

News Release

Tuesday 14 November 2017

CESAR DEZFULI WINS TENTH ANNIVERSARY TAYLOR WESSING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2017 FOR HIS PORTRAIT OF A RESCUED MIGRANT



Amadou Sumaila by César Dezfuli © César Dezfuli

César Dezfuli has won the Tenth Anniversary *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2017* for his portrait of a migrant rescued in the Mediterranean Sea off the Libyan coast, the National Portrait Gallery has announced. The £15,000 award was presented to the Spanish photographer at an awards ceremony on Tuesday 14 November 2017.

His sitter Amadou Sumaila, a sixteen-year-old from Mali, was photographed in the Mediterranean Sea, in international Waters 20 nautical miles off the Libyan coast. He has since been transferred from a rescue vessel to a temporary reception centre for migrants in Italy. The portrait was taken as part of Dezfuli's work as a freelancer, documenting the search and rescue of migrants on board an NGO vessel in the Central Mediterranean Route. Dezfuli, who was born in Madrid of Persian descent (10.01.1991), works as journalist and documentary photographer, and focuses on issues of migration, identity and human rights.

'I think Amadou's portrait stands out because of the emotions it transmits,' says Dezfuli. 'He had just been rescued by a European vessel, apparently fulfilling his dream. However, his look and his attitude show fear, mistrust and uncertainty, as well as determination and strength.'

Judges' comments: 'Against the balance and precision of Dezfuli's composition, the directness of Sumaila's gaze is striking and unsettling. The portrait powerfully conveys his loss, solitude and determination.'

The winner of the £3,000 Second Prize is **Abbie Trayler-Smith** for her photograph of a girl fleeing ISIS in Mosul, Iraq. Trayler-Smith was there undertaking a commission for Oxfam documenting the camp where the charity was providing aid, talking to women who had lived under ISIS who were prepared to be photographed.

The winner of the £2,000 Third Prize and the John Kobal New Work Award for a photographer under 35, is **Maija Tammi** from Finland for her portrait of a Japanese android called Erica. This is the first time in the competition's history that one of the photographers shortlisted for a prize has also won the John Kobal New Work Award which offers a cash prize of £5,000 to include undertaking a commission to photograph a sitter for the Gallery's Collection.

The winning portraits will be on display at the National Portrait Gallery as part of the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2017* exhibition from 16 November 2016 to 8 February 2017. While the photographs are judged anonymously from prints this was the first year in which the competition permitted digital entries for the initial sift.

The prize-winning photographs and those selected for inclusion in the exhibition were chosen from 5,717 submissions entered by 2,423 photographers from 66 countries.

£3,000 Second Prize: Abbie Trayler-Smith for *Fleeing Mosul* from the series *Women in War: Life After ISIS*



Fleeing Mosul from the series *Women in War: Life After ISIS* by Abbie Trayler-Smith © Abbie Trayler-Smith

Abbie Trayler-Smith (20.05.1977) is a documentary and portrait photographer born and raised in South Wales. Travelling extensively her work covers women's rights, social development and the aftermath of conflict. Her shortlisted photograph was shot outside Hasan Sham IDP camp in Northern Iraq. Trayler-Smith was there undertaking a commission for Oxfam documenting the camp where the charity was providing aid, talking to women who had lived under ISIS who were prepared to be photographed. A convoy of buses arrived from Mosul, bringing people to safety who had escaped the battle just hours before. 'I just remember seeing her face looking out at the camp,' says Trayler-Smith, 'and the shock and the bewilderment in her's and other's faces and it made me shudder to imagine what living under ISIS had been like. To me the uncertainty in her face echoes the faces of people having to flee their homes around the world and references a global feeling of insecurity.'

Judges' comments: 'The colour and texture of the portrait has a painterly quality, created by the mud-streaked glass through which the young woman is framed. Her haunting expression quietly suggests the unimaginable horrors of life under occupation.'

£2,000 Third Prize and £5,000 John Kobal New Work Award: Maija Tammi for *One of Them Is a Human #1* (Erica: Erato Ishiguro Symbiotic Human-Robot Interaction Project.)



One of Them Is a Human #1 by Maija Tammi (Erica: Erato Ishiguro Symbiotic Human-Robot Interaction Project) © Maija Tammi

The winner of the Third Prize and the £5,000 *John Kobal New Work Award* is Maija Tammi (05.06.1985) a Finnish artist, with a background in photojournalism, whose photographs engage with science and aesthetics. Tammi's work has been exhibited in Europe, North America and Asia. She regularly works with scientists and is currently finishing her studio-art-based doctoral thesis. Tammi's sitter is Erica, a highly advanced robot, programmed by her creator, Hiroshi Ishiguro, to understand and respond to a range of questions and is able to express different emotions via dozens of pneumatic actuators embedded beneath her silicone skin. *One of Them Is a Human #1* is part of a broader series which presents androids alongside one human and asks questions about what it means to be alive. The photograph was taken at Ishiguro Laboratory, Department of Systems Innovation at Osaka University, in an experiment room where researchers work with Erica. 'I had half an hour with Erica and a young researcher in which to take the photograph. The researcher told me that Erica had said she finds *Pokemon Go* scarier than artificial intelligence.'

Judges' comments: 'During the judging process, only the title of each portrait is revealed. It was unclear whether the girl was a human or an android, and this ambiguity made the portrait particularly compelling. Tammi's portrait offers a provocative comment on human evolution.'

The *John Kobal New Work Award* is given to a photographer under thirty-five whose work has been selected for the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize* exhibition. The winner receives a cash prize of £5,000 to include undertaking a commission to photograph a sitter connected with the UK film industry for the Gallery's Collection.

The annual *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize* exhibition is one of the most prestigious photography awards in the world and showcases new work that has been submitted by some of the most exciting contemporary photographers. Since the international competition began in 1993, it has remained a hugely important platform for portrait photographers and offers an unparalleled opportunity for celebrated professionals, emerging artists and amateurs alike. The competition is in its tenth year of sponsorship by Taylor Wessing.

The competition judges have no knowledge of the identity of the entrants, and the diversity of styles in the exhibition reflects the international mix of entries as well as photographers' individual and varied approaches to the genre of portraiture. For the third time, photographers were encouraged to submit works as a series in addition to stand-alone portraits, and there was no minimum size requirement for prints. For the second year running, the rules also allow photographers to submit photographs on different supports to the competition – to encourage the demonstration of a range of different photographic processes.

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery, says: 'Many congratulations to all the prize-winners and selected photographers for their remarkable portraits. I hope that visitors to this tenth anniversary *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize* will enjoy this exhibition of the very best contemporary photography from around the world.'

Tim Eyles, Managing Partner, Taylor Wessing LLP, says: 'Our huge congratulations to everyone shortlisted in this exceptional exhibition, and most especially to the winners. As a law firm we believe strongly in the importance of creativity in bringing solutions to our clients' business challenges. Encouraging creativity in all of us is at the heart of our philosophy, and what better way than through immersion in the arts. We are privileged to be able to support the Gallery and this remarkably talented community of artists and look forward to doing so for many years to come.'

The competition was judged from original prints by **Dr Nicholas Cullinan**, Chair (Director, National Portrait Gallery, London); **Dr David Company** (Writer, Curator and Artist); **Tim Eyles**, Managing Partner, Taylor Wessing LLP; **Dr Sabina Jaskot-Gill** (Associate Curator, Photographs, National Portrait Gallery, London); **Fiona Shields** (Head of Photography, *The Guardian*) and **Gillian Wearing** (Artist.)

The exhibition also features an *In Focus* display of previously unseen prints from a new body of work by the photographer, Todd Hido, who is known for juxtaposing mysterious and cinematic ruminations on the American landscape alongside portraits of women, which together speak of a fragmented and personal memory of the past. Hido will be the third In Focus artist, selected by National Portrait Gallery curators, following Cristina de Middel in 2016 and Pieter Hugo in 2015. *In Focus* is an annual showcase for new work by an internationally renowned photographers.

TAYLOR WESSING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2017

16 November 2017 – 8 February 2018

Tickets with donation Full price £6 / Concessions £4.50; Tickets without donation Full price £5 / Concessions £3.50 (Free for Members and Patrons) *Supported by Taylor Wessing* npg.org.uk/photoprize #photoprize

PUBLICATION

A fully illustrated paperback catalogue including all photographs from this year's exhibition features an interview with the *In Focus* photographer Todd Hido and interviews with the prize-winners by Richard McClure. RRP £15 with a special price of £10 when purchased directly from the National Portrait Gallery shops.

Prizes: First prize is £15,000, second prize is £3,000, and third prize is £2,000. The winner of the *John Kobal New Work Award* receives £5,000.

Taylor Wessing is an international law firm working with clients in the world's most dynamic industries. We believe in the fundamental importance of creativity in business, and help our clients succeed by thinking innovatively about their business issues. Our belief in the need to encourage creativity in all walks of life is behind our sponsorship of the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize*, now in its tenth year.

For further Press information and image requests please contact: Neil Evans, Press Office, National Portrait Gallery nevans@npg.org.uk / 020 7312 2452 **To download press images:** npg.org.uk/press

National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London, WC2H 0HE. Opening hours Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday: 10.00 – 18.00 (Gallery closure commences at 17.50) **Late Opening:** Thursday, Friday: 10.00 – 21.00 (Gallery closure commences at 20.50) **Nearest Underground:** Leicester Square/Charing Cross **Recorded information:** 020 7312 2463 **General information:** 020 7306 0055 **Website:** npg.org.uk

SELECTED PORTRAITS (Artist, title, series, location of photographer)

Natasha Alipour-Faridani	GCSE	from <i>Results Day</i>	Beckenham
Laurent Elie Badessi	George S. Texas 2016	"Age of Innocence" from <i>Children and guns in the USA</i>	New York
Richard Beaven	'Bear' Brandow	In Trump Country	Ghent
Craig Bernard	Untitled from <i>Sweat & Hype</i>		Barry
Keith Bernstein	Nurse	from <i>Movie Extras</i>	London
Charlie Bibby	Cameron		London
Anna Boyiazis	Kijini Primary School students learn to float, swim, and perform rescues in the Indian Ocean off Mnyuni Zanzibar		Burkini Island Los Angeles
Alejandro Cartagena	Mother at the US-Mexico	from <i>Wall Without walls</i>	Hidalgo
Alejandro Cartagena	"Daughter at the US-Mexico	<i>Wall Without walls</i>	Hidalgo
Laurence Cartwright	Sandwich Thief		Hove
Davey James Clarke	Builder's Lunch Break		Brooklyn
Charlie Clift	Football kids of Kolkata	from <i>10 Years of Premier Skills</i>	London
Harry Cory Wright	Maggi Hambling		Burnham Market
Tom Craig	A.A. Gill		London
César Dezfuli	Amadou Sumaila	from <i>Passengers</i>	Leganes / Madrid

Craig Easton Paddy, 16, Irish Traveller, Liverpool Sixteen Heswall
Craig Easton "Arshia, 16, asylum seeker, Liverpool" Sixteen Heswall
Hania Farrell Minecrafting London
Matthew Finn Untitled from *Mother* Watford
Matthew Hamon "Jennifer, Lur, and Emile, Warm Spring Creek, Idaho" from *Water's Edge* Potomac
Cig Harvey Prism, Scout Rockport
Owen Harvey Mykie, Skinhead, Hackney, London. from *Skins & Suedes* Ware
Owen Harvey Chelsea, Skinhead, Hyde Park, London. from *Skins & Suedes* Ware
Tommy Hatwell Night School Tavistock
Adam Hinton "Kieran from Bolton aged 18 " Twickenham
Adam Hinton Shaquille aged 21, Akeam aged 18 and Romain aged 17 all from Birmingham Twickenham
Kurt Hörbst Rajkumar from *People Scans* Rainbach
Kurt Hörbst Ibrahim-Sai from *People Scans* Rainbach
Mahtab Hussain Green chalk stripe suit from *You Get Me?* Sutton Coldfield
Catherine Hyland The Gardener from *Wait-And-See Pudding with Patience Sauce* London
Catherine Hyland Maddens Wind Farm from *Wait-And-See Pudding with Patience Sauce* London
R. J. Kern "Anna and Helen, Blue Earth County Fair, Minnesota, 2016 from *The Unchosen Ones* Minneapolis
Camille Mack Dapo Chicken shop London
Ian McIlgorm Jack Vetrriano Hyde End
Monika Merva Christmas Eve from *Déjà Vu* Brooklyn
Mitchell Moreno Untitled from *Abide* London
Mitchell Moreno Untitled from *Abide* London
Alan Mozes Campaign #1 Hillary Rodham Clinton, West Palm Beach, from *Ambition, Charm, and the Will to Power* New York
Alan Mozes "Campaign #2 Barack Obama, Sweetwater, Miami, FL from *Ambition, Charm, and the Will To Power* New York
Debbie Naylor "Mickey, 14yrs " from *Wet behind the ears* Watford
Nancy Newberry "The Sentinels from *Smoke Bombs and Border Crossings* Dallas
Danny North Maggie As I Found Her - from *A Portrait of Eigg* Greenwich"
Danny North "Dylan" As I Found Her from - *A Portrait of Eigg* Greenwich
Cian Oba-Smith Milan & Dusty from *Concrete Horsemen* London
Thom Pierce "Thapelo Moiloa with his dog Limo - Ha Salemore, Lesotho" from *The Horsemen of Semonkong* Cape Town
Baud Postma Embrace from *Masculine* London
Benjamin Rasmussen "Donald Trump entering his living room" from *Trump after hours* Denver
Joel Redman Dareniesha, Venice Venice, California Pawlett
Alice Schoolcraft Halo from *The Other Side* Malmö
Paola Serino "Adriano at 12" from *Becoming a fencer* Roma
Sean Smith Sophie's first breath Johannesburg
Maija Tammi One of Them Is a Human #1. from *Erica: Erato Ishiguro Symbiotic Human-Robot Interaction Project* Helsinki
Alys Tomlinson Pilgrim at Lourdes, France from *Ex-Voto* London
Jon Tonks "Francisca, Eva & Lyn, Million Dollar Point, Espiritu Santo" From *ongoing work shot in Vanuatu Bath*
Abbie Trayler-Smith Fleeing Mosul from *Women in War: Life After ISIS* London
Simon Urwin Sentō Bather London
David Vintiner "Nick Bostrom, The Future of Humanity Institute, Oxford. "from *Transhuman* Saffron Walden
Alva White Some Survive. Thousands Die. From *Life on board search and rescue ship, MV Aquarius.* Manchester
Georgie Wileman 2014 - 2017 from *Endometriosis* Brooklyn