

DEUTSCHE BÖRSE PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE 2005

Strict Embargo until 19.45 on 11 May 2005

Press Release

11 May 2005

Luc Delahaye is awarded the *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2005*

Exhibition continues until 5 June 2005

The Photographers' Gallery

5 & 8 Great Newport Street

London WC2H 7HY

Open daily: Mon-Sat 11.00–18.00, Thurs 11.00-20.00, Sun 12.00-18.00

Admission free

The French photographer, Luc Delahaye (b. 1962) has been awarded the *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2005*, one of the most prominent exhibitions at The Photographers' Gallery and a major international arts award. Isabella Blow presented the £30,000 award to Delahaye during the evening ceremony at the Gallery.

From a shortlist of four international photographers, Luc Delahaye was chosen by the Jury, which includes Anne-Marie Beckmann (Curator of the Art Collection Deutsche Börse), Kate Bush (Head of Art Galleries, Barbican), Rosa Olivares (Director, EXIT Magazine, Madrid) and Christoph Ruys (Director, PhotoMuseum, Antwerp) and Chaired by John Wyver (Chairman of Illuminations Group).

Shortlisted for the exhibition *Luc Delahaye-Photographs* (5 February – 3 May 2004) at the National Museum of Photography, Film & Television, Bradford, Luc Delahaye's monumentally sized panoramas evoke the traditions of history painting and also the compositions of mid-19th century war photography. By consistently following major global events his photographs display a commitment to forging the relationship between politics and picture making. Delahaye's photographs represent the best of reportage photography: he successfully creates images that are aesthetically pleasing and socially fascinating while always remaining relevant to what is happening in the world today.

John Wyver Chair of 2005 Jury said:

"Choosing from a shortlist of exceptional quality was difficult, but the Jury's eventual decision to select Luc Delahaye as the winner of the *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2005* is an exciting choice. The work of the four short-listed artists is strikingly varied, reflecting the vitality and range of contemporary photography. The strength of this year's exhibition, and the decision to select Luc Delahaye as the winner, reflects the Prize's established place among the most prestigious of international arts awards."

Dr. Axel Nawrath, Managing Director Deutsche Börse Group said:

'After much consideration by the Jury, the selection of Luc Delahaye as the winner of the *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2005* has been made. Deutsche Börse Group congratulates him on winning this award. As title sponsor of this prestigious Prize, Deutsche Börse Group is delighted with this year's exhibition and award. It is with great excitement that we look forward to further developing this international Photography Prize with The Photographers' Gallery' in the coming year.'

Stefanie Braun, Curator of *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2005* exhibition said:

'The annual Photography Prize is an award that serves as a marker for excellence in contemporary photographic practise and reflects the enormous variety in the medium today. The decision made by the Jury to select Luc

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Delahaye as winner from the four shortlisted photographers further reinforces this. It was a wonderful opportunity to work with such outstanding international photographers and to be able to showcase their work at the Gallery.'

The Deutsche Börse Photography Prize aims to reward a living photographer, of any nationality, who has made the most significant contribution to the medium of photography during the past year. The nominations for this year's Prize were made by an Academy, representing photography institutions throughout Europe and invited by The Photographers' Gallery. The shortlisted photographers, selected by the Jury, were nominated for a significant exhibition or publication that took place in Europe between 1 November 2003 – 31 October 2004.

The three shortlisted photographers, who each were awarded £3,000 Prize money are:

JH Engström (b.1969, Sweden) JH Engström was selected for the publication *Trying to Dance* (Journal, 2004). The book confidently and imaginatively blends self-portraits and portraits of friends, interiors and evocative landscapes. Engström builds his pictorial momentum through mixing lyrical colour imagery with graphic, distressed and black and white photography. *Trying to Dance* powerfully conveys the sense of his emotive and subjective experiences of the people and places around him.

Jörg Sasse (b. 1962, Germany) Sasse was nominated for the exhibition at Galerie Wilma Tolksdorf, Frankfurt, Germany (3 September–3 November 2004). Rather than 'taking' photographs, Jörg Sasse, 'finds' them. The departure point for his enigmatic works are anonymous snapshots, through which he sorts in their thousands. Sasse then works on the vernacular photographs that he is intuitively drawn to, often focussing in on a small detail within an image. He crops, saturates, blurs and pixelates the photographs he selects, creating new picture tableaux - ones that have strange and yet familiar qualities to them.

Stephen Shore (b. 1947, USA) was selected for his publication *Uncommon Places: The Complete Works* (Thames & Hudson, 2004). During the 1970s, Shore travelled across the United States, photographing street corners, diners, gas stations and motel rooms of ordinary America – environments that were curious and strangely alien to the New York based Shore. *Uncommon Places* was first published in 1982 and in 2005 was reassessed and increased the scope of the body of work to include previously unseen works. This reflects the influence on the directions of conceptual colour photography that Stephen Shore's work continues to hold.

The Deutsche Börse Photography Prize takes the place of the Citigroup Photography Prize as the annual Photography Prize at The Photographers' Gallery. The exhibition will tour to Deutsche Börse Group, Frankfurt (16 June – 20 August 2005). Visit www.deutsche-boerse.com/art for further information.

As one of the UK's primary venues for photography, The Photographers' Gallery attracted over 500,000 visitors last year making it one of the most popular galleries in the UK. The Gallery continues, through its strong programme of exhibitions, to promote the work of international contemporary photographers, the best of photographic practice as well as providing fresh insight into the history of photography.

MEDIA PARTNER:

The Daily Telegraph is the proud media partner for The Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2005. *The Daily Telegraph's* authoritative coverage of the arts includes daily pages covering radio, exhibitions, music and film plus a 32-page Arts + Books tabloid section on a Saturday.

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