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PRESS RELEASE

Winner of the European Publishers Award for Photography 2015 is Danila Tkachenko with *Restricted Areas*

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The winner of the European Publishers Award for Photography (EPAP) 2015 is Russian photographer Danila Tkachenko with his project *Restricted Areas*. The book will be published in autumn 2015 by the five publishers in five languages. The formal presentation of the Award will be held at the Rencontres D'Arles during the opening week in July.

Now in its 22nd year, the European Publishers Award for Photography is a major initiative to encourage the publication of contemporary photography. Open to photographers worldwide, the competition is a unique collaboration between five European Publishers – Actes Sud (France), Blume (Spain), Dewi Lewis Publishing (Great Britain), Kehrer Verlag (Germany) and Peliti Associati (Italy). The competition requires the submission of a substantial, completed and unpublished photographic book project. The winning project is then published in book form simultaneously by each of the publishers in their own country resulting in one of the most extensive cultural collaborations currently existing in Europe.

The jury met on 16th to 18th April in Rome, Italy. The Jury consisted of five publishers, namely Benoît Rivero (Actes Sud), Leopoldo Blume (Blume), Dewi Lewis and Caroline Warhurst (Dewi Lewis Publishing), Mario Peliti (Peliti Associati), and Klaus Kehrer (Kehrer Verlag). The guest jurors were Renata Ferri, photo editor of *Io Donna - Corriere della Sera* and *Amica - RCS Media-Group*, Italy, and John Demos, photographer and curator, Athens. Peliti is the project leader 2015.

***Restricted Areas* – the winning project 2015**

»The project *Restricted Areas* is about utopian strive of humans for technological progress.

Humans are always trying to own ever more than they have - this is the source of technical progress, which was the means to create various commodities, standards, as well as the tools of violence in order to keep the power over others.

Better, higher, stronger – these ideals often express the main ideology of the governments, for these goals they are ready to sacrifice almost everything. While the individual is supposed to become a tool for reaching the set goals, and receive in exchange the higher level of comfort.

I travel in search of places which used to have great importance for the technical progress – and which are now deserted. Those places lost their significance together with the utopian ideology which is now obsolete. Secret cities that cannot be found on maps, forgotten scientific triumphs, abandoned buildings of almost inhuman complexity. The perfect technocratic future that never came.

Any progress comes to its end earlier or later, it can happen due to different reasons – nuclear war, economic crisis or natural disaster. For me it's interesting to witness what is left after.«

(Danila Tkachenko)

Danila Tkachenko (b. 1989 in Moscow, Russia) studied documentary photography at The Rodchenko Moscow School of Photography and Multimedia. His work has been exhibited internationally. Tkachenko has won the Lensculture Exposure award and and Magnum's 30 under 30, as well as the World Press Photo Award. He was shortlisted for the Leica Oskar Barnack Award last year. He published his first book *Escape* in 2014.

The following photographers were shortlisted in 2015:

Javier Arcenillas: *LatidoAmericana*
Carlos Ayesta & Guillaume Bression: *Fukushima*
Carl Bigmore: *Between Two Mysteries*
Simona Ghizzoni: *Rayuela (2006 – 2015)*
Jon Lowenstein: *Shadow Lives USA*
Dougie Wallace: *Road Wallah*

Previous Winners of the European Publishers Award:

2014 Kirill Golovchenko: *Bitter Honeydew*
2013 Alisa Resnik: *One Another*
2012 Alessandro Imbriaco: *The Garden*
2011 Davide Monteleone: *Red Thistle*
2010 Christophe Agou: *In the Face of Silence*
2009 Klavdij Sluban: *East to East*
2008 Jacob Aue Sobol: *I, Tokyo*
2007 Paolo Pellegrin: *As I was Dying*
2006 Ambroise Tèzenas: *Beijing: Theatre Of The People*
2005 Lorenzo Castore: *Paradiso*
2004 Harri Kallio: *The Dodo & Mauritius Island*
2003 Haris Kakarouhas: *Suspended Time : A Cuban Portrait*
2002 Simon Norfolk: *Afghanistan*
2001 David Farrell: *Innocent Landscapes*
2000 Alfons Alt: *The Nature of the Beast*
1999 Jeff Mermelstein: *Sidewalk*
1998 Dean Chapman: *Karenni*
1997 Toni Catany: *Life and Still Life*
1996 Bruce Gilden: *Haiti*
1995 Shanta Rao: *Stories of Women*
1994 Dario Mitidieri: *Children of Bombay*

Preview: European Publishers Award for Photography 2016

Project submissions for the 23rd award can be sent to the publishers in the period between December 2015, and February 2016.

More information will be released on the five publisher's websites and at the European Publishers Award's homepage

www.europhotobookaward.eu

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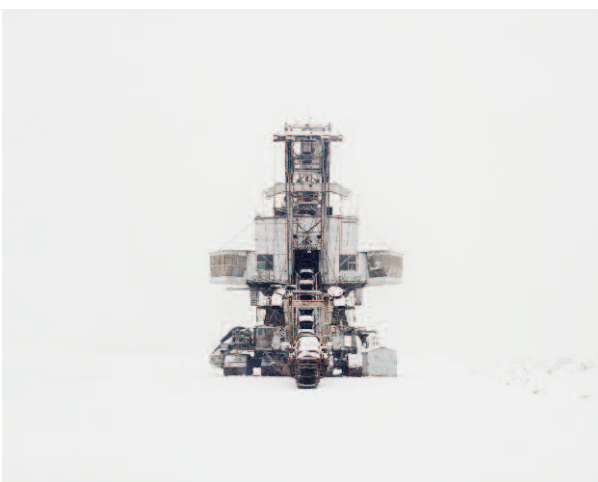
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