

PRIDE PHOTO AWARD

Press release

Iconic image of transgender child wins Pride Photo Award 2011

Amsterdam, 13 juli 2011 - On Tuesday 12 July, Dutch photographer Trea van Drunen was selected by the international jury as winner of the Pride Photo Award 2011. This is the first year the award for photography about sexual and gender diversity is being presented. Van Drunen receives the award for her photo of the 12-year-old transgender boy Leon that she took earlier this year.

The photo 'Leon' also won first prize in the category Gender. Her fascination for transformation brought photographer Trea van Drunen into contact with Leon, who has been diagnosed as transgender (gender dysphoric). She will follow Leon's physical and mental development for the next ten years to tell his story. Van Drunen graduated from the Photo Academy Amsterdam this year and was nominated for the Photo Academy Awards 2011.

The Jury said of the winning photograph: "It is a strong, iconic image that challenges the viewer both with the strength of Leon's expression and the astonishing story of his young life as a transgendered person. There is a sense of mystery to this picture, making people reflect on life and identity".

The jury was impressed with the quality and diversity of over 1,400 photos submitted by 250 participants. Most were from West- European countries but there were also entries from the Middle East, Asia, North America, Latin America, Africa and Australia.

Regarding the submissions, the Jury said: "The entries dealt with stereotypes but also with very real people. They contained a lot of surprises in the variety of types of people shown. We were seeing a broad range of queer experiences. This award is necessary both for these people living in often difficult circumstances and for the photographers who are bringing us important stories that are not always welcomed."

Winners

In the thematic category 'Straight back at you', American L Weingarten won with 'A Series of Questions' depicting transgenders who display questions posed to them. In the category Current Topics, Bradley Secker (UK) won with 'Iraq's Gay Refugees'. Benedicte Desrus (France) won with her series 'Persecution of Homosexuality in Uganda' in the category Documentary. In the Open category, American photojournalist Hinda Schuman won with the diary-form series 'A True Story'. Anastasia Taylor Lind (UK/Sweden) won the Sports category with 'Camilla and The Devils Horsemen', about a female couple who are stunt-riders. A Special Mention was given to Thai photographer Ohm Phanphiroj for the series 'Underage' that explores underage boy prostitution in Thailand.

Jury

The jury looked for exceptional photographs challenging traditional gender stereotypes or depicting the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

The jury met on 11 & 12 July in Amsterdam's *Lloyd Hotel*. The jury consisted of **Frank Wagner** (Germany) Jury Chairman and freelance curator; **Ms. Michiko Kasahara** (Japan) Chief curator of the *Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography*; **Ms. Renata Ferri** (Italy) journalist and photo editor of the *Io Donna-Corriere della Sera*; **Stephen Mayes** (UK) director of *VII Photo Agency New York* and secretary of *World Press Photo*; **Sunil Gupta** (India) photographer; **Vince Aletti** (USA) photography critic for *The New Yorker*.

The award ceremony of Pride Photo Award 2011 will take place on Saturday the 3rd of September. The exhibition, curated by Foam Photography Museum Amsterdam, can be seen throughout September in Amsterdam.

Pride Photo Award is an international photography contest for professional photographers reflecting sexual and gender diversity. PPA is an initiative of *COC Amsterdam*, *IHLIA* (*International Gay & Lesbian Information Center & Archive*) and *Homomonument Foundation*, with support from *Foam Photography Museum Amsterdam* and *World Press Photo*.

List of winners:

Straight back at you:

- 1: A Series of Questions; L Weingarten
- 2: Same Time Same Place; Martijn Gijsbertsen
- 3: Pride Parade in Belgrade, Serbia, 2010; Jovana Cetkovic

Current Topics:

- 1: Iraq's Gay Refugees; Bradley Secker
- 2: Transmen of the world; Manuel R. Garcia
- 3: Italian First Rainbow Families; Gugh Fassino

Open:

- 1: A True Story; Hinda Schuman
- 2: Good Old Gays; Paul Koeleman
- 3: I Heart Brooklyn Girls; Erica Beckman

Documentary:

- 1: Persecution of Homosexuality in Uganda; Benedicte Desrus / SIPA Press
- 2: Untitled Series One; Michal Lelenthal Brzezinski
- 3: LadyBoys, Born to be a Woman; Jean-Michel Clajot

Sports:

- 1: Camilla and The Devils Horsemen; Anastasia Taylor Lind
- 2: Inside2Outside; Raoul Vernede
- 3: Lowlanders; Willem Poelstra

Gender:

- 1: Leon WINNER PRIDE PHOTO AWARD ; Trea van Drunen
- 2: LGBT Mexicans of the XX1st Century; Rogelio Pereda
- 3: Queer Kids; Michael Sharkey

Special Mention: Underage; Ohm Phanpiroj

Note for the editors

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