

## DEUTSCHE BÖRSE PHOTOGRAPHY FOUNDATION PRIZE 2021 25 JUN - 26 SEP 2021

The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2021 Exhibition opens at The Photographers' Gallery, London from 25 June until 26 September 2021.

The exhibition will be presented at the same time as the international photography triennial RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain and will be on display at Deutsche Börse's headquarters in Eschborn/Frankfurt from 5 June—19 September 2021.

Curated by The Photographers' Gallery's Anna Dannemann, the exhibition brings together the four nominated projects from the 2021 shortlisted artists: **Poulomi Basu**, **Alejandro Cartagena**, **Cao Fei** and **Zineb Sedira**. Highlighting the diverse and innovative nature of their individual practices, the exhibition presents four challenging and wide-ranging projects, that together amplify universally resonant and relevant themes of representation, virtuality and the environment.

2021 celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this long-standing and prestigious annual prize, which has been awarded in collaboration with Deutsche Börse Group since 2005, and recognises artists and projects deemed to have made the most significant contribution to photography over the previous 12 months.

Taking over the fourth and fifth floors of The Photographers' Gallery, the exhibition presents four distinct artists' rooms, inviting visitors to examine urgent, though often overlooked, political, cultural and social upheavals across four vastly different geographic terrains – China, India, Algeria and Mexico. In tackling their chosen themes, they each use an extraordinary range of different media and photographic strategies: cinematic immersion and dystopian fiction in the work of Cao Fei; brutally effective and subversive political narratives in Poulomi Basu's publication; richly layered and personal storytelling in Alejandro Cartagena's research of home-ownership in Northern Mexico; the archive, collective and individual memory combining the personal and political within Zineb Sedira's practice.

The first encounter on the fifth floor is with Zineb Sedira's *Standing Here Wondering Which Way to Go* presented at the Jeu de Paume retrospective in 2019. The work invites visitors into a recreation of the artist's living room which presents as an interactive archive, full of intergenerational and cross-cultural echoes through objects, memorabilia and personal items. The project constantly shifts between a multi-layered portrait of the artist and a broader reflection on memory, culture and belonging. Similar to Sedira's acclaimed video works, the accumulation of cultural artefacts, language and shared narratives intersects with wider geopolitical reverberations in the present.

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

Occupying the back of the fifth floor is Poulomi Basu's multi-faceted project *Centralia* (2020), published by Dewi Lewis Publishing. The project uncovers the violent, largely unreported conflict between a marginalised community of indigenous people fighting under the People's Liberation Guerilla Army (PLGA) and the Indian state. Basu uses a variety of image types; from cinematic double exposures of dark landscapes, staged portraits and sourced images, to shocking photographs of violent crime scenes, testimonies and mugshots of fallen, often female, revolutionary-fighters alongside depictions of traditional rural festivities. Engaging with issues of gender, race, and class, Basu advocates against political and social injustices, focusing on the devastating impact of poverty, conflict, environmental deprivation and patriarchy in her home country and worldwide.

On the fourth floor, the first space presents Alejandro Cartagena's project *A small Guide to Homeownership* published by The Velvet Cell in 2020. Through his extensive and dynamic photographic practice, Alejandro Cartagena explores urban and social landscapes as well as personal experiences and environmental destruction. *A small Guide to Homeownership* documents the homogenous suburban sprawl, and how its promises of a better life, come up against the reality of unchecked developments. Cartagena utilises landscape images, advertisements, texts, portraits, city backdrops and documentary photography to create layered collages that weave a complex, cautionary tale around the home-buying industry in Mexico.

The back space of the fourth floor hosts works by multimedia artist Cao Fei who was nominated for her exhibition *Blueprints* at Serpentine Gallery, London (4 March—17 May 2020 and 4 August—13 September 2020 after lockdown). Presenting photographs as well as the feature length film *Nova* (2019) and a related publication the installation explores the digital and immersive worlds of film as a utopian space. Cao Fei has created an extensive body of work over the last two decades that considers the impact of automation, virtual realities and hyper-urbanisation on the human condition, particularly informed by the history, consumerism and social structures in her home country China.

**The winner of the £30,000 prize** will be announced at a special award ceremony held at The Photographers' Gallery on **Thursday 9 September 2021**.

A fully illustrated catalogue offering newly commissioned essays on the projects and the artists will be available in TPG's bookshop and online. An accompanying programme of talks and events will illuminate the exhibition, including presentations from all the shortlisted artists. For more details visit: [www.tpg.org.uk](http://www.tpg.org.uk)

#### Catalogue Writers

The anthropologist Alpa Shah who Associate Professor at LSE and author of the award-winning publication *Nightmarch: Among India's Revolutionary Guerrillas* (2020) writes about Poulomi Basu's *Centralia*.

Mexican architect Tatiana Bilbao writes about Alejandro Cartagena and integrating social values, collaboration and sensitive design approaches to architectural work. Olivia Khoo, Associate Professor at Monash University and author of *Asian Cinema: A Regional View* (Edinburgh University Press, 2021) and *The Chinese Exotic: Modern Diasporic Femininity* (Hong Kong University Press, 2007) writes about Cao Fei. Independent curator, researcher, critic and editor, Sylvie Fortin writes about Zineb Sedira's installation.

#### Press Contacts

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**For General information and enquires about The Photographers' Gallery, including their archive, Print Sales Gallery or Bookshop contact:**

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### Notes for Editors

**Artist Biogs available on request**

#### **The Photographers' Gallery: 50 Years**

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of The Photographers' Gallery. Founded in 1971 by Sue Davies, OBE, as the UK's first public gallery dedicated to the photographic medium, TPG has over the last five decades played a pivotal role in championing photography's position as a leading artistic and cultural form as well as providing an invaluable centre for the exhibition and support of photographers and photography from across the globe.

Over the course of 2021, the Gallery is staging a special series of exhibitions and events to mark this significant anniversary; reflecting on its legacy and impact over the last five decades and looking towards the future of photography in a rapidly changing world.

#### **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. The Art Collection Deutsche Börse now comprises more than 2,000 works by over 130 artists from 27 nations. 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. The promotion of young artists is a special concern of the foundation. It supports them in the form of awards, scholarships, exhibitions and cooperations with other institutions, such as the Foam Talents Programme of the Foam Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam. Other focal points include supporting exhibition projects of international museums and institutions, and the expansion of platforms for academic discussion about the medium. [www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org](http://www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org).

#### **The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize History**

Founded in 1996 by The Photographers' Gallery, and now in its twenty-fifth 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 2020 was Mohamed Bourouissa for his exhibition *Free Trade*. Past winners include Susan Meiselas, Dana Lixenberg, Trevor Paglen, Paul Graham, Juergen Teller, Rineke Dijkstra, Richard Billingham, John Stezaker and Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin.

**Visitor Information**

(As of 6 May, please check website for latest opening information)

Opening times from 13 April: Tues – Sat, 10:00 - 18:00 (bookshop and Print Sales)

Sun - Mon: Closed

Address: 16-18 Ramillies Street, London, W1F 7LW

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

The Gallery has Covid-19 Protective Measures in place

**Social media**

Instagram: [@thephotographersgallery](https://www.instagram.com/thephotographersgallery)

Twitter: [@TPGallery](https://twitter.com/TPGallery)

Facebook: [@ThePhotographersGalleryLDN](https://www.facebook.com/ThePhotographersGalleryLDN)

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