

WORLD PRESS PHOTO

**World Press Photo Festival
2017, Amsterdam
Coverage & Interviews
By Anne Pinto-Rodrigues**

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The very first World Press Photo (WPP) Festival, that ran from 20th to 22nd April 2017, at the Company Theatre in Amsterdam, saw inspiring talks by prizewinners of the prestigious 2017 World Press Photo Contest, heartbreaking images of targeted people and wildlife, and photography/photojournalism legends sharing their life's work, all on one common stage.

Professional photojournalists and people working in the field of visual journalism/ photography from all around the world, attended the three-day event. It was also open to members of the general public and an estimated 400 people attended the event each day.

Acclaimed American photojournalist and multi-WPP award winner, Stanley Greene delivered the Sem Presser Lecture at the Festival. Sem Presser was a prolific Dutch photographer and a key member of the WPP Foundation board from 1971 until his passing in 1986. In his remembrance, WPP instituted a lecture series in 2003. In a moving and eloquent keynote speech, Stanley Greene spoke about his long career photographing crises and events that shaped the world.

The 2017 World Press Photo Exhibition is on display at De Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam till 9th July 2017 © Evert Elzinga



Prince Constantijn of the Netherlands (left) and Lars Boering, MD of WPP Foundation (right) applaud Burhan_Ozbilici as he receives the 'Photo of the Year' award
© Werry Crone, Hollandse Hoogte

Documentary photographer Daniella Zalcmán's spoke about her pioneering initiative 'Women Photograph' (<https://www.womenphotograph.com/>), a web directory of over 600 female photojournalists from 67 countries, established to promote women photographers for key assignments, thus providing a great step forward for photography/photojournalism in general, and women photographers/photojournalists in particular.

The WPP Festival was also the forum for the announcement of the winner of the 3rd Annual Anja Niedringhaus Courage in Photojournalism Award, by the International Women's Media Foundation. Anja Niedringhaus was a Pulitzer Prize-winning Associated Press photographer, who was killed in 2014 while reporting in Afghanistan. Stephanie Sinclair, also a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, was announced as the winner for her brave and dedicated work

in portraying gender and human rights issues around the world, including her ongoing 15-year series, 'Too Young to Wed,' on the subject of child marriage. The heart of the WPP Festival was the long-running and hallowed photo contest. While the winners of the 2017 Photo Contest were announced in February 2017, the Festival gave a platform to winning photographers and photojournalists to talk about their work and the inspiration behind it.

The WPP contest was started in 1955 with 300 photos submitted by 42 photographers from 11 countries. The statistics from 62 years later are staggering! The 2017 photo contest drew well over 80,000 images from 5,034 photographers in 125 countries. Celebrated photographer with Magnum Photos and its former President, Stuart Franklin, served as the chair of the 2017 Photo Contest jury.



Lars Boering, Managing Director of World Press Photo Foundation opens the Festival
© Werry Crone, Hollandse Hoogte

The World Press Photo of the Year was awarded to Turkish-American Associated Press photographer Burhan Ozbilici for his dramatic and highly-contested image of the assassination of the Russian ambassador Andrey Karlov, at an art gallery in Ankara.

The prize winners' gallery for the 2017 photo contest consisted of 309 photos that came from Single picture or Story entries in eight categories - Contemporary Issues, Daily Life, General News, Long-term Projects, Nature, People, Sports & Spot News. 45 photographers from 25 countries received prizes across these eight categories.

With regards to the winner selections, Jordanian photographer and jury member Tanya Habjouqa said that jury was "brave" and "bold" in their decisions. She elaborated, "I think the selection is definitely going to push forward a debate and I think it is a debate that is essential to have."



Canon

Canon

The grand Award Ceremony was held on the last evening of the Festival, and HRH Prince Constantijn and Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands were Guests of Honour at this glittering event. The very first 2017 World Press Photo exhibition opened in De Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam, on 14th April giving residents and visitors to the city, an opportunity to view the winning images until 9th July 2017. A traveling exhibition that includes all the prize-winning photographs has also been created. This exhibition will travel to a 100 cities in 45 countries and will be seen by more than 4 million people. For the schedule of the traveling exhibition, go to <https://www.worldpressphoto.org/exhibitions> Marco Grob, celebrity portrait photographer and one of the speakers at the WPP Festival, said in his talk, "Who can carry a camera, carries a responsibility." In the following pages, we meet a few of the 2017 World Press Photo Contest winners, who embody this sentiment.

All the 2017 World Press Photo Contest winners at Canon Night © Werry Crone, Hollandse Hoogte