

Media Release

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Syngenta Photography Award finalists announced

- **\$65,000 in prizes and Professional Commission**
- **Photographers from Poland, Mexico, and Italy to compete for top prize**
- **Winners to be announced May 15, 2013**

The finalists of the Syngenta Photography Award, a new international competition aiming to stimulate dialogue around key global challenges, were announced today.

The three finalists for the Professional Commission are:

Jan Brykczyński (Poland), **Pablo Lopez Luz** (Mexico) and **Mimi Mollica** (Italy).

The three finalists in the Open Competition are:

André François (Brazil), **Holly Lynton** (USA), **Vitaliy Popkov** (Ukraine).

A distinguished international panel, chaired by the author and curator William A. Ewing, selected the six finalists for their artistic quality and interpretation of this year's rural/urban theme. The winners of both categories will be announced on May 15, 2013, followed by an exhibition at Somerset House, London from May 17-21.

William A. Ewing said: "It was moving to see the deep emotion underpinning so much of the work, read in the text and felt in the images. These photographers have come up with unique and surprising perspectives on the theme."

In its inaugural year, the award attracted over 450 submissions to the **Professional Commission**, which invited professional photographers to compete for a commission by submitting a series of photographs and an original proposal related to the rural/urban theme. For the **Open Competition**, which welcomed photographers of all levels, more than 2,500 entrants submitted their photographs.

Details of the **Professional finalists**:

Warsaw-based documentary photographer **Jan Brykczyński** documents in his series "*Árnes*" an isolated region in the Icelandic Western Fjords. Here he spent several months studying the relationship between the natural surroundings and the village's small community, whose population of 38 is responsible for the year-round farming of more than 2,700 sheep. His proposed Commission "*Farming Tribes*" explores the relationship between human beings and nature in four of the World's major urban spaces – New York, Yerevan, Warsaw and Nairobi.

In his series, “*Terrazo*”, **Pablo Lopez Luz’s** intention was to re-interpret the classical notion of the Mexican landscape. Looking at the relationship between humans and their surroundings, he highlights the effect that overpopulation and the lack of structure or guidelines in the development of a city has on its terrain, land and population. His proposed Commission “*Lost Utopia*” is a project that explores the failed dream of the modern Latin American City and a lost bond to nature.

Documentary photographer **Mimi Mollica** highlights socio-economic and political issues through his work. His series, titled “*En Route to Dakar*”, portrays the changing landscape of Dakar, documenting the degree to which urban development advances on to the rural Senegalese landscape. His proposed Commission is a project that tells the story of the physical, economic and social impact of construction in his native Sicily.

Details about the finalists in the **Open Competition**:

- **André François (Brazil)**: for “*Being Productive is being Independent*”, in which a community in the Mukuru slum of Nairobi/Kenya learns simple agricultural techniques to produce their own food.
- **Holly Lynton (USA)**: for “*Turkey Madonna*”, depicting a farm worker cradling four turkeys that are about to be slaughtered for Thanksgiving on a doomed independent farm in the small town of Shutesbury, Massachusetts.
- **Vitaliy Popkov (Ukraine)**: for “*Energy Carriers*”, a haunting image of a woman carrying a bundle of sticks in the bleak snow beneath imposing power lines.

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Notes to the editor:

- Media inquiries relating to the Syngenta Photography Award can be addressed to:
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- To request hi-res images or an interview with the finalist photographers or William A. Ewing, contact Four Colman Getty
- For Somerset House media inquiries, please contact Josephine Rodrigues or Stephanie Lilley on press@somersethouse.org.uk or + 44 (0) 20 7845 4638
- The **Open Competition** is open to both professional and amateur photographers. The judges will award a first, second and third place winner who will receive US\$5,000, US\$3,000, and US\$2,000 respectively.
- The **Professional Commission** is for professional photographers whose major income is derived from photography. The first place winner will receive a US\$15,000 prize, in addition to up to US\$25,000 to complete the commission. The second and third place winners will receive US\$10,000 and US\$5,000 respectively.
- The judging panel this year is chaired by the author and curator William A. Ewing. The other members of the panel are: Irina Chmyreva (Russia) curator and researcher of photography; Stephen Dunbar-Johnson (UK) publisher, International Herald Tribune; Milton Guran (Brazil) curator and photographer; Malu Halasa (Jordan/Philippines) writer and editor; Marcus Lyon (UK) photographer; Mike Mack (US) Syngenta Chief Executive Officer; and Liu Heung Shing (China) photographer and photo editor.
- For full details of the Syngenta Photography Award, please visit <http://www.syngentaphoto.com>.



Somerset House is a spectacular neo-classical building in the heart of London, sitting between the Strand and the River Thames. Since opening to the public in 2000, Somerset House has produced a distinctive public programme that annually draws over 2.5 million visitors to the site, providing a stimulating environment for exploration and relaxation. The varied, year-round programme includes an open air film and concert season and ice rink, as well as temporary exhibitions focusing on contemporary fashion, design, art and architecture, family workshops and free guided tours. In September 2009, Somerset House became the new home of London Fashion Week.

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