

MEDIA RELEASE - for immediate release

## Luminaries of the Photography World Honoured at 141<sup>th</sup> Royal Photographic Society's Awards

- French photographer Sophie Calle awarded the Centenary Medal and honorary fellowship from the RPS.
- Academy Award nominated director Yorgos Lanthimos to receive the Cinematic Production Award for critically acclaimed films *The Lobster* and *The Favourite*.
- 16 categories including Progress Medal, Award for Scientific Imaging, Award for Cinematic Production and Award for Curatorship.



The Favourite directed by Yorgos Lanthimos © 2018 - Fox Searchlight

The Royal Photographic Society is delighted to announce the 2019 recipients of its internationally renowned Awards, now in the 141<sup>st</sup> edition. **Sophie Calle, Carrie Mae Weems, Yorgos Lanthimos, Laia Abril, Collier Schorr, Simon Bainbridge** and **Professor Al Bovik**, as well as prominent scientists, producers, publishers, writers, educators, and directors, are amongst the luminaries of the photographic world who will be honoured this year.

The prestigious awards were established in 1878 to celebrate outstanding contributions to photography, these contributions now span the fields of art, science, education, film and publishing. The 16 awards will be presented on 13<sup>th</sup> November at the Royal Society in London.



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Acclaimed French photographer and prolific conceptual artist, **Sophie Calle**, has been awarded the prestigious **Centenary Medal** for her ongoing contribution to photography. Calle's work is distinguished by its use of arbitrary sets of constraints and evokes the French literary movement of the 1960's known as Oulipo. Her work frequently depicts human vulnerability and examines identity and intimacy.

RPS Vice President Del Barrett said *"As an artist and educator, Calle epitomises what the Society stands for. I am particularly thrilled to see the Centenary medal awarded to a female artist for the second year running."*

**Yorgos Lanthimos**, Greek director, producer and screenwriter is awarded The **Cinematic Production Award** for his work on critically acclaimed films Dogtooth, The Favourite and The Lobster. His most recent film, The Favourite received a leading ten Academy Award® nominations, including Best Picture, Best Director, and won Best Actress for Olivia Colman.

The **Progress Medal** is awarded to **Professor Al Bovik** in recognition of any invention, research, publication or other contribution that has resulted in an important advance in the scientific or technological development of photography or imaging in the widest sense. Bovik's work addresses some of the most important and difficult problems of the information age. Each day, his picture quality measurement tools allow hundreds of millions of viewers worldwide to enjoy perceptually optimized picture viewing experiences, whether by social sharing or video on demand, while significantly contributing to more efficient global bandwidth consumption.

**Alix Marie**, the London based artist receives the **Vic Odden Award**, for a notable achievement in the art of photography by a photographer aged 35 or under, studying photography in the UK. Marie's work spans the mediums of photography and sculpture. Her visceral exploration of gender, identity and the human body has received much acclaim.

Spanish multidisciplinary artist **Laia Abril** is awarded **The Hood Medal**, which recognises a photographic project dealing with public social concerns, for her long-term project A History of Misogyny, which explores issues of femininity and misogyny through visual research, undertaken through historical and contemporary comparisons. Chapter One: On Abortion represented the repercussions of abortion controls in many different cultures. The artist is presently working on Chapter Two: On Rape Culture.

The Award for **Outstanding Service to Photography** has been presented to **Dr Mark Sealy MBE**, British curator, cultural historian and director of Autograph ABP (the Association of Black Photographers) which is a charity that works internationally to educate the public in photography by addressing issues of cultural identity and human rights.

American physician, amateur astronomer and astrophotographer **Dr Robert Gendler** receives the **Award for Scientific Imaging** for his award-winning images of deep sky objects with long exposures captured by CCD camera's. Gendler has earned an international reputation for creating unique astronomical images by integrating data from different telescopic imaging systems and published five books.



Five leading photographic artists have been awarded **Honorary Fellowships** of the RPS – **Professor Anna Fox, Joy Gregory, Clare Strand, Hannah Starkey** and **Carrie Mae Weems**. Each photographer is recognised by the Society for their intimate connection with the science or fine art of photography.

Other recipients of the 2019 Royal Photographic Society's Awards include **Professor Reza Razavi**; Vice President & Vice-Principal of Research at King's College, London, and Director of Research at King's Health Partners; **Anne Wilkes Tucker** curator emerita of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; **Beverley Carruthers** photographer and Course Director for BA (hons) Photography at London College of Communication, University of The Arts, London; **Zhuang Wubin** writer, curator and artist and **Dr Tobias M R Houlton** British anthropologist and post-doctoral research fellow at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The **Member's award** and Honorary **Life Membership** will be awarded to **John Margetts ARPS**, **Fenton Medal's** and Honorary **Life Membership's** will be awarded to **Lesley Goode, Clive Haynes FRPS, Alastair McGhee ARPS** and **Roy Robertson HonFRPS** at the AGM at The Royal Photographic Society Bristol in September. These integral members work has been key to the long running success of this distinguished and internationally recognised Society.

In addition to these awards, the RPS will announce the 2019 bursary recipients in October which fund individuals at each stage of their career, as well as global photographic and film projects that address environmental awareness and social documentary. These bursaries reflect the Society's ongoing commitment to supporting and nurturing photography in all its many forms.

The Society's President Robert Albright HonFRPS said: *"The Royal Photographic Society is uniquely placed to recognise individuals working to the highest levels across photography as artists, scientists, educators, curators and publishers and in so doing help to achieve the RPS's own objective of promoting the public appreciation of the medium"*

[Rps.org/about/awards](http://Rps.org/about/awards) #RPSAwards2019 #royalphotographicsociety

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

#### FULL LIST OF 2019 WINNERS

#### **1. The Centenary Medal (& Honorary Fellowship)**

Established in 1993, the Centenary Medal is awarded in recognition of a sustained, significant contribution to the art of photography.

#### **2019 Recipient: Sophie Calle**

Born in 1953 in Paris, Sophie Calle is a French artist who has exhibited extensively throughout the world since the late 1970s. She has been described as a conceptual artist, a photographer, a movie director or even detective; but has developed a practice that is instantly recognisable for a distinct narrative and the frequent combination of images with text. Since the late 1970s, Sophie Calle has merged image and narration. Her



work methodically organises an unveiling of reality – her own and that of others, while allocating a controlled part of this reality to chance.

## **2. The Progress Medal (& Honorary Fellowship)**

Established in 1878, the Progress Medal is awarded in recognition of any invention, research, publication or other contribution that has resulted in an important advance in the scientific or technological development of photography or imaging in the widest sense.

### **2019 Recipient: Professor Al Bovik**

The work of Primetime Emmy-winning Professor Al Bovik of The University of Texas at Austin addresses some of the most important and difficult problems of the Information Age. His inventions pervade the photographic and Internet streaming video industries on a grand and global scale. Today, the neuroscience-based algorithms developed by Al and his students monitor and control the visual quality of more than half of all moving bits in the USA, and an increasingly substantial portion of network traffic overseas, including in the UK, whether by broadcast, cable, satellite, or the Internet/Cloud. He was awarded a Primetime Emmy Award in 2015 for his development of video quality measurement tools that are now standards in television production.

## **3. The Award for Outstanding Service to Photography (& Honorary Fellowship)**

This award recognises outstanding and influential contributions to photography and/or imaging in their widest meanings. It is to be made to a notable person who has contributed over a significant period of time to the global world of the application of photography.

### **2019 Recipient: Dr Mark Sealy MBE**

**Dr Mark Sealy MBE**, is interested in the relationship between photography and social change, identity politics, race, and human rights. He has been director of London-based photographic arts charity Autograph ABP since 1991 and has produced numerous artist publications, curated exhibitions, and commissioned photographers and filmmakers worldwide, including the critically acclaimed *Human Rights Human Wrongs* exhibition curated for Ryerson Image Centre, Toronto, in 2013 and The Photographers' Gallery, London, in 2015. He jointly initiated and developed a £7.96 million capital building project (Rivington Place), which opened in 2007 in London. 2019 sees the publication of a new radical project titled *Decolonising The Camera: Photography in Racial Time*, with Lawrence and Wishart.

## **4. Honorary Fellowships**

Awarded to distinguished people who have an intimate connection with the science or fine art of photography.

### **2019 Recipients: Professor Anna Fox, Joy Gregory, Clare Strand, Hannah Starkey and Carrie Mae Weems**

**Professor Anna Fox** - Anna Fox (b.1961) is one of the most acclaimed British photographers of the last thirty years and is Professor of Photography at the University for the Creative Arts. She is best



known for *Zwarte Piet* (1993-8), a series of twenty portraits taken over a five-year period that explore Dutch 'black-face' folk traditions associated with Christmas. Fox's solo shows have been seen at Photographer's Gallery, London, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago amongst others and her work has been included in international group shows including *Centre of the Creative Universe: Liverpool and the Avant Garde* at Tate Liverpool and *How We Are: Photographing Britain* at Tate Britain. Fox is currently working on the research project Fast Forward; women in photography for which she has been awarded a Leverhulme International Networks Award.

[www.fastforward.photography.com](http://www.fastforward.photography.com)

**Joy Gregory** – Born in England to Jamaican parents, Joy Gregory's work has been influenced by a combination of race, gender and aesthetics often reflecting on issues colonization and its effects on culture and identity politics. She is known for her work around issues of 'Beauty' and interest in the impact of the European colonial project on the everyday lives of the contemporary world. Since receiving a NESTA Fellowship in 2002, Gregory has been pursuing a long-term project around endangered language. The first work from this research 'Gomera' was premiered at the 2010 Sydney Biennale and forms part of a major survey show and touring exhibition -Lost Languages and other stories, which opened at Impressions Gallery, Bradford. Beverley is a photographer and educator who makes work and conducts research around ideas of the primal state of the human.

**Clare Strand** - Clare Strand is a British conceptual artist, working with and against the photographic medium. Over the past two decades she has worked with found imagery, kinetic machinery, web programmes, fairground attractions and most recently, large scale paintings. She rejects the subject-based qualities and the immediate demand of information, so often associated with the photographic image and instead, and without apology, adopts and welcomes a subtle, slow burn approach.

**Hannah Starkey** - Hannah Starkey was born in Belfast in 1971. She received a BA in Photography and Film from Napier University in Edinburgh in 1995 and an MA in Photography from Royal College of Art in London in 1997. She has received numerous awards throughout her career including the Vogue Condé Nast Award (1997), the 3rd International Tokyo Photo Biennale's Award for Excellence (1999) and the St. James Group Ltd Photography Prize (2002). Selected solo exhibitions include Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry; St Catherine's Church, Frankfurt; Irish Museum of Art, Dublin and the Castello di Rivoli, Turin.

**Carrie Mae Weems** - Through image and text, film and performance, and her many convenings with individuals across a multitude of disciplines, Carrie Mae Weems has created a complex body of work that centers on her overarching commitment to helping us better understand our present moment by examining our collective past. Weems has received a multitude of awards, grants, and fellowships including the MacArthur Award; US Department of State's Medals of Arts; Joseph H. Hazen Rome Prize Fellowship from the American Academy in Rome; the National Endowment of the Arts; and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, among many others. Major solo exhibitions of Carrie's work include *Carrie Mae Weems: The Museum Series*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2014), and *Carrie Mae Weems: Three Decades of Photography and Video*.





## **5. Award for Cinematic Production (& Honorary Fellowship)**

Established in 2017, this award celebrates outstanding achievement for sustained contribution in the production, direction or development of film for the cinema, television, online or new media.

### **2019 Recipient: Yorgos Lanthimos**

Four-time Academy Award® nominated filmmaker, Yorgos Lanthimos was born in Athens, Greece. He launched to international attention in 2009 with his second feature film, DOGTOOTH, winner of the Un Certain Regard Prize at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Cannes Film Festival and nominated for the Academy Award® for Best Foreign Language film. His first English language feature film, THE LOBSTER, presented in competition at the 68<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival where it won the Jury Prize and in 2017 Lanthimos received an Academy Award® nomination for Best Original Screenplay. THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER, premiered in competition at the 70<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival and won the Best Screenplay prize. THE FAVOURITE received ten Academy Award® nominations including Best Picture and Best Director.

## **6. Combined Royal Colleges Medal (& Honorary Fellowship)**

The Combined Royal Colleges Medal is awarded for an outstanding contribution to the advancement and/or application of medical photography or the wider field of medical imaging. Established by The Society in 1958, in collaboration with the Royal College of Physicians of London, the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. In 2018 the original Colleges were joined by the Royal Colleges of Psychiatrists and Ophthalmologists.

### **2018 Recipient: Professor Reza Razavi**

Professor Reza Razavi is Vice President & Vice-Principal of Research at King's College, London, and Director of Research at King's Health Partners. He is Professor of Paediatric Cardiovascular Science at King's College, London and Consultant Cardiologist at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. Reza's research interest is in imaging and biomedical engineering related to cardiovascular disease, and he has substantial grant income and extensive experience working with industry towards delivering technologies that move into clinical products.

## **7. Award for Curatorship (& Honorary Fellowship)**

This Award recognises excellence over a period of time in the field of photographic curatorship through exhibitions, associated events, and publications.

### **2019 Recipient: Anne Wilkes Tucker**

Anne Wilkes Tucker is the curator emerita of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, having, in 1976, become founding curator of the photography department for which she acquired over 30,000 photographs made on all seven continents. She curated or co-curated over 40 exhibitions, most with accompanying catalogues, including surveys on the Czech Avant-garde, a history of Japanese photography, and a history of war photography as well as exhibitions with catalogues on works of



Robert Frank, Brassai, Catherine Wagner, Joel Sternfeld, Richard Misrach, Ray Metzker, Louis Faurer, George Krause, and Chen Changfan. Her honours, fellowships, and awards include being selected as “American’s Best Curator” by Time Magazine in 2001. She has been a trustee of FotoFest since 1990 and the Philip and Edith Leonian Foundation since 2016.

#### **8. Award for Editorial, Advertising and Fashion Photography (& Honorary Fellowship)**

Awarded to an individual for outstanding achievement and excellence in the fields of editorial, advertising, and fashion photography.

##### **2019 Recipient: Collier Schorr**

Collier Schorr was born in New York City in 1963. As part of the heady New York art world of the late ‘80s and early ‘90s, Schorr’s early work mined the vernacular of postmodernism to create photographs that toe the line between documentary and fiction. Often using her subjects allegorically, Schorr’s work navigates the auspices of identity politics to ask beguiling questions about the nomenclature of selfhood. By introducing autobiographical referents and post-appropriation aesthetics into her practice, Schorr’s ongoing body of work negotiates the fluid nature of authorship and performance in relation to portraiture.

#### **9. Education Award (& Honorary Fellowship)**

Inaugurated in 2011 and awarded for outstanding achievement or sustained contribution in photographic education.

##### **2019 Recipient: Beverley Carruthers**

Beverley is a photographer and educator who makes work and conducts research around ideas of the primal state of the human. Carruthers is the Course Director for BA (hons) Photography at London College of Communication, University of The Arts, London. She is also co-founder of After School Collective Strategies working with picLondon to design a public programme consisting of a series of talks and workshops and culminating in a public exhibition. Other pedagogic projects Carruthers works on include Creative Transformations and Writing Photographs. Carruthers is also researching menopause as a practitioner and is hosting conference Crassh, Cambridge University ‘Reinventing, Rethinking and Re- representing Menopause – Beyond the Interdisciplinary paradigm’ in spring 2020.

#### **10. The Hood Medal (& Honorary Fellowship)**

Established in 1933 and awarded within the art or science of photography for a body of photographic work produced to promote issues of public service or concern to society.

##### **2018 Recipient: Laia Abril**

Laia Abril (Barcelona, 1986) is a multidisciplinary artist working with photography, text, video and sound. Her research-based projects focus in uneasy and hidden realities in biopolitics. Her work has been shown internationally and are held in private collections and museums, such as Musée de l’Elysée and Fotomuseum Winterthur, FRAC, MNAC and FotoColectania. In 2016 she was awarded



the *Revelación Photo España Award*, *Fotopress Grant* and *Prix de la Photo Madame Figaro* for her exhibition at Les Rencontres d'Arles (2016) *A History of Misogyny, chapter one: On Abortion*. She is the author of "*The Epilogue*", "*Thinspiration*", "*Tediousphilia*", "*Lobismuller*" and "*On Abortion*" — recipient of the *2018 Aperture Best Book of the year Award* and the prestigious *Deutsche Borse* nomination. and now she is currently developing the next chapters, *On Rape Culture* — recipient of the *Visionary Award from Tim Hetherington Trust* and *On Mass Hysteria* — current nominee of the *Prix Elysée*.

### 11. J Dudley Johnston Award (& Honorary Fellowship)

For sustained excellence or a single outstanding publication in the field of photographic criticism or the history of photography.

**2019 Recipient: Zhuang Wubin** writer, curator and artist.

Zhuang Wubin is a writer/curator, Zhuang focuses on the photographic practices of Southeast Asia and Hong Kong. He uses the medium as a prism to explore the following trajectories: photography and Chineseness, periodicals and photobooks as sites of historiography, and photography's entanglements with nationalism and the Cold War. Zhuang is an editorial board member of *Trans-Asia Photography Review* and contributing curator of the Chiang Mai Photo Festival (2015, 2017, 2020). Published by NUS Press, *Photography in Southeast Asia: A Survey* (2016) is his fourth book. As an artist, Zhuang uses photography and text to visualise the shifting experiences of Chineseness in Southeast Asia.

### 12. Lumière Award (& Honorary Fellowship)

For major achievement in the field of cinematography, video, or animation.

**2019 Recipient: Łukasz Żal**

Łukasz Żal is an Academy Award nominated cinematographer. He most recently was as DoP on Paweł Pawlikowski's *COLD WAR*, which won the Best Director Award at Cannes Film Festival and was official Oscar candidate in the Best Foreign Film category. *COLD WAR* landed Łukasz Żal the Silver Frog Award for cinematography at the 2018 Camerimage Festival in Poland, as well as the ASC Award. Łukasz was nominated for the Academy Award in 2016 for Pawlikowski's *IDA* and was one of two cinematographers of an Oscar nominated animation *LOVING VINCENT* (dir. Dorota Kobiela, Hugh Welchman) in 2017. Cinematographer on *DOVLATOV* (dir. Aleksiej German Jr.), which premiered at the Berlinale 2018 and *THE HERE AFTER* (dir. Magnus von Horn), which premiered at Quinzaine des Réalisateurs (Directors' Fortnight) at Cannes Film Festival in 2015.

### 13. Award for Photographic Publishing (& Honorary Fellowship)

This award is given to an individual for outstanding achievement or sustained contribution in the field of Photographic Publishing in its broadest sense.





### **2019 Recipient: Simon Bainbridge**

He is editorial director of 1854 Media and has served as the Editor of *British Journal of Photography* since 2003, transforming it from a weekly trade journal into an award-winning monthly magazine with an international focus. He initiated *BJP's* annual talent platform, *Ones To Watch*, its International Photography Award and, starting in the run-up to the UK's vote on Brexit, *Portrait of Britain*, the country's largest annual public exhibition, shown on advertising screens up and down the land during September. In addition, he has curated three group exhibitions at photography festivals in the UK and North America and has worked as an external assessor at colleges including The Royal Academy of Art in The Hague (KABK) and École cantonale d'art de Lausanne (ECAL). He recently completed a book on portraits of artists.

### **14. Award for Scientific Imaging (& Honorary Fellowship)**

This award is given to an individual for a body of scientific imaging which promotes public knowledge and understanding.

### **2019 Recipient: Dr Robert Gendler**

Dr Robert Gendler is a physician who began doing CCD astrophotography in the early 1990s. Gendler's images have been featured in two national stamp series (United Kingdom 2007, Germany 2011). In 2007, he was the recipient of the "Hubble Award" at the Advanced Imaging Conference. His images have been featured by the NASA site "**Astronomy Picture of the Day**" over 130 times. Gendler's body of work has earned him international recognition and has led to professional collaborations with NASA's Hubble Heritage team on two Hubble Space Telescope releases (M106 in February 2013, and M31 in February 2015). The Hubble image of M31 was completely assembled by Gendler and to date is the largest Hubble image ever assembled. [www.robgendlerastropics.com](http://www.robgendlerastropics.com) .

### **15. Selwyn Award 35 Years and Under (& Honorary Fellowship)**

Introduced in 1994 and given to those 35 years and under who have conducted science-based research connected with imaging.

### **2019 Recipient: Dr Tobias M R Houlton**

Dr Tobias Houlton is a British anthropologist who has been a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, since 2015. Formerly trained in the Fine Arts, specialising in Sculpture, at Edinburgh College of Art (2005-2009), he pursued an MSc in Forensic Art (2010) and a PhD in Facial Anthropology (2011-2015) at the University of Dundee, Scotland. He is best known for his research and forensic facial reconstructions, involving shrunken heads. He presented in a documentary, released in 2017, entitled "Shrunken Heads". This was televised as part of the "Secrets" series on the Smithsonian Channel and "Ancient Mysteries" series on Channel 5 Documentaries.



## 16. Vic Odden Award (& Honorary Fellowship)

For a notable achievement in the art of photography by a photographer aged 35 or under, studying photography in the UK. Endowed in memory of Vic Odden, one of the UK's best known and respected photographic retailers.

### 2019 Recipient: Alix Marie

Alix Marie (b.1989, Paris) works across the mediums of photography, sculpture and installation. She graduated from Central Saint Martins College, London, in 2011 with a first-class Honours degree in fine art and later completed an MA in photography at the Royal College of Art, London. In 2017 she won the Portfolio Review Award, was selected for the 11th edition of Foam Talent Call. Marie was recently nominated for the EMOP Arendt Award 2019. Recent exhibitions include *Shredded*, Roman Road, London (Solo, 2019); *Large-scale reconstruction: Body. Time. Context*, FotoDepartament, St. Petersburg (2018); and *ADYTA*, Ratinger Tor, Düsseldorf (Solo, 2018), as part of Duesseldorf Photo Weekend 2018.

### Additional Information

#### About the RPS Awards

- The RPS awards selection committee is made up of senior members of the Society and respected external advisors, working in different spheres of photography, who determine the eventual winners. Nominations for the 2020 awards will open in October.
- Recent Award recipients have included photographers Terry O'Neill, Steve McCurry, Annie Leibovitz, Sir David Attenborough, Nan Goldin, Juno Calypso, Martin Parr and Dr Brian May CBE.
- **The Royal Photographic Society (RPS)** is an international charitable organisation that exists to encourage public appreciation of photography through promotion of the highest standards of achievement. The RPS has a worldwide membership of more than 11,000 and membership is open to all. 2019 marked the start of a new phase in the society's evolution with the opening of a new photographic centre in Bristol to widen public engagement.

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