



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

News release

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National Portrait Gallery announces Shortlist for Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize 2023

58 portraits from 51 photographers will be displayed as the annual exhibition returns to the newly renovated gallery for the first time since 2020.

Among prizes for first, second and a joint third place, a photographic commission will also be awarded to one of the five shortlisted photographers.

Those shortlisted for the exhibition will also see their photographs exhibited alongside portraits by 2023's In Focus Photographer, Hassan Hajjaj.



Shortlisted portraits in the Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize 2023. L-R: *me nana fie* by Serena Brown © Serena Brown; *Shaun Ryder* by Jake Green © Jake Green; *Chotu Lal Upside-down* by Carl Francois van der Linde from the series *Our Leader* © Carl Francois van der Linde.

Five photographers have been shortlisted for the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2023*, the prestigious photography award organised by the National Portrait Gallery, London. The shortlisted works will be displayed in the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2023* exhibition as the show returns to the National Portrait Gallery, open from 9 November 2023 until 25 February 2024.

Owing to the outstanding quality of submissions this year, a joint third place prize will be awarded to two photographers from a shortlist of five. Selected by a panel of judges from 5020 entries from 1785 photographers, the five shortlisted photographers are:

- Serena Brown for *me nana fie* featuring the photographer's younger sister visiting



her grandma's home in Ghana for the first time.

- Jake Green for *Shaun Ryder* capturing the *Happy Mondays* lead singer obscured by a vapour cloud.
- Carl Francois van der Linde for *Chotu Lal Upside-down* depicting professional wrestlers of Continental Wrestling Entertainment (CWE).
- Alexandre Silberman for *Diena*, examining the intersections of people and the natural world, captured at La Courneuve park outside Paris, France.
- Gilleam Trapenberg for *Kisha and LaDarayon* picturing the quiet affection between a mother and son on the Caribbean island of Saint Martin.



L-R: *Diena* by Alexandre Silberman from the series *NATURE* © Alexandre Silberman; *Kisha and LaDarayon*, 2023 by Gilleam Trapenberg from the series *Currents* © Gilleam Trapenberg.

Alongside the monetary prizes for first, second and third place, a commission to the value of £8,000 will be awarded to one of the shortlisted photographers. Supported by Taylor Wessing, the chosen photographer will create an artwork that will form part of the world's largest collection of portraiture at the National Portrait Gallery. The commissioned photographer will be announced at the Awards Ceremony at the Gallery, alongside the Prize winners, with the commission unveiled at the 2024 Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize exhibition.

Following an anonymous judging process, the winner will be announced on 6 November 2023. This year's judging panel was chaired by National Portrait Gallery Director, Dr Nicholas Cullinan, who was joined by Senior Curator at The Photographer's Gallery, Karen McQuaid; writer and photographer, Caleb Azumah Nelson; artist, Campbell Addy; and the National Portrait Gallery's Senior Curator of Photography, Sabina Jaskot-Gill.

Serena Brown for *me nana fie*



me nana fie by Serena Brown © Serena Brown



Serena Brown is a British photographer, holding a BA in Photography from Falmouth University. Brown's work often focuses on issues affecting working class youth around the UK, seeking to create honest and authentic portrayals of her subjects. Brown's approach is exemplified throughout her previous projects including *Back a Yard*, exploring the appropriation of Black and Asian working class youth culture within fashion, and *Class of Covid-19*, portraying students who's school years were cut short by lockdown in 2020. Brown's work has appeared in renowned publications including capturing England Forward player Chloe Kelly for Grazia, photographing editor of British Vogue Edward Enninful for the New York Times and features for Refinery29, amongst other photographic projects for brands such as Nike, Google and Pepsi.

Brown's shortlisted photograph, *me nana fie*, pictures the photographer's younger sister at their grandmother's house in Accra, Ghana. It is part of a larger project capturing the notable characters – friends, family and street sellers – who visit her grandmother. Brown was visiting her family in Ghana, returning for the first time since she was two. She travelled with her younger sister Chloe, who had never visited the country before. The portrait captures a sense of homecoming and belonging.

Jake Green for *Shaun Ryder*



Shaun Ryder by Jake Green © Jake Green

Jake Green is a British, London-based documentary photographer, creating observational images of people and place. Often working in his home city, Green's most notable work includes *Pie and Mash London*, documenting the tradition of pie and mash shops, and *Drink my Sweat* exploring the production and movement of coffee. His portraiture work has included subjects such as actor Daniel Kaluya, singer Dua Lipa and author and comedian Big Narstie amongst other notable public figures. Green has also collaborated with global publications and brands such as The New York Times, the Guardian, Converse and Google.

Shaun Ryder, taken in Manchester, was produced for a series documenting influential figures in 1980's music as a commission for Gold Wala and Channel 4. Depicting the iconic lead singer from the *Happy Mondays*, Ryder's face is obscured entirely by vapour as suggested by Ryder during the photography session with Green.



Carl Francois van der Linde for *Chotu Lal Upside-down*



Chotu Lal Upside-down by Carl Francois van der Linde from the series *Our Leader* © Carl Francois van der Linde.

Carl Francois van der Linde is a South African photographer, holding a Bachelors in Commerce Economics and International Trade and Post-Graduate degree in marketing and communication. His work has previously been featured in the PhotoVogue Festival next Generation Fashion Image Makers 2022 awards and has collaborated on projects for publications and organisations including DAZED, Elephant Magazine, WePresent and the British Craft Council.

Chotu Lal Upside-down, from the series *Our Leader* depicts Chotu Lal a.k.a the Dragon, a professional wrestler from Punjab hanging upside down by his feet from a tree, sandwiched between two much larger wrestlers which was captured in Jalandhar during Van Der Linde's exploration of the world of Continental Wrestling Entertainment (CWE). The portrait finds Chotu Lal in the midst of building his personal wrestling brand; CWE students often stage humiliation efforts as part of their promotion, recording them and adding the content to social media. This adds to their personal brand and potential virality of their social media pages, hoping to catch the eye of talent scouts.

Alexandre Silberman for *Diena*



Diena by Alexandre Silberman from the series *NATURE* © Alexandre Silberman.

Alexandre Silberman is a director and photographer based in Paris, France, focused on developing long term documentary projects. His work has previously been exhibited in galleries and exhibitions across Europe and the USA, with publications in Marie Claire Korea and Musee Magazine, amongst others.

Silberman's series *NATURE* explores the intersection of human landscapes and the natural world, and how human interventions such as building a park or urban greenspace creates a hybrid reality between what is natural and what is constructed. Captured in La Courneuve



Park, the photograph pictures its sitter, Diena, in a liminal state where the pattern of the surrounding lawn appears to blend with the pattern of her floral blouse. The monochrome palette lends a timeless, oneiric quality to the work, but details within the frame – Diena’s nose-ring and headphones – bring the portrait into the present.

Gilleam Trapenberg for *Kisha and LaDarayon*, 2023



Kisha and LaDarayon, 2023 by Gilleam Trapenberg from the series *Currents* © Gilleam Trapenberg.

Gilleam Trapenberg is a Dutch photographer, now based in Amsterdam, who was born and raised on the Dutch-Caribbean Island of Curaçao. His work explores contradictions and stereotypes of the social landscape of the Caribbean, focusing on vistas beyond tourist tropes to explore a more nuanced and multifaceted understanding of daily life on the islands. His work has been exhibited at the Stedelijk Museum and FOAM Photography Museum in Amsterdam.

Kisha and LaDarayon, 2023 from the series *Currents*, was captured on the Caribbean island of Saint Martin. Trapenberg has been photographing Kisha and her family since 2018. This particular portrait captured in 2023, features Kisha outside her grandmother’s home with her youngest son LaDarayon. While Trapenberg’s photography typically avoids focusing on particular individuals, his work with Kisha’s family is a departure from this norm. His portrait captures a heartfelt moment between mother and son. Trapenberg explains that Kisha, a mother of three boys, embodies the spirit of Caribbean women he grew up with on Curaçao.

The exhibition will also host this year’s In Focus Photographer, Hassan Hajjaj. Living and working between London and Marrakesh, Hajjaj’s vibrant portraits embrace diverse cultural influences – incorporating references to Western pop art and African studio portraiture, and mixing traditional Moroccan fabrics and motifs with contemporary streetwear and maximalist styling. His work resists stereotypes to fashion a unique representation of Hajjaj’s own experience of living between British and North African cultures.

“Congratulations to the shortlisted photographers, who have demonstrated an outstanding quality of work amongst an extremely talented pool of entries. The Photo Portrait Prize is always an opportunity to showcase new and exciting photography talent, and we are delighted to be welcoming the exhibition back to the newly renovated gallery. With a new Commission Prize, I also look forward to working with one of these photographers to create a piece for the National Portrait Gallery’s collection after the winner is revealed in November.”

Nicholas Cullinan
Director, National Portrait Gallery

“This year’s Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize features an exceptional shortlist of



talented artists. We take pride in supporting the Prize, which has gained international prestige and attracted a growing number of artists and we look forward to seeing the Prize return to the National Portrait Gallery.”

Shane Gleghorn
Managing Partner, Taylor Wessing

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Notes to editors

Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize 2023
9 November 2023 – 25 February 2024
Supported by Taylor Wessing
#PhotoPrize

Tickets are available to purchase at npg.org.uk.

The prize-winning photographs and those selected for inclusion in the exhibition were chosen from 5020 submissions entered by 1785 photographers from 59 countries. A total of 58 portraits from 51 photographers have been selected for display in the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2023* exhibition.

The first prize winner of the competition will receive £15,000, second prize will receive £3000 and both third prize winners will receive £2000.

National Portrait Gallery

Founded in 1856, the National Portrait Gallery tells the story of Britain through portraits, using art to bring history to life and explore living today. From global icons, to unsung heroes, our Collection is filled with the stories that have shaped, and continue to shape a nation. We celebrate the power of portraiture and offer encounters with some of the world's greatest and most exciting new artists, promoting engagement with portraiture in all media to a wide-ranging public by conserving, growing and sharing the world's largest collection of portraits.
www.npg.org.uk

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Exhibiting Photographers

Alex Frayne
Alex Parkyn-Smith
Alexandre Silberman
Alice Zoo
Ana Paganini
Ben Brooks
Benjamin Madgwick
Byron Mohammad Hamzah
Cara Price
Carl Francois van der Linde
Dan Kirmatzis
Daniel Zox
David van Dartel
D-MO
Ed Alcock
Enda Bowe
Francesca Mills
Freya Najade
Fumi Nagasaka
Garrod Kirkwood
Gilleam Trapenberg
Gregory John Turner

Harry Compton
Heather Agyepong
Jake Green
Jenny Lewis
Jonangelo Molinari
Kate Peters
Louise Haywood-Schiefer
Lucas Troadec
Mahtab Hussain
Margarita Galandina
Michelle Sank
Mustafah Abdulaziz
Owen Harvey
Philippa James
Prarthna Singh
Roberto Alegria
Rona Bar and Ofek Avshalom
Roo Lewis
Rory Payne
Ruth Samuels
Serena Brown
Sophie Wedgwood



Sridhar Balasubramaniam
Sukhy Hullait
Theodore Clarke
Thomas Duffield
Tom Maguire
Vivek Vadoliya
Zoja Kalinovskis