



29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery

UP21

Unpublished Photo 2021

The prizes of the UP21 contest for young photographers have been awarded. Promoted by MUSEC and the Fondazione cultura e musei, in collaboration with 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery in Milan.

Chaired by German photographer Han Georg Berger, the international jury gathered at MUSEC has chosen the four winners of the UP21 prize.

More than 160 applications were received in Lugano this year, with a clear predominance of Asian artists.

After an initial selection process that identified 17 finalists, the jury unanimously decided to award the prize to four photographers whose works will be **exhibited at MUSEC in Lugano from 23 September 2021 to 21 February 2022.**

MUSEC will also dedicate an easy-to-read publication to the winning artists, in which the jury's motivations and a biographical and critical profile will be presented.

The winners ex aequo of the 1st prize, consisting of a grant of 5,000 Swiss francs, are the Vietnamese photographer **Khanh Bui Phu** and the young Syrian photographer **Mouneb Taim**.

Third place, also ex aequo, went to Indian photographer **Avinash Mishra** and Chinese photographer **Li Zhang**.

A special prize, awarded by **Artphilein Editions** of Lugano, which consists of the publication of a prestigious volume, went to Vietnamese photographer Khanh Bui Phu. The jury also gave a special mention to the two Bangladeshi photographers **Ahmed Rayhan** and **Shifat Shifatunnabi**.



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THE WINNERS

Khanh Bui Phu (b. 1987) presented his project "**Make a nomadic living on the water ecosystem**". With great poetic intensity and skillful use of colour contrast, it depicts the life of nomadic fishermen on Tuyen Lam Lake in Lam Dong Province, Vietnam.

The fishermen of Khanh Bui Phu cannot keep up with the modern lifestyle, environmental pollution, deforestation and erosion of natural ecosystems that threaten their livelihoods. The jury also noted a strong narrative charge and a language that undoubtedly corresponds very closely to the modern literature of his country.

Mouneb Taim (b. 2001) from Syria submitted his project "**War Notes**". It is an impressive document of daily life during the recent war that has bloodied Syria. The project is charged with a lyrical message and the young photographer expresses feeling part of a wounded culture. His photos have a profound note of hope that eventually prevails amidst the destruction.

Of great interest is the reportage "**The Colors Empire**" by Indian photographer **Avinash Mishra** (b. 1999) taken during the famous "colour ceremony" in Mathura. With a language strongly oriented towards the rendering of moving masses, the artist, through the choice of black and white photography, transforms the substance of chromatic contrasts into a vivid representation of humanity and the religious sense of life.

With the project "**When I was a Child**", **Li Zhang** (b. 1991) conducts an introspective investigation into his childhood by reworking old pictures taken by his grandfather using a scanner and camera. In this way, with a language tinged with subtle poetry, and thanks to an innovative technique, he increases the value and expressive capacity of an intimate generational connection, building a visual and stylistic bridge between the 1990s and our time.

JURY MEMBERS

Hans Georg Berger - Photographer

Eugenio Calini - Co-founder of 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery

Francesco Paolo Campione - Director of the Museo delle Culture di Lugano - MUSEC

Lorenza Castelli - Director of MIA Photo Fair

Caterina De Pietri - Director of De Pietri Artphilein Foundation

Paolo Gerini - President of the Ada Ceschin and Rosanna Pilone Foundation

Giovanna Palandri - Chancellor of the Veneto Institute of Science, Letters and Arts

Giovanni Pelloso - Journalist and art curator

Unpublished Photo intends to display the main trends in young art photography at an international level, constituting a veritable archive of contemporary photography in Lugano, which will find space alongside the 19th century collection and the collection of Exoticist photography that MUSEC already possesses.



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From 2018, the project has attracted young photographers under 36 from all over the world.

At the end of the exhibition, the works on display will become part of the MUSEC collections, thus enriching the photographic archive which now numbers over 40,000 works from the mid-19th century to the present day.

PARTNERS

The **De Pietri Artphilein Foundation** of Lugano, a non-profit organisation that supports culture and contemporary art with a variety of activities and initiatives, particularly highlighting the works of young artists.

The **Ceschin Pilone Foundation** of Zurich aims to spread knowledge of Far Eastern cultures, supporting activities capable of building solid ties of international collaboration.

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29artsinprogress



29Arts In Progress

“Make a nomadic living on the water ecosystem” by Khanh Bui Phu



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“War Notes” by Mouneb Taim



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“The Colors Empire” by Avinash Mishra



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“When I Was a Child” by Li Zhang



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