

# South African student makes Sony World Photography Awards shortlist

The World Photography Organisation has announced that South Africa's Aidan Murgatroyd, from Stellenbosch Academy of Design and Photography, is one of the shortlisted photographers for the Student competition of the Sony World Photography Awards 2022.



Image: Aidan Murgatroyd

Murgatroyd joins 16 other photographers who have been shortlisted in the Student and Youth competitions of the 2022 awards.

Winners of Student Photographer of the Year and Youth Photographer of the Year will be announced on 12 April and will go on display as part of the Sony World Photography Awards 2022 exhibition at Somerset House, London from 13 April to 2 May, 2022.

## Student competition shortlist

The Student shortlist showcases a series of works by 10 students at leading international higher education institutions. For the 2022 competition, students were invited to submit a series of five to 10 images interpreting the brief 'Connections'. Over the past two years, we have had to think differently about how we connect in more ways than we could have imagined. The shortlisted entries have each been chosen for their nuanced and intelligent responses to this brief.

Connections to cultural identity and community are examined by several of the projects:

- *The Identity of Holland* by Ezra Bohm (Nederlandse Academie voor Beeldcreatie) which focuses on the inhabitants of the Dutch village of Urk, the last people in the Netherlands to still wear traditional dress
- *Becoming South African* by Aidan Murgatroyd (Stellenbosch Academy of Design and Photography) follows the photographer's journey in search of a greater understanding and sense of connection to his home country after prolonged absences
- *Theologians* by Sergey Pronin (Docdocdoc School of Modern Photography) captures participants seeking a spiritual connection in the summer camp of St. Tikhon's Orthodox University's Theological faculty
- *The Butcher* by Dennis Mubanga Kabwe (Open Window University Zambia) spotlights a local butcher at work in the heart of the market-place
- *Cariño* by Chris Rosas Vargas (Parsons), a series of sentimental portraits of public spaces in the Bronx and Harlem.

Elsewhere the series explore connections through representations of togetherness:

- *Tiramisu* by Alexander Komenda (Aalto University) which depicts Komenda's playful collaborations with fellow students to help pass the time during the lockdowns
- *Disconnected* by Oriel Naxhielly Martins (ENFO Escuela De Fotografía), where the photographer focuses on moments of physical intimacy and the struggle of coping with isolation during the pandemic.

Connections to the past, and to family history were also central to several of the projects:

- *Connections* by Sachi Deshmukh (Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti), which juxtaposes past and present through old photographs of her then newly married parents held by their now aged hands and linked together with red thread
- *Memories of Family* by Xu Han (Nanjing University of the Arts) uses close-up abstract images of paint droplets and patterns to explore the photographer's relationship with family
- *Even When We're Breathing, We're Moving* by Angela Stoll (University of Wollongong) examines the idea of movement as a passage of time through long-exposure black and white images of a dancer within an abandoned space.

The winner of Student Photographer of the Year 2022 will be selected from the ten students and announced on 12 April. Together with their university, the winner will be awarded Sony digital imaging equipment amounting to a combined total of €30,000.

This year's Student shortlist was judged by Colin Czerwinski, Founder of Noice Magazine.

## Youth competition shortlist

The Youth competition shortlist features seven category winners from June to December 2021, who each responded to a different monthly theme.

- Winner of the June competition, Elijah Baptiste (15, Composition and Design) photographed his subject blindfolded and shot from below in black and white, emphasising the grace of his pose. Znuo Shi (17, Street Photography) captures two women in conversation in a marketplace, while in the foreground the upside-down poster of a model gives a surreal edge to the picture.
- Emery Sanderson (19, Landscape) depicts a serene snowy scene, interrupted only by a solitary figure and the tracks they have left behind.
- Cameron Borg (17, Culture & Travel) shows a lone human set against nature, this time a surfer photographed from above in the turbulent swell.
- Rayhan Mundra's (15, Wildlife and Nature) image displays a brown bear in the split-second moment of catching a salmon from a stream.
- Tri Nguyen (18, Portraiture) uses a street mirror to create a portrait from two angles, in the glow of the moonlight.

- Benjamin Joel (17, Open Call) captured the strength and determination of a national fencing champion.
- Youth Photographer of the Year is judged by Hideko Kataoka, Director of Photography at Newsweek Japan. The winner will receive a range of Sony digital imaging equipment to nurture their vision.

The overall winners in the Student, Youth, Open and Professional competition of the Sony World Photography Awards 2022 will be announced on 12 April 2022.

For more information about upcoming announcements and winners, go [here](#).

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