



Press Information

‘Leica Oskar Barnack Award’: The twelve finalists of the prestigious international photographic competition have been chosen.

Their award-winning photo projects will be shown in a major exhibition in the ‘Neuen Schule für Fotografie’ in Berlin from 14 September to 15 October 2017.

Wetzlar, 20 June 2017. The twelve finalists of this year’s Leica Oskar Barnack Award (LOBA) have been chosen. The complete portfolios from the categories ‘Leica Oskar Barnack Award’ and ‘Leica Oskar Barnack Award Newcomer’ can now be viewed at www.leica-oskar-barnack-award.com.

Around 2,700 photographers from a total of 104 different countries submitted entries to the LOBA 2017. These are the twelve finalists:

- Terje Abusdal, Norway: ‘Slash & Burn’
- Clara Chichin, France: ‘Under the eyes that few minutes exhaust’
- Yoann Cimier, Tunisia: ‘Nomad’s Land’
- Aleksey Kondratyev, Kyrgyzstan: ‘Ice Fishers’
- Sergey Melnitchenko, Ukraine: ‘Behind the Scenes’
- Gideon Mendel, South Africa: ‘Drowning World’
- Dominic Nahr, Switzerland: ‘Nothing to see here’
- Ekaterina Sevrouk, Germany: ‘Fremd bin ich eingezogen’
- Viktoria Sorochinski, Ukraine: ‘Lands of No-Return’
- Vera Torok, Hungary: ‘Accidentally on Purpose’

- Emilien Urbano, France: 'War of a Forgotten Nation'
- Patrick Willocq, France: 'You cannot pick a stone with one finger'

This year, the jury was again impressed by the large number of entrants and quality of the portfolios submitted to the competition. 'The photo projects by the twelve finalists are characterised by enormous diversity. The way each of these photographers perceives the world, and how they artistically interpret the theme of the competition - the interaction between people and their environment - makes every portfolio unique in its own special way. We are looking forward to sharing the delight of the finalists at the exciting award-giving ceremony and to the very promising major exhibition in Berlin', reports Karin Rehn-Kaufmann, Art Director & Director General of Leica Galleries International.

Together with Karin Rehn-Kaufmann on this year's jury were:

Michelle Dunn Marsh, Executive Director, Photographic Center Northwest and founder of Minor Matters Books (Seattle, USA)

Christian Pohlert, Managing Picture Editor, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Frankfurt, Germany)

Douglas So, Founder and Director of F11 Foto Museum (Hong Kong, China)

Scarlett Coten, photographer and winner of the LOBA 2016 (Paris, France)

The winners of the 37th LOBA will receive their prizes in the course of a gala event in Berlin on 13 September. The works of all twelve finalists will then be on view again from 14 September to 15 October 2017 at a major exhibition in the 'Neuen Schule für Fotografie', Brunnenstrasse 188-190, 10119 Berlin. The LOBA Catalogue 2017, presenting the winners and finalists in detail with comprehensive portfolios and interview, will be published to accompany the exhibition.

With prizes amounting to a total cash value of around 80,000 euros, the LOBA 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 addition to the two main categories, ten further submissions to the competition will each be honoured with prizes of 2,500 euros.

Note for journalists:

Image material downloads: <https://extranet.leica-camera.com/index.php/s/CpgeQQ0CRp8DcpZ>

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