



Press information

2016 will see the return of the ‘Leica Oskar Barnack Award’ to Germany and the presentation of the awards in Berlin

The submission phase of the prestigious international competition recently closed with a record number of entries.

Wetzlar, 24 May 2016. In the course of the new alignment and revitalisation of the long-established traditions of the ‘Leica Oskar Barnack Award’, the twelve finalists in the categories ‘Leica Oskar Barnack Award’ and ‘Leica Oskar Barnack Newcomer Award’ will be able to look forward to a rather special award-giving ceremony: The international photographic competition, held every year since 1979, is returning to Germany. The announcement of the winners of both categories will take place on 28 September 2016 in the course of a gala event and exhibition opening in Berlin. This move deliberately brings the award back to the roots of the man who lent it his name – close to the birthplace of Oskar Barnack in Lynow, Nuthe-Urstromtal. The career of the inventor of the revolutionary and iconic 35 mm camera, the ‘Ur-Leica’, began in the German capital. In 1959, close to the Giesensdorfer Schule in Berlin, which Barnack visited as a child and where children are still taught today, a street was given the name ‘Barnackufer’ in honour of its famous pupil.

Around 3,200 photographers from a total of 108 different countries submitted entries to the ‘Leica Oskar Barnack Award 2016’. With these figures, the photographic competition has registered almost twice as many entrants as in the previous year and closed with a record number of submissions. The competition called for the submission of self-contained series of between ten and a maximum of twelve images in which the photographers perceive and document the interaction between man and their environment in creative and groundbreaking style. The portfolios of the twelve finalists in the categories ‘Leica Oskar Barnack Award’ and ‘Leica Oskar Barnack Newcomer Award’ will be publicly announced on

15 June 2016 on the awards website www.leica-oskar-barnack-award.com.

With prizes amounting to a total cash value of 80,000 euros, the 'Leica Oskar Barnack Award' is one of the segment's most prestigious photographic competitions. The winner in the main category will be honoured with a cash prize of 25,000 euros and Leica M-System equipment (a camera and lens) valued at an additional 10,000 euros. The winner of the Newcomer Award will be honoured with a cash prize of 10,000 euros and will also be presented with a Leica rangefinder camera and lens. In order to honour the work of all twelve finalists, this year's competition will be the first to award cash prizes of 2,500 euros each for the works of a further ten photographers in addition to the awards for the winners of the two main categories.

A special issue of *LFI Magazine* presenting the winners and finalists and numerous examples of their work will be published to accompany the 'Leica Oskar Barnack Award'.