

## LUKE WILLIS THOMPSON WINS THE DEUTSCHE BÖRSE PHOTOGRAPHY FOUNDATION PRIZE 2018

17 May 2018

New Zealand artist, LUKE WILLIS THOMPSON has won the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2018 at London's Photographers' Gallery for *autoprotrait*, a filmic portrait of Diamond Reynolds.

He was announced as the **2018 winner** of the prestigious **£30,000 prize** by BBC Front Row broadcaster and journalist, **John Wilson**, at a special award ceremony at The Photographers' Gallery, on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May

Thompson's 35mm film *autoprotrait* is a portrayal of Diamond Reynolds. In July 2016, Reynolds used Facebook Live to broadcast the moments immediately after the fatal shooting of her partner Philando Castile by a police officer during a traffic-stop in Minnesota, United States. Reynolds' video circulated widely online and amassed over six million views. In November 2016, Thompson contacted Reynolds to invite her to collaborate on a project which would act as a 'sister-image' to her video broadcast, and break with her more publically consumed image.

Silent apart from the whirr of a 35mm projector, the intensely focused installation presented at The Photographers' Gallery, comprises barely more than a single shot of Diamond in private mediation. Seemingly unaware of the camera - and by definition the audience - this is a startling presentation of a personal and autonomous moment.

The winner was selected by the members of the 2018 **Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize** jury, who included:

The Photographers' Gallery  
16-18 Ramillies Street  
London W1F 7LW

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info@tpg.org.uk  
thephotographersgallery.org.uk

The Photographers' Gallery is  
a registered charity no. 262548  
The Photographers' Gallery Limited  
is registered in London no. 986208  
VAT Registration no. GB645332251

Duncan Forbes, Curator and visiting Lecturer Westminster University, Gordon MacDonald, Curator and Editor; Penelope Umbrico, Artist; Anne-Marie Beckmann, Director, Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation and Brett Rogers, Director, The Photographers' Gallery as the non-voting chair.

**Brett Rogers, Director, The Photographers' Gallery and Chair of Jury, said:**

*“The judging session to decide the 2018 winner, encompassed lengthy and complex discussions around the role and form of photography today, its almost unrivalled power as a social, political and creative force, and its unique ability to bring to public focus some of the most urgent and relevant issues of today.*

*Within that context, the panel decided to award the 2018 prize to Luke. His singular and uncompromising portrait, made in collaboration with its subject, Diamond Reynolds, was conceived as a way to return agency to the protagonist.*

*As a contender for a prize focused on photography, the jury felt autoportrait imbued the moving image format with the singular and almost obsessional quality of a still photograph, drawing attention to its materiality, and challenging viewers to consider the personal stakes of representation in an environment at once intimate and collective.*

*Ultimately though, the project was felt to invite a timely and prescient conversation around the nature of image control, authorship and distribution in a way that expands rather than shuts down the debate.”*

**Anne-Marie Beckmann, Director, Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize, said:**

*“We congratulate the winner of the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation prize 2018, Luke Willis Thompson. His silent filmic study autoportrait is a significant contribution to contemporary photography, reflecting on the most relevant issue of self-representation and the ownership of image in today’s complex media world. We are excited to present the works of all four finalists soon at Frankfurt’s MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst as part of the photo triennial RAY 2018.”*

Luke Willis Thompson (b. 1988, New Zealand) attended the Elam School of Fine Arts University in Auckland and the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main. His works have been included in exhibitions such as the São Paulo Biennale; the Montréal Biennale; the Asia Pacific Triennial, Queensland; and the New Museum Triennial, New York. Thompson was awarded the 2014 Walters’ Prize. Thompson has been nominated for the Turner Prize in 2018.

The 2018 prize included works by artists Mathieu Asselin, Rafal Milach, Batia Suter and Luke Willis Thompson, all of which will remain on display at The Photographers’ Gallery **until 3 June 2018**. The show will then tour to the **MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst** in **Frankfurt** as part of the photo triennial RAY 2018 **from 22 June until 9 September 2018**.

The 2018 shortlist has been heralded for reflecting on the production and manipulation of knowledge and systems of representation through visual formats. Collectively and individually, the four projects drive forward an artistic enquiry into the mechanics of visibility and concealment and interrogate the status and position of the image in contemporary culture.

The annual award was established by The Photographers’ Gallery, London, in 1997 and has been in partnership with the Deutsche Börse Group since 2005. Since 2016 it has been awarded together with the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation, a non-profit organisation specifically focused on the collecting, exhibiting and promoting of contemporary photography. The **£30,000 prize** rewards a living photographer, of any nationality, for a specific body of work in an exhibition or publication format in Europe, which is felt to have significantly

contributed to the medium of photography between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2017.

#### Press information

##### **For interview, images and further information please contact:**

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**For press information about Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation please contact:** Leticia Adam on +49 (0) 69 21 11 27 66 or email [leticia.adam@deutsche-boerse.com](mailto:leticia.adam@deutsche-boerse.com)

**For general enquiries and information about The Photographers' Gallery, including Print Sales, Bookshop and Archive, please contact the press office on + 44 (0) 207 087 9346 or [press@tpg.org.uk](mailto:press@tpg.org.uk)**

-ENDS-

#### 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, Sebastiano 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 months 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 Photography Foundation**

The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation is a Frankfurt-based non-profit organisation. The foundation activities focus on collecting, exhibiting and promoting contemporary photography. Deutsche Börse began to build up its collection of contemporary photography in 1999. Art Collection Deutsche Börse now comprises more than 1,700 works by over 120 international artists. Expanding the Art Collection Deutsche Börse is one of the key aims of the foundation. The collection and a changing exhibition programme are open to the public. Together with The Photographers' Gallery in London, the foundation awards the renowned Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize each year. Other focal points include promoting new talent, supporting exhibition projects of international museums and institutions, and the expansion of platforms for academic discussion about the medium. Further information is available at [www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org](http://www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org).

##### **The Photography Prize History**

Founded in 1997 by The Photographers' Gallery, and now in its twenty-first 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 2016 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.

Winner of the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2017 was Dana Lixenberg for her publication *Imperial Courts 1993-2015* (Roma Publishing). Past winners include Trevor Paglen, Paul Graham, Juergen Teller, Rineke Dijkstra, Richard Billingham, John Stezaker and Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin.

##### **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 £4 / £2.5 concessions

Address: 16-18 Ramillies Street, London W1F 7LW  
Nearest London Underground Station: Oxford Circus

T: + 44 (0)20 7087 9300

E: [info@tpg.org.uk](mailto:info@tpg.org.uk)

W: [thephotographersgallery.org.uk](http://thephotographersgallery.org.uk)

**Exhibition Catalogue**

The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2018 catalogue featuring essays by Anne-Marie Beckmann, Adam Broomberg, Diane Dufour, Brett Rogers, Christina Sharpe and Michael Saur and is edited by TPG Curator Anna Dannemann and is available from The Photographers' Gallery bookshop and online.



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