

## News Release

THURSDAY 4 AUGUST 2022

### National Portrait Gallery Announces Shortlist for Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2022

*2022 exhibition will open at Cromwell Place arts hub, South Kensington on 27 October*



Images L-R: *Mother and Daughter* from the series *Jannah Lies at the Feet of Thy Mother* by Haneem Christian © Haneem Christian; *Laundry Day #2* from the series *Laundry Day* by Clémentine Schneidermann © Clémentine Schneidermann; *Zahid's Son* from the series *The Lost Enchiridion of the Fergana Valley* by Alexander Komenda © Alexander Komenda.

Three international photographers have been shortlisted for the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2022*, the prestigious photography award organised by the National Portrait Gallery, London. The shortlisted works will be displayed in the **Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2022** exhibition at **Cromwell Place**, a new arts hub in South Kensington, London from the **27 October until 18 December 2022**, while the Gallery's building in St Martin's Place is closed for major redevelopment works.

Selected by a panel of judges from 4,462 entries from 1,697 photographers, the three shortlisted photographers are:

- **Haneem Christian** for *Mother and Daughter* and *Rooted*, which explore queerness, transness and the importance of chosen family.
- **Clémentine Schneidermann** for portraits from the series *Laundry Day*, which document the daily chores of her neighbour in South Wales, navigating life in lockdown.
- **Alexander Komenda** for *Zahid's Son*, a portrait that examines themes of identity and the post-Soviet landscape in Kyrgyzstan.

The annual *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize*, now celebrating fifteen years under Taylor Wessing's sponsorship, is one of the most prestigious photography awards in the world and showcases new work submitted by some of the most exciting contemporary photographers. The winner of the first prize will receive £15,000. The second prize-winner receives £3,000 and the third prize £2,000.

Following an anonymous judging process, the winner will be announced on **Tuesday 25 October 2022**. This year's judging panel was chaired by National Portrait Gallery Director, Dr Nicholas Cullinan, who was joined by Chief Foreign Correspondent at The Sunday Times, Christina Lamb; award-winning photographer, Siân Davey; the Director of Photoworks, Shoair Mavlian; and the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2022* curator, Eva Eicker.

The following photographs have been shortlisted for the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2022*.

**Haneem Christian** for *Mother and Daughter* and *Rooted*



L-R: *Mother and Daughter* from the series *Jannah Lies at the Feet of Thy Mother* by Haneem Christian © Haneem Christian; *Rooted* from the series *Rooted* by Haneem Christian © Haneem Christian.

Haneem Christian is a visual poet and activist, who was born and raised in Cape Town, South Africa. They studied Gender Studies and Environmental and Geographical Sciences at the University of Cape Town, which has since informed their body of work. Their photography focuses on representation within the Black and Brown LGBTQIA+ community.

Christian's entries, entitled *Mother and Daughter* and *Rooted*, are photographic works from two separate series that explore queerness and transness in relation to family, race and identity. The works were particularly praised for giving voices to communities in various cultural contexts, and for the visible trust conveyed between sitters and photographer.

*Mother and Daughter* depicts Cheshire V and Autumn May, who are both trans feminine artists from Cape Town, South Africa. Christian's photograph explores the relationship between the two, and questions "what it means to be a mother to a child who you have chosen and has chosen you". Christian commented that this image "is a celebration of the family we choose," while *Rooted* "honours the journey of returning to the Self by seeing yourself through the eyes of a loved one". The tender and poetic representation, which depicts a figure laying back and gazing straight to camera within a woodland setting "acknowledges and celebrates the multidimensionality and sacred nature of queerness and transness rooted in precolonial knowledge of self".

**Clémentine Schneidermann** for *Laundry Day #2* and *Laundry Day #3*



Images L-R: *Laundry Day #2* from the series *Laundry Day* by Clémentine Schneidermann © Clémentine Schneidermann; *Laundry Day #3* from the series *Laundry Day* by Clémentine Schneidermann © Clémentine Schneidermann

Clémentine Schneidermann is a French photographer, living and working between Paris and South Wales. With a focus on social documentary photography, her approach is collaborative and playful, with a particular interest in communities. She is a co-founder of Ffasiwn Stiwdio, a photography-based creative studio that creates programmes with youth groups, and in 2021, she completed a practice-based PhD at the University of South Wales, Cardiff.

Schneidermann's portraits from her series *Laundry Day* depict the artist's neighbour, hanging laundry in the garden of her home in South Wales. Taken during another challenging year in the UK, the photographs "document micro events which deal with the passage of time through the small moments of our daily lives," comments Schneidermann.

Through the obsessive photography of one daily chore, the photographer captures the everyday. The socially distanced portraits, which are close, but not close enough to see the sitter's face, are part of a series of works taken during times of quarantine, self-isolation, and national lockdowns.

**Alexander Komenda** for *Zahid's Son*



*Zahid's Son* from the series *The Lost Enchiridion of the Fergana Valley* by Alexander Komenda © Alexander Komenda.

Alexander Komenda is a Polish-Canadian documentary photographer and artist, whose work focuses on revealing the nuances of everyday life. His interests in identity and collective memory are utilised in his practice in order to explore the boundaries between unity and division in relation to his subjects. In 2020, Komenda completed his BA in Documentary Photography at the University of South Wales, Cardiff and is currently undertaking an MA in Photography at Aalto University in Espoo, Finland.

*Zahid's Son* forms part of Komenda's ongoing series, *The Lost Enchiridion of the Fergana Valley*, and examines identity and the post-imperialist landscape of the Fergana Valley, which spreads across Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Photographed on the Kyrgyz side of the Fergana Valley, Komenda's portrait depicts the son of Zahid, an Uzbek friend working in the field of human rights in Osh, Kyrgyzstan. The nameless sitter is photographed in his domestic setting, holding a pet rabbit.

Those who reside in the Fergana Valley are still living with the legacy of its Soviet past, and in southern Kyrgyzstan, Uzbek people continue to face significant marginalisation. This portrait dignifies the presence of Zahid and his family. The artist recalls a conversation with Zahid, in which he said, *"as Uzbeks, my children could never become president or be in positions of government"*.

**Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director National Portrait Gallery, said:** *"Congratulations to the shortlisted photographers; once again, this year's entries demonstrate the outstanding level at which photographers across the world are working. Since the launch of the Prize in 1993, now in its fifteenth year of sponsorship by Taylor Wessing, over one million people have seen the exhibition, which continues to bring the very best in contemporary photography to our audiences. I look forward to welcoming both new and returning visitors this autumn at Cromwell Place."*

**Shane Gleghorn, Managing Partner at Taylor Wessing, said:** *"The shortlist of talented artists for this year's Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize is exceptional. We are proud to continue supporting the Prize, not least because the prestige it has established internationally draws an increasing number of artists to participate and provides them with a showcase for photographic portraiture. We look forward to the official unveiling of the exhibition at Cromwell Place and the winner's announcement for 2022."*

**Eva Eicker, curator of Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2022, said:** *"The annual Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize and the portraits exhibited as part of the exhibition allow a collective representation of, yet another, a difficult year. Seeing such a variety of themes and approaches provided an honest glimpse into people's lives, and I am excited to curate the compelling selection of photographs in the exhibition this year."*

**ENDS**

**For further press information, images and interview requests please contact:**

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**Notes to editors**

**TAYLOR WESSING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2022 at [Cromwell Place](#)**

27 October – 18 December 2022

*Supported by Taylor Wessing*

[www.npg.org.uk/photoprize](http://www.npg.org.uk/photoprize)

#PhotoPrize

Tickets will be available to purchase at [npg.org.uk](http://npg.org.uk) from 22 August 2022.

The prize-winning photographs and those selected for inclusion in the exhibition were chosen from 4,462 submissions entered by 1,697 photographers from 62 countries. A total of 51 portraits from 36 artists have been selected for display in the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2022* exhibition.

### **Exhibiting Photographers**

Ed Alcock	Kaishui Liu
Frederic Aranda	Kirsty Mackay
Fiona Bailey	Marco Marinucci
Carmen Ballve	Rania Matar
Rosie Barnes	Max Miechowski
Chris Budgeon	Margaret Mitchell
Stephen Burrige	Suleika Mueller
Michal Chelbin	Cian Oba-Smith
Haneem Christian	Kavi Purjara
Christian Doyle	Helen Rimell
Craig Easton	Igor Sapina
Sophie Ebrard	Clémentine Schneidermann
Adam Ferguson	Celeste Sloman
Sarah Mei Herman	Agnieszka Sosnowska
Curtis Hughes	Erinn Springer
Lewis Khan	Gregory John Turner
Alexander Komenda	Tony Sebastian Ukpo
Guannan Li	Nick van Tiem

### **National Portrait Gallery**

The National Portrait Gallery was founded in 1856 to encourage, through portraiture, the appreciation and understanding of the people who have made and are making British history and culture. Today it promotes engagement with portraiture in all media to a wide-ranging public by conserving, growing and sharing the world's largest collection of portraits.

The Gallery in St Martin's Place, London is currently closed until 2023, while essential building works take place on the *Inspiring People* redevelopment project, which will transform the Gallery, including a complete refurbishment of the building and a new learning centre. During the closure period, the Gallery will continue to share its Collection through its digital channels and a series of nationwide partnerships and collaborations.

[www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)

### **Taylor Wessing**

Taylor Wessing is a global law firm that serves the world's most innovative people and businesses. Deeply embedded within our sectors, we work closely together with our clients to crack complex problems, enabling ideas and aspirations to thrive. Creative thinking is at the heart of our culture and we see art as an important instrument of change. Together with our people and community partners, we seek to challenge expectation and create extraordinary results.

### **Cromwell Place**

Cromwell Place is a Membership organisation offering a first-of-its-kind exhibition and working space in central London, located in the heart of South Kensington's museum district and housed within five Grade II listed townhouses.

Designed in 1858 by Sir Charles James Freake, the buildings contain 14 unique gallery spaces, permanent and shared offices, hot desks, meeting rooms and viewing rooms, and the Club Room. Additional services include access to Temporary Admission and Custom Warehouse Status.

Cromwell Place is home to some of the world's most exciting galleries, collectors, dealers and advisors: with specialities ranging from Antiquities and Old Masters through to Contemporary Art. Membership is open to those who can demonstrate a high standard of curatorial and professional competence.