that people visited in Iceland. In the photo, a brave photographer takes a picture of the fresh river of lava.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Nikon D850, 70-200 mm lens, f6.3, 1/200s, ISO 320</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>		<p>158</p>	<p>159</p>	<p>160</p>

<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT JO MARTINDALE, UK</p>				
<p>Jo is a UK-born scientist and passionate non-professional photographer who has explored over 60 countries, always with a camera in hand. Her journey into photography took a deeper turn after the birth of her two children, sparking a renewed sense of wonder and creativity.</p> <p>Now, Jo combines her love for travel and her children, experiencing the world anew through their eyes. Each journey becomes an opportunity to capture the magic of exploration while introducing a fresh, childlike perspective. From bustling cities to remote landscapes, her photographs tell stories of connection, adventure, and discovery.</p> <p>Together with her children, Jo continues to document the beauty, colours and humanity of the world - one journey and one photograph at a time.</p>		<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Jo Martindale, UK</p> <p>Battersea Power Station, Battersea, London, UK</p> <p>As soon as I saw the light streaming in the majestic windows of the old turbine hall at Battersea Power Station I knew I had to capture it, and that it would be perfect in black & white. Making this image was an exercise in patience as I waited for a moment with no other passersby, and I could include only my daughter in the scene and incorporate a sense of scale.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon R6, 24-70mm lens, f2.8, 1/2000s, ISO 100</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Jo Martindale, UK</p> <p>Oxman Cenote, Valladolid, Yucatan, Mexico</p> <p>I was initially drawn to the beautiful yellow of this wall and the patterns. My son thought that it looked like a zip fastener, and I couldn't resist documenting him interacting with the space. I had a wideangle lens on my camera and this enabled me to capture the scale of the wall against his small frame.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon R6, 20mm lens, f3.5, 1/200s, ISO 100</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Jo Martindale, UK</p> <p>South Kensington Tube Station, London UK</p> <p>My son found the noise of the tube stations overwhelming and I wanted to document this stage of his life, a small boy in a chaotic noisy tube station. I waited for an incoming train and shot with a slow shutter speed to include movement, knowing he would cover his ears to convey the sense of noise. The primary colours running throughout both the scene and his outfit was an added bonus.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon R6, 24mm lens, f5, 1/6s, ISO 100</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>		<p>161</p>	<p>162</p>	<p>163</p>

<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT KHAICHUIN SIM, MALAYSIA</p>				
<p>Khaichuin Sim is a passionate photographer with a deep love for capturing the beauty of both land and underwater worlds. His travels have taken him across more than 60 countries on six continents, allowing him to document diverse landscapes, wildlife, and cultures. Along the way, he's been fortunate to have his work featured in publications like BBC, Animal Planet, Lonely Planet, and National Geographic. More than recognition, photography is his way of sharing the wonder of our planet and inspiring others to explore and appreciate its beauty.</p>		<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Khaichuin Sim, Malaysia</p> <p>Lang Tengah Island, Malaysia</p> <p>Beneath the depths of Malaysia's azure waters, a freediver gracefully clings to the roof of the airplane wreck, now adorned with two brilliant lights that cast an ethereal glow in the deep sea darkness. The freediver's presence adds a human element to the scene, emphasizing the spirit of exploration and discovery that drives us to unearth the beauty of the underwater world.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony ILCE-7RM4 Sony FE 12-24mm F4 G 8 1/125 250</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Khaichuin Sim, Malaysia</p> <p>Danum Valley, Sabah, Malaysia</p> <p>A delicate spider perches majestically atop a golden mushroom, its long legs poised in a display of elegance and control. The dark background contrasts sharply with the illuminated subject, highlighting the intricate details of both spider and mushroom. This image captures the often-overlooked beauty of small creatures and their habitats, showcasing the fascinating interplay between light and shadow in the natural world. It invites viewers to appreciate the complexity and wonder of even the tiniest inhabitants of our planet.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony ILCE-7M4, 90mm acro lens, f8, 1/250s, ISO 6400</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Khaichuin Sim, Malaysia</p> <p>Sipadan Island, Malaysia</p> <p>My wife is a skilled freediver and, when we visited the Sipadan Island of Malaysia, I dived under the water and waited her to dive towards the middle of the jackfish repeatedly, until I got this beautiful shot of her surrounded with storm of jackfish.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Sony ILCE-7RM4, 12-24mm lens, f13 1/250s, ISO 400</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>		<p>164</p>	<p>165</p>	<p>166</p>

<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT SOFIA BROGI, ITALY</p>				
<p>Originally from Florence, Italy, Sofia Brogi now lives in Milan, where I graduated with a degree in Cinema. Sofia has been passionate about photography since she was 8 years old, when her parents gave me her first small Canon camera. She has pursued this passion on her own, specialising in travel photography, which has always been her dream job.</p> <p>“For me, photography means connection, energy, emotion, and bonding. Photography has always been my ‘beyond’ — beyond life, moments, stories, and colours. It represents my love for travel and for a world that still has so much to reveal. It is the art that can unite two subjects, creating something beautiful and immortal.</p> <p>“Thanks to photography, I’ve learned to observe, to be patient, to be creative, and to always push myself further. Now, I see the world as if I were behind a lens; every person, place, and moment is a symbol of reflection and inspiration. My great, immense, giant dream is to connect people through my art, and to help them discover that beyond their comfort zone, there is a wonderful world that deserves to be seen and loved. I truly hope that the energy of colours, places, and my visions can reach as many eyes as possible.”</p>		<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Sofia Brogi, Italy</p> <p>Sarnath, India</p> <p>This is Gunja, a child who knows only her first name, unaware of her age or her surname. Like many children in India, her role is clear: to beg. Gunja lives with her mother, a woman forced to live on the streets and beg beneath a tarpaulin. The young mother kept her four daughters close, like a fragile suit of armour, her eyes filled with hope and gratitude. Gunja, for me, is India: a symbol of the caste system and its scars. She embodies the innocence of a child who doesn’t know her own birthdate but knows how to express gratitude.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R6, 100mm lens, f2.8, 1/160s, ISO 1250</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Sofia Brogi, Italy</p> <p>Karsha, Zanskar Valley</p> <p>This photo was taken in Karsha, a village surrounded by the mountains of the Zanskar Valley in Ladakh. At that moment, I was attending a festival where all the monks from the village’s two monasteries, both female and male, had gathered for a long Puja that lasted all afternoon. The only complication was a sandstorm that made it difficult for the younger monks to concentrate. Some sought shelter under tents made from sheets, while others played cricket with sticks and tennis balls. Meanwhile, this monk decided to stand up and walk away from the gathering place.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R6, 100mm lens, f9.0, 1/320s, ISO 100</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Sofia Brogi, Italy</p> <p>Jodhpur, Rajasthan</p> <p>This photo was taken in Jodhpur during the monsoon season in June. Contrary to what we might think, during the monsoons, children don't hide indoors but instead come out into the alleys to play in the rain. They're all immensely happy that the heat of the season is interrupted by cooler temperatures. In this shot, a long rain had just ended, and while walking through the streets of the blue city of Jodhpur, I noticed this child in his home courtyard trying to fly his kite, which was half-soaked.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS R6, 17-40mm lens, f4, 1/800s, ISO 640</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>		<p>167</p>	<p>168</p>	<p>169</p>

<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT KEVIN HOARE, USA</p>				
<p>As a photographer and explorer, Kevin’s work is driven by an insatiable curiosity to uncover the hidden narratives of our world. He is drawn to destinations that lie off the beaten path, places where traditional cultures and modern realities intersect in complex and often surprising ways. His lens seeks to capture not just the visual beauty of these locations, but also the intricate web of geopolitical forces that shape them. This desire to understand the underlying politics stems from his undergraduate degree in Diplomacy and World Affairs. He believes that every landscape, every face, and every cultural practice tells a story of historical influences, political decisions, and global interconnections. His work is an invitation to look beyond the surface, to question our assumptions about unfamiliar cultures and places. Having taken up photography seriously in the past two years, Kevin strives to develop his photographic and storytelling skills even further to convey the planet through his eyes.</p>		<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Kevin Hoare, USA</p> <p>Mindima, Papua New Guinea</p> <p>As their name suggests, the Insect Hunters of Papua New Guinea’s diet is primarily insects. While navigating the highland forests they wear large hats made of leaves and mud, which are set on fire. The fire serves multiple purposes, including shining light while walking at night, as well as grilling any insects they find on walks. This tribe is distinguished by their hats and distinct black-and-white horizontal striped body paint.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS 80D, 50mm lens, f1.8, 1/320s, ISO 320</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Kevin Hoare, USA</p> <p>Mandrarano, Madagascar</p> <p>This image captures the exhilarating tradition of Savika in the small town of Mandrarano, Madagascar, where young men wrestle with zebu cattle. A brave participant clings to the hump of a spirited zebu, showcasing his strength and determination as the animal bucks and twists beneath him. The surrounding crowd erupts in cheers, their faces filled with excitement and admiration for the competitors. Savika serves not only as a rite of passage but also as a celebration of community spirit, where valor is rewarded with respect and admiration.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon EOS 80D, 50mm lens, f5, 1/2500s, ISO 800</p>	<p>WINNER, RISING TALENT Kevin Hoare, USA</p> <p>Bume village, Omo Valley, Ethiopia</p> <p>The Suri Tribe is made up of a collection of villages living on the tri-border of Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan. They used to marry with the Mundari Tribe in South Sudan, but since the border’s hardening, the tribes have grown separately. Cattle represent wealth and status within the Suri community, playing a vital role in rituals and ceremonies, including marriage customs where they are exchanged as gifts. The Suri constantly monitor their cattle with armed guards, and this little boy is following in his father’s footsteps.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA iPhone 15 Pro, 77mm lens, f2.8, 1/99s, ISO 40</p>
<p>REQUEST IMAGE NUMBER</p>		<p>170</p>	<p>171</p>	<p>172</p>

<p>WINNER, PEOPLE'S CHOICE VOTE MAURO DE BETTIO, ITALY</p>				
<p>Mauro De Bettio is an internationally recognized photographer and storyteller whose work captures the heart and soul of some of the most remote and complex corners of the world. Driven by passion and guided by an unwavering commitment to telling the stories of those who often go unheard, Mauro's journey has taken him to places of breathtaking beauty, raw reality, and intense emotion.</p> <p>Among his most significant works are his powerful documentation of acid attack survivors in Bangladesh, the brutal reality inside Manila's prisons, the stark contrasts of life in Afghanistan, the dreams of ballerinas in Africa's largest slum, the struggles of sex workers in Asia's biggest slum.</p> <p>His work is a dedication to giving voice to the voiceless and an unwavering commitment to showcasing the beauty and suffering of our shared existence.</p> <p>In 2021, Mauro De Bettio founded the Malaika Foundation, driven by his deep desire to give back to the communities that inspired his work. The foundation aims to support food, healthcare, and create opportunities for brighter futures.</p>	<p>WINNER, PEOPLE'S CHOICE VOTE Mauro De Bettio, Italy</p> <p>Lagos, Nigeria</p> <p>In the bustling markets of Lagos, Nigeria, a man stands as a beacon of hope, courage, and compassion, proudly balancing a pangolin atop his head—a poignant symbol of resilience. This pangolin was rescued from the illegal wildlife trade, an industry that has made Nigeria a hub for trafficking. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) highlights Nigeria as a key exporter of pangolin scales, fueling a multimillion-dollar black market. Locally hunted for food and trafficked internationally for traditional medicine and fashion, pangolins face grave threats. This man's act underscores the urgent need to protect these gentle creatures, whose survival is increasingly endangered by human greed and exploitation.</p> <p>TECHNICAL DATA Canon R5, 70-200mm lens, f4, 1/100s, ISO 250</p>			
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