

THE DEUTSCHE BÖRSE PHOTOGRAPHY FOUNDATION PRIZE 2023

EXHIBITION AND TOURING DETAILS ANNOUNCED

3 MAR – 11 JUN 2023

The Photographers' Gallery London is delighted to reveal exhibition details of the 2023 edition of the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize.

The 2023 exhibition will feature work by the four international shortlisted artists: **Bieke Depoorter**, **Samuel Fosso**, **Arthur Jafa** and **Frida Orupabo**, at The Photographers' Gallery, London, **from 3 March until 11 June 2023**. The exhibition will tour to the Muzeum Fotografii w Krakowie, Krakow, Poland (30 June to 17 September 2023).

The winner of the £30,000 prize will be announced at a special evening award ceremony on **11 May 2023**, with the other finalists each receiving £5,000.

Originally established in 1996 and organised in partnership with the **Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation** in Frankfurt/Main since 2016, this long-standing and influential annual Prize identifies and rewards artists and their projects considered to have made the most significant contribution to photography over the previous 12 months.

Over its 27-year history, the Prize has become renowned as one of the most important international awards for photographers, as well as a barometer of photographic development, foregrounding outstanding, innovative and thought-provoking work. This year's shortlisted artists all push the boundaries of photography and exemplify its resonance and relevance as a cultural force today.

The complex ethical relationship and boundaries which have rarely been explored between the photographer and their subject provide the focus for **Bieke Depoorter's** intense scrutiny of her relationship with her subjects. Drawing upon the West African tradition of studio portraiture, **Samuel Fosso** repurposes this genre through self-portraiture by creating startling new identities, based on social archetypes as well as real historical figures. Drawing from a rich collection of images, film footage and music, **Arthur Jafa** uncompromisingly articulates Black experience, providing us with an exercise in visual literacy, confronting us with a new Black aesthetic which avoids fixed hierarchies and linear storytelling. Giving sculptural form to photo collage, **Frida Orupabo** reimagines the historical Black female body through her extraordinary multi-layered collages and Instagram posts using material circulated online.

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

+44(0)20 7087 9300
info@tpg.org.uk
tpg.org.uk

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The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize exhibition will feature a selection of work from the nominated projects of the four 2023 shortlisted artists. Their nominated projects are:

Bieke Depoorter – for her exhibition *A Chance Encounter* at C/O Berlin (30 April – 7 September 2022).

Bieke Depoorter (b. 1986, Kortrijk, Belgium) blurs the traditional relationship between photographer and subject. She questions the role and responsibilities of the photographer, the possibility or impossibility of truth in representation and grapples with personal and professional boundaries. Her nominated project presents two unfolding, ongoing, bodies of work, *Michael* and *Agata*. In both, a chance encounter develops into an enduring personal relationship and, thereafter, into an interrogation of the medium. A selection of work from the *Michael* project will be on display at The Photographers' Gallery.

In *Michael*, Depoorter examines the life and the disappearance of a man she met on the streets of Portland, Oregon in 2015. Gifted three suitcases of Michael's personal items, sketchbooks and essays, his subsequent disappearance turns Depoorter detective. Depoorter's work documents her immersive, perhaps obsessive, quest to find Michael and to understand his life. In *Agata*, a first meeting in a Parisian strip-club in 2017 evolves with complex tension into an intricate, changing narrative. The project explores questions of collaboration, the limits of a creative friendship, performance, boundaries and authorship.

Samuel Fosso – for his exhibition *Samuel Fosso* at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, (10 November 2021 – 13 March 2022).

Since the mid-1970s, Samuel Fosso (b. 1962, Kumba, Cameroon) has dedicated his artistic practice to self-portraits and performative photography. Fosso's retrospective exhibition traces a career of almost 50 years, bringing together iconic series, lesser-known works, archival material and previously unpublished images.

Raised in Nigeria, Fosso fled the Biafran War as a young boy, and in 1972 was taken in by an uncle in Bangui in the Central African Republic. In 1975, at the age of thirteen, Fosso opened his Studio Photo Nationale. Alongside commercial work, Fosso immediately began a series of self-portraits – a mode of representation he has never abandoned. Playing the role of key historical figures and social archetypes in front of the camera, Fosso embodies a powerful way of existing in the world, and a vivid demonstration of photography's role in the construction of myths.

Arthur Jafa – for his exhibition *Live Evil* at Luma, Arles (14 April – 13 November 2022).

Arthur Jafa (b. 1960, Tupelo, Mississippi, United States) is an artist and filmmaker. Nominated for the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of his work to date, Jafa draws upon a substantial collection of film and still images, creating visceral, dynamic films and room-sized installations. In the gallery space and on the screen, Jafa derives power from astute juxtaposition and lyrical, syncopated editing. Since the 1980s, Jafa has been accumulating and assembling pictures from books and magazines, arranging this imagery in new constellations within notebooks and latterly within dynamic artworks. For ready-made moving images, YouTube remains a favourite resource, alongside news footage and home video. By placing one resonant cultural artefact next to another Jafa references and questions the universal and specific articulations of Black experience. Eschewing a linear narrative, Jafa organises his material through formal and affective associations, linking his images through visual resemblance or thematic resonance. In this way Jafa aspires to an art that harnesses "the power, beauty, and alienation of black music."

Frida Orupabo – for her exhibition *I have seen a million pictures of my face and still I have no idea*, Fotomuseum Winterthur (26 February – 29 May 2022).

The sculptural collages and digital works of Frida Orupabo (b. 1986, Sarpsborg, Norway)

are multi-layered formations, exploring questions of race, sexuality and identity. Orupabo, a Norwegian Nigerian artist and sociologist, grounds her inquiry in her own experience of cultural belonging. Utilising visual material circulating online, spanning colonial-era photographs and ethnographic relics to contemporary imagery, Orupabo's hand-wrought works re-arrange and re-make the archive. The resulting images take the shape of fragmented Black, mostly female-bodied, figures. These figures, first dislocated, are reassembled layer by layer in a complex and poetic manoeuvre that simultaneously denounces one-dimensional depictions of Black lives. Her collaged cut-outs hold our gaze and invite various readings of the stories and lives of the people depicted, many of whom are entirely absent from the archives. In this way Orupabo invites a consideration of how photography significantly contributes to the formation and perpetuation of colonial power relations and violence.

A fully illustrated catalogue with newly commissioned essays on the shortlisted artists and their nominated projects will be on sale in The Photographers' Gallery shop and online. Writer and curator **Awa Konaté**, founder of the interdisciplinary research platform Culture Art Society, writes on the work of Frida Orupabo. **Gideon Jacobs**, writer, artist and former Creative Director of Magnum Photos, writes on Bieke Depoorter. Curator and cultural historian **Mark Sealy**, Director of Autograph APB, explores the work of Samuel Fosso. New York-based American DJ, writer and interdisciplinary artist **Jace Clayton** considers Arthur Jafa's work.

A programme of talks and events will take place during the exhibition about the artists and their work. On 1 February, 'On Photography' – an online roundtable talk – will explore the role of photography and the most urgent issues facing photographers today.

For more details visit: www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

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Press Contacts

For further press information and image requests please contact:

Jodie Lewis or Sophia Hammond at Margaret on jodie@margaretlondon.com / sophia@margaretlondon.com

For general information and enquiries about The Photographers' Gallery, including the archive, Print Sales Gallery or Bookshop contact: press@tpg.org.uk

or further information about Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation please contact:

Isabelle Hammer at media.foundation@deutsche-boerse.com / +49 69 21114060

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Notes for Editors

Artists' biographies available on request.

The Photographers' Gallery

The Photographers' Gallery (TPG) champions photography for everyone. Located in the heart of central London and home to an international community of photographers, the Gallery explores photography in all its forms, with a diverse and critically acclaimed programme of exhibitions, events and courses. The UK's first independent gallery devoted to photography, TPG was first to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller, Helen Levitt, Rinko Kawauchi, Gordon Parks, Sebastião Salgado and Andreas Gursky. The Gallery has also been instrumental in establishing contemporary British photographers, including Martin Parr and Corinne Day. Over the past five decades TPG has helped to establish photography as a recognised art form, introducing new audiences to photography and celebrating its place at the heart of visual culture. Right outside TPG, Soho Photography

Quarter (SPQ) is an exciting new permanent outdoor cultural space, presenting the very best of contemporary photography for free, day and night.

www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation is a non-profit organisation based in Frankfurt/ Main that is dedicated to collecting, exhibiting and promoting contemporary photography. It is responsible for the further development and presentation of the Art Collection Deutsche Börse, which now comprises over 2,300 photographic works by around 160 artists from 33 nations. In its exhibition space in Eschborn near Frankfurt am Main, it shows several exhibitions a year that are open to the public. Supporting young artists is a particular concern of the Foundation. It promotes them in many ways: with awards, scholarships, or through participation in the Talent programme of the Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam Foam. Together with the Photographers' Gallery in London, it awards the renowned Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize every year. Furthermore, the Foundation supports exhibition projects of international museums and institutions, as well as the development of platforms for academic dialogue and research on the medium of photography.

www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org

The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize History

Founded in 1996 by The Photographers' Gallery, and now in its twenty-seventh 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 in collaboration with Deutsche Börse Group since 2005. In 2016 the Prize was retitled 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. The winner of the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2022 was Deana Lawson for her exhibition *Centropy*. Past winners include Cao Fei, Mohamed Bourouissa, Susan Meiselas, Luke Willis Thompson, Dana Lixenberg, Trevor Paglen, Juergen Teller, Rineke Dijkstra, Richard Billingham, John Stezaker and Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin.

Visitor Information

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2023: 3 March – 11 June 2023

Opening times:

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Monday - Wednesday 10am - 6pm

Thursday & Friday 10am - 8pm (Fridays free from 5pm)

Saturday 10am - 6pm

Sunday 10am - 6pm

Tickets

£8 / £5 concessions (members go free)

Advance online booking: £6.50 / £4 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

W: thephotographersgallery.org.uk

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