

# **DEUTSCHE BÖRSE PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE 2015**

## **17 APRIL - 7 JUNE 2015**

3 December 2014

The four artists shortlisted for the *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2015* are **Nikolai Bakharev, Zanele Muholi, Viviane Sassen and Mikhael Subotzky & Patrick Waterhouse.**

This year's selection showcases a diversity of photographic approaches including video and object and text based works, encompassing social documentary, portraiture and contemporary art photography.

Works by the shortlisted photographers will be exhibited at The Photographers' Gallery from 17 April until 7 June 2015 and subsequently presented at the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst (Museum of Modern Art) in Frankfurt during the RAY 2015 Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt / RheinMain (20 June – 20 September 2015)

**The winner will be announced at a special award ceremony held at The Photographers' Gallery on 28 May 2015.** The award will be presented by artist duo and 2013 Prize winners Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin.

The *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2015* is an annual prize established by The Photographers' Gallery, London in 1996 and in partnership with Deutsche Börse Group since 2005. The annual award of £30,000 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 2013 and 30 September 2014.

The shortlisted artists were nominated for the following projects:

**Nikolai Bakharev** (b. 1946, Russia) for his **exhibition at the 55<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Art in Venice** (1 June - 24 November 2013). Bakharev trained as a mechanic before working as a Communal Services Factory photographer in the 1960s. Bakharev's portraits of bathers on Russian public beaches blur the boundaries between the public and private, creating a tension between composed and spontaneous groupings. They were predominantly taken during the 1980s when photographs containing nudity were strictly forbidden. Though the families and couples are wearing bathing suits and willingly pose for the camera, the resulting images are furtive with an undercurrent of subterfuge and eroticism.

**Zanele Muholi** (b. 1972, South Africa) for her publication ***Faces and Phases 2006 - 2014*** (co-published by Steidl and The Walther Collection, 2014). A self-titled visual activist, Zanele Muholi's black and white portraits offer an insight into black LGBTI identity and politics in post-apartheid South Africa. Emphasising a conceptual and personal approach, the uncompromising images and accompanying first-person testimonies reflect the impact of homophobia, discrimination and violence, most notably 'curative rape' of black gay women, which often results in murder. Muholi's archive of photographs forms an important force in female gay activism.

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**Viviane Sassen** (b. 1972, Netherlands) for her exhibition *Umbra* at Nederlands Fotomuseum, Rotterdam (8 March – 1 June 2014). The exhibition presented abstract photography, drawings and light installations accompanied by specially commissioned poems from artist and poet, Maria Barnas. Sassen's distinctive and experimental approach to images foregrounds vivid colour alongside stark contrasts of light and shade in sculptural compositions where form and content verge on abstraction. In *Umbra*, Latin for shadow, the characteristic qualities of Sassen's work support darker sensibilities, informed by the Jungian theory of the 'shadow self'. This notion taps into personal fear, desire and shame as well as expressing more abstract concepts of the unknown, time and death.

**Mikhael Subotzky** (b. 1981, South Africa) and **Patrick Waterhouse** (b. 1981, UK) for their publication *Ponte City* (Steidl, 2014). The 54-floor apartment block in Johannesburg was built in 1976 for the white elite under apartheid rule. During the political transition in the 1980s and 90s, it became a refuge for black newcomers to the city and immigrants from all over Africa. Over the years decline and neglect led to it being positioned as the prime symbol of urban decay in the city and the supposed epicentre of crime, prostitution and drug dealing. Subotzky and Waterhouse began their project in 2007 working with the remaining residents, after a failed regeneration project. Through photographs, architectural plans, and archival and historical material Subotzky and Waterhouse created an intimate and evocative social portrait of the building's community of residents and their culture. An additional sequence of seventeen booklets containing essays and personal stories complete the visual and spatial narrative of this Johannesburg landmark.

The members of the *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2015* jury are: Chris Boot, Executive Director, Aperture Foundation; Rineke Dijkstra, Artist; Peter Gorschlüter, Deputy Director, MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst and Anne Marie Beckmann, Curator, Art Collection Deutsche Börse.

Brett Rogers, Director of The Photographers' Gallery, and non-voting Chair of the Jury said: *This year's shortlist reflects a diversity of attitudes towards the medium underpinned by an exploration into new and unexpected modes of presentation. The tension between public and private as a point of enquiry is reflected in the work of Nikolai Bakharev, whose images of Russian bathers expose the political hypocrisy around permitted imagery in the former USSR. Similarly in the work of Zanele Muholi, the personal and political become interwoven in her tender, unflinching portraits and testimonies of the South African LGBTI community. South African political and social issues are also featured in the work of Mikhael Subotzky and Patrick Waterhouse. Their collaborative publication presents an album of images and texts, uncovering the history of a once elite, now abandoned high-rise apartment block in Johannesburg. And finally, Viviane Sassen's sculptural, abstract, sensual images continue to effect the blurring of genres, which characterise her work and position her as a leading force in contemporary photography.*

Frank Klaas, Managing Director Global Public Affairs, Deutsche Börse said: *We are delighted to announce this year's shortlist for the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2015. The four artists showcase the broad artistic approaches, social documentary concerns and imaginative use of form and content that this prize celebrates. We are particularly pleased that the exhibition will be presented for the first time in Frankfurt's MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst.*

#### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk)

### **Deutsche Börse**

Deutsche Börse Group is one of the world's leading exchange organisations and – as part of its Corporate Responsibility approach – one of the most important promoters of photographic art. The Group has been collecting contemporary photography since 1999. The Art Collection Deutsche Börse comprises more than 1,000 works by approximately 100 international artists. The works are exhibited at the company's main locations in Eschborn/Frankfurt, London, Luxembourg, Prague and Zurich. The company also supports exhibition projects of international museums and institutions. Further information on the collection can be found at [www.deutsche-boerse.com/art](http://www.deutsche-boerse.com/art)

### **The Photography Prize History**

Founded in 1996 by The Photographers' Gallery, and now in its eighteenth 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. Winner of the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2014 was Richard Mosse for his exhibition *Enclave* at the 55<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Art in Venice. Past winners include Paul Graham, Juergen Teller, Rineke Dijkstra, Richard Billingham and John Stezaker.

### **Nikolai Bakharev**

Nikolai Bakharev was born 1946 in Mikhailovka, in the Russian region of Altai. An orphan aged 4, Bakharev was placed in an orphanage where he remained until the age of 16. After a period of working as a mechanic at a metallurgy plant he began his career as a photographer. Bakharev now lives and works in Novokuznetsk city (Kemerovo Region), West-Siberia. He has participated in a number of exhibitions in Russia and abroad including the 55th Venice Biennale (Italy, 2013); The Rencontres d'Arles (France, 2013); *Contemporary Russian Photography*, FotoFest Biennial, (Houston, US 2012); *Ostalgia*, New Museum, (New York, 2011) and *Beach Photography*, White Space Gallery (London, 2006). Since 1991 Bakharev has been a member of Photographer's Union of Russia. [Nikolai Bakharev](#)

### **Zanele Muholi**

Zanele Muholi (b. 1972 South Africa) is a visual activist who began her career as a human/lesbian rights campaigner, raising awareness of issues facing black lesbian women in South Africa. Initially working as a reporter and photographer for Behind the Mask, an LGBTI website, Muholi went on to co- found the Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FEW) in 2002, a black lesbian organisation based in Gauteng, dedicated to providing a safe space for lesbians. In 2009 she founded Inkanyiso, an organisation that deals with visual arts, activism, media and advocacy. Muholi's work has been featured in exhibitions including; the 55th Venice Biennale (Italy, 2013); Documenta 13 (Germany, 2012), Les Rencontres d'Arles (France, 2012), and at institutions such as the V&A Museum, London; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo and at the Huis Marseille, Amsterdam. Her 2010 award-winning documentary *Difficult Love* has also been shown at film festivals around the world. Three books have been published on her work: *Zanele Muholi: African Women Photographers #1* (Casa Africa/La Fábrica, 2011); *Faces and Phases* (Prestel, 2010); and *Only Half the Picture* (Stevenson, 2006). Muholi has received a number of important accolades for her work, including the Fine Prize for an emerging artist at the 2013 Carnegie International; a Prince Claus Award (2013); the Index on Censorship - Freedom of Expression art award (2013); the Casa Africa award for best female photographer and a Fondation Blachère award at Les Rencontres de Bamako biennial of African photography (2009). [Zanele Muholi](#)

### **Viviane Sassen**

Viviane Sassen (b.1972, Netherlands) studied fashion design followed by photography at Hogeschool voor Kunsten Utrecht and fine art at Ateliers Arnhem. Sassen partly grew up in East Africa and has been taking photographs on the continent since her first return visit in 2002. A retrospective of 17 years of Sassen's fashion work, *In and Out of Fashion*, took place at Huis Marseille Museum for Photography (Amsterdam) and was accompanied by a book published by Prestel (Munich). The exhibition travelled to Arles (France), the National Portrait Gallery (Scotland), SCAD museum (Savannah, US), Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (Germany) and Fotomuseum Winterthur (Switzerland). Other selected solo exhibitions have taken place at Forma (Milan, 2009), Foam (Amsterdam, 2008) and the Nederlands Foto Museum (Rotterdam, 2014). Sassen was one of six artists selected for the annual *New Photography* exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 2011. Recent group exhibitions include *No Fashion, Please! Photography between Gender and Lifestyle* at the (Vienna, 2011); *Figure and Ground: Dynamic Landscape* at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art as part of the Contact Photography Festival (Toronto, 2011); and *Il Palazzo Enciclopedico*, at the Biennale di Venezia (2013). Her work is in the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris; Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland; Musée Galliera and the Centre National des Art Plastiques, Paris. In 2007 Sassen received the first prize of the Prix de Rome, and in 2011 she won the International Center of Photography Infinity Award for Applied/Fashion/Advertising Photography. [Viviane Sassen](#)

### **Mikhael Subotzky**

Mikhael Subotzky (b. 1981, South Africa) is a photographer, film and video artist based in Johannesburg. His work has been exhibited at The Museum of Modern Art, (New York, 2008) and Saatchi Gallery (London, 2012); Victoria and Albert Museum (London 2011) and The South African National Gallery (Cape Town, 2010) as well as at the Liverpool and Lubumbashi Biennials. Previous published monographs include *Beaufort West* (Chris Boot, 2008), *Retinal*

*Shift* (Steidl, 2012) and *Ponte City* (Steidl, 2014). He received the 2009 Oskar Barnack Award, the 2008 W. Eugene Smith Memorial Grant, and the 2008 ICP Infinity Award (Young Photographer).  
[Mikhael Subotzky](#)

#### **Patrick Waterhouse**

Patrick Waterhouse (b. 1981, UK) has produced a variety of work in different mediums including drawings, photographs, prints and artists books, notably a fully illustrated version of Dante's *Inferno*. His work has been exhibited in numerous venues including the International Center Photography (New York 2013) La Maison Rouge (Paris, 2013); South African National Gallery (Cape Town, 2011); Art Basel; The Design Museum, London; Goodman Gallery (Johannesburg, 2010); The Walther Collection (Neu Ulm/Burlafingen) as well as the Liverpool and Lubumbashi Biennials. Waterhouse is the Editor-in- chief of *COLORS*, a monothematic magazine founded in 1991. In 2011 Waterhouse developed a new editorial direction for *COLORS*, both in terms of concept and design, creating the *Colors Survival Guides* and a series with an interlinking narrative structure. He is currently based in Treviso, Italy. [Patrick Waterhouse](#)

Mikhael Subotzky and Patrick Waterhouse collaborated from 2008 to 2014 on the *Ponte City* project, which culminated in a publication and a touring exhibition, which has been shown at Le Bal in Paris, FOMU (Antwerp, 2014) and will soon travel to the National Galleries of Scotland, (Edinburgh, 2014). The project also obtained the Discovery Award of the 2011 Rencontres d'Arles Photography Festival.

#### **Visitor Information**

Opening times: Monday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm, Thursdays, 10am – 8pm,  
Sunday 11:30am – 6pm. Admission free  
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**Image 1**  
Nikolai Bakharev  
*No. 14*, from the series *Relation*, 1980  
Gelatin Silver print  
©MAMM, Moscow / Nikolai Bakharev  
Collection of the Moscow House of Photography  
Museum



**Image 2**  
Nikolai Bakharev  
*No. 70*, from the series *Relation*, 1991-1993  
Gelatin Silver print  
©MAMM, Moscow / Nikolai Bakharev  
Collection of the Moscow House of Photography  
Museum



**Image 3**  
Viviane Sassen  
*Axiom GBO1*, from the series *Axiom*, 2014  
© Viviane Sassen  
Courtesy of the artist



**Image 4**  
Viviane Sassen  
*Lemogang*, from the series *Totem*, 2013  
© Viviane Sassen  
Courtesy of the artist



**Image 5**  
Mikhael Subotzky & Patrick Waterhouse  
*Ponte City from Yeoville Ridge*, from the series *Ponte City*, 2008  
© Mikhael Subotzky / Patrick Waterhouse  
Courtesy Goodman Gallery



**Image 6**  
Mikhael Subotzky & Patrick Waterhouse  
*Untitled #1, Ponte City Johannesburg*, from the series *Ponte City*, 2008  
© Mikhael Subotzky / Patrick Waterhouse  
Courtesy Goodman Gallery



**Image 7**  
Zanele Muholi  
*Vuyelwa Vuvu Makubetse*, Daveyton Johannesburg, from the series *Faces and Phases*, 2013  
© Zanele Muholi  
Courtesy of Stevenson, Cape Town and Johannesburg



**Image 8**  
Zanele Muholi  
*Kekeletso Khena*, Green Market Square Cape Town, from the series *Faces and Phases*, 2012  
© Zanele Muholi  
Courtesy of Stevenson, Cape Town and Johannesburg.

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