

DEUTSCHE BÖRSE PHOTOGRAPHY
FOUNDATION PRIZE 2016
15 APRIL - 3 JULY 2016

5 November 2015

The four artists shortlisted for the *Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2016* are **Laura El-Tantawy**, **Erik Kessels**, **Trevor Paglen** and **Tobias Zielony**.

This year's shortlist reflects a range of approaches and subject matters encompassing the use of videos, objects and texts. These diverse bodies of work express political and personal concerns with identity, migration, surveillance and loss at their core.

Works by the shortlisted photographers will be exhibited at The Photographers' Gallery from 15 April until 3 July 2016 and subsequently presented at the Deutsche Börse headquarters in Frankfurt/Eschborn.

The winner will be announced at a special award ceremony on 2 June 2016 during the exhibition run.

The *Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2016* is an annual prize established by The Photographers' Gallery, London in 1996 and in partnership with Deutsche Börse Group since 2005. The £30,000 prize rewards a living photographer, of any nationality, for a specific body of work in an exhibition or publication format, which is felt to have significantly contributed to photography in Europe between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015.

The shortlisted artists are nominated for the following projects:

Laura El-Tantawy (b. 1980, UK/Egypt) for her self-published photobook *In the Shadow of the Pyramids* (2015). In images that span from 2005 to 2014, this project depicts the atmosphere and rising tensions in Cairo in the events leading to and during the January revolution in Tahrir Square (2011-13). El-Tantawy grew up between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the US, with *In the Shadow of the Pyramids* she explores parallel narratives of her own family's history with the search for identity of a troubled nation. She combines old family photographs and her own lyrical witness accounts with close up portraits of protestors and streets scenes that vividly express the violence and euphoria of the crowds.

Erik Kessels (b. 1966, The Netherlands) for his exhibition *Unfinished Father* at Fotografia Europea, Reggio Emilia, Italy (15 May – 31 July 2015). In *Unfinished Father* Kessels reflects upon the fragmented realities of loss, memory and a life come undone as a result of his father's debilitating stroke. Kessels uses his father's unfinished restoration project of an old Fiat 500 as a representation of his current condition. He brings pieces of the unassembled body of the Topolino car into the exhibition space and presents it alongside photographs of car parts and images that were taken by his father.

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Trevor Paglen (b. 1974, USA) for his exhibition *The Octopus* at Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany (20 June - 30 August 2015). Paglen's project aims to represent complex topics like mass surveillance, data collection, classified satellite and drone activities and the systems of power connected to them. Paglen's installation comprise images of restricted military and government areas, skylines showing the flight tracks of passing drones, sculptural elements and research assembled in collaboration with scientist, amateur astronomers and human rights activists. Through his work Paglen demonstrates that secrets cannot be hidden from view, but that their traces and structures are visible evidence in the landscape.

Tobias Zielony (b. 1973, Germany) for *The Citizen*, exhibited as part of the German Pavilion presentation at the 56th Biennale of Arts, Venice, Italy (9 May - 22 November 2015). Mostly taken in Berlin and Hamburg Zielony's photographs portray the lives and circumstances of African refugee activists living in Europe. Fleeing violence and oppression in their home countries many arrive to the West in search of freedom and security only to find themselves living as outsiders in refugee-camps without legal representation or work permits. Presented alongside the images are first person accounts, interviews and narratives published by Zielony in African newspapers and magazines and reporting on the immigrants' experiences and journeys.

The members of the *Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2016* jury are: David Drake, Director Ffotogallery, Cardiff; Alfredo Jaar, Artist; Wim van Sinderen, Senior Curator at The Hague Museum of Photography; Anne-Marie Beckmann, Curator, Art Collection Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation and Brett Rogers, Director, The Photographers' Gallery as the non-voting chair.

This year marks Deutsche Börse's twelfth year as supporter of the Prize and coincides with the establishment of the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation, a non-profit organisation for cultural activity focused on the collecting, exhibiting and promoting of contemporary photography.

The Foundation cements Deutsche Börse's long-term commitment to photography, cultural enterprises and public engagement and is responsible for its extensive and ever-growing collection of contemporary photography comprising more than 1,600 works by over 100 international artists

It will continue to work with The Photographers' Gallery to deliver the newly titled Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize.

Brett Rogers, Director of The Photographers' Gallery, and non-voting Chair of the Jury said: *The work of this year's four nominees address some of the most urgent political and social issues of our time – from Laura El Tantawy's moving account of the Arab Spring to Tobias Zielony's repositioning of the European refugee crisis and Trevor Paglen's exploration of the growing impact of military surveillance on our lives. Eric Kessel's Unfinished Father provides a more personal narrative which examines the fragmentation of family roles and relationships in the face of a loved one's debilitating illness. All these subjects are of great consequence and relevance today – and one which photography, as a multifarious and accessible medium, is uniquely suited to explore.*

Anne-Marie Beckmann, Director Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation said: *We are delighted that the newly established Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation will continue Deutsche Börse's long-term commitment to the Prize. This year's shortlist once again celebrates photography's unique position as a medium of diverse artistic expression and social engagement. This is highlighted through the nominees' compelling use of photography in installation-led presentations and reflections on some of today's most pressing issues.*

Notes for Editors

The Photographers' Gallery

The Photographers' Gallery opened in 1971 in Great Newport Street, London, as the UK's first independent gallery devoted to photography. It was the first public gallery in the UK to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller, Robert Capa, Sebastião Salgado and Andreas Gursky. The Gallery has also been instrumental in establishing contemporary British photographers, including Martin Parr and Corinne Day. In 2009, the Gallery moved to 16 – 18 Ramillies Street in Soho, the first stage in its plan to create a 21st century home for photography. Following an eighteen month long redevelopment project, the Gallery reopened to the public in 2012. The success of The Photographers' Gallery over the past four decades has helped to establish photography as a recognised art form, introducing new audiences to photography and championing its place at the heart of visual culture.

www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

In summer 2015 Deutsche Börse has transferred its photo art-related activities to a foundation, the 'Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation'. The objective of the Frankfurt-based non-profit organisation is to promote contemporary photography. The foundation's activities will remain focused on collecting, exhibiting and promoting the medium. Expanding the Art Collection Deutsche Börse is one of the key aims of the foundation. Deutsche Börse began to build up its collection of contemporary photography in 1999. It now comprises more than 1,600 works by over 100 international artists. The collection and a related exhibition programme are open to the public. The Deutsche Börse Photography Prize, presented in collaboration with The Photographers' Gallery, London is one of the foundation's key projects and will be continued under a new name: Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize. Other focal points include promoting new talent, supporting exhibition projects of international museums and institutions as well as the further development of platforms for educational exchange via the medium of photography by way of cooperation with universities and institutions of higher education.

The Photography Prize History

Founded in 1996 by The Photographers' Gallery, and now in its nineteenth year, the Prize has become one of the most prestigious international arts awards and has launched and established the careers of many photographers over the years. Previously known as the Citigroup Photography Prize, the Gallery has been collaborating with Deutsche Börse Group as title sponsors since 2005. In 2015 the Prize was retitled as the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize following the establishment of the foundation as a non-profit organisation dedicated to the collection, exhibition and promotion of contemporary photography. Winners of the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2015 were Mikhael Subotzky and Patrick Waterhouse for their publication *Ponte City* (Steidl, 2014). Past winners include Paul Graham, Juergen Teller, Rineke Dijkstra, Richard Billingham, John Stezaker and Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin.

Laura El-Tantawy

Laura El-Tantawy was born in Worcestershire, England to Egyptian parents. Growing up between Egypt, Saudi Arabia & the US, her photography is inspired by questions on identity -- exploring social and environmental issues pertaining to her background. She started her career as a newspaper photographer with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and Sarasota Herald-Tribune (USA). She is a graduate of the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia (USA) with dual degrees in journalism & political science. Additional education includes an MA in Art & Media Practice from University of Westminster & Research Fellowship from the University of Oxford (UK).

www.lauraeltantawy.com

Erik Kessels

Erik Kessels (b.1966) is a Dutch artist, designer and curator with great interest in photography. He has been Creative Director of communications agency KesselsKramer in Amsterdam since 1996 and works for national and international clients. As an artist Kessels has published over 50 books of his 'collected' images such as *in almost every picture* (2001-2015). Since 2000, he has been an editor of the alternative photography magazine *Useful Photography*. He has taught at Écal Lausanne, the Gerrit Rietveld Academy and at the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture. Kessels made and curated exhibitions such as *Loving Your Pictures*, *Use me Abuse me*, *24HRS of Photos*, *Album Beauty and Unfinished Father*. In 2010 Kessels was awarded with the Amsterdam Prize of the Arts and is often seen as the most influential creative of The Netherlands.

www.kesselskramer.com

Trevor Paglen

Trevor Paglen's is an artist whose work spans image-making, sculpture, investigative journalism, writing, engineering, and numerous other disciplines. Among his chief concerns are learning how to see the historical moment we live in and developing the means to imagine alternative futures. Paglen's work has been profiled in the New York Times, Vice Magazine, the New Yorker, and Art Forum. In 2014, he received the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Pioneer Award for his work as a "groundbreaking investigative artist." Paglen holds a B.A. from U.C. Berkeley, an MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago, and a Ph.D. in Geography from U.C. Berkeley. www.paglen.com

Tobias Zielony

Tobias Zielony was born in 1973 in Wuppertal, Germany. After studying Documentary Photography at the University of Wales, Newport, Zielony entered Timm Rauterts' class for artistic photography at the HGB Leipzig in 2004. In 2006 he received grants for New York and Los Angeles. Solo exhibitions followed at C/O Berlin (2007), Kunstverein Hamburg (2010), Folkwang Museum Essen, MMK Zollamt Frankfurt, Camera Austria Graz (2011), and Berlinische Galerie (2013). In 2014 he was selected for the German Pavilion at the Venice Biennial 2015. Tobias Zielony lives and works in Berlin. www.kow-berlin.info/artists/tobias_zielony

Visitor Information

Opening times: Mon – Sat, 10:00 - 18:00; Thu, 10:00 - 20:00; Sun, 11:00 - 18:00

Admission: free until noon (Mon - Sun) and then £3 / £2.5 concessions

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Press information

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Image 1
Laura El-Tantawy
Women of Tahrir, 2013
(28 June 2013, Cairo, Egypt)
©Laura El-Tantawy
Courtesy of the artist



Image 2
Laura El-Tantawy
Faces of a Revolution #7: Safeya's Tears, 2012
(22 February 2012, Cairo, Egypt)
©Laura El-Tantawy
Courtesy of the artist



Image 3
Erik Kessels
Unfinished Father, 2015
© Erik Kessels
Courtesy of the artist



Image 4
Erik Kessels
Unfinished Father, 2015
© Erik Kessels
Courtesy of the artist



Image 5
Trevor Paglen
They Watch the Moon, 2010
© Trevor Paglen
Courtesy of the artist



Image 6
Trevor Paglen
*KEYHOLE 12-3 (IMPROVED CRYSTAL)Optical
Reconnaissance Satellite Near Scorpio (USA 129)*, 2007
© Trevor Paglen
Courtesy of the artist



Image 7
Tobias Zielony
The Citizen, 2015
© Tobias Zielony
Courtesy of KOW Berlin, Lia Rumma, Naples and the
artist



Image 8
Tobias Zielony
The Citizen, 2015
© Tobias Zielony
Courtesy of KOW Berlin, Lia Rumma, Naples and the
artist

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Contact Inbal Mizrahi on +44 (0)20 7087 9333 or inbal.mizarhi@tpg.org.uk**

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