

Press Release



Wilderness unveiled: Fascinating hidden landscapes awarded in 162nd International Photography Exhibition

The award winners are announced today for the 162nd edition of the Royal Photographic Society's International Photography Exhibition, the world's longest running photography exhibition. The exhibition at RPS House, Bristol, opens on 15 February 2020.

American photographer **Cody Cobb** was awarded one of two prestigious awards for his stark landscapes made during periods of extended solitude. Cobb immerses himself in the American West for weeks at a time, stripped of basic human comforts and isolated within unfamiliar terrain. His series *Strange Land* captures the emotion of the land as much as the topography.

He said: *"The support of The RPS has encouraged me to continue pushing myself and my work in ways that weren't possible before. I'm incredibly grateful for this opportunity to share my interpretation of what it means to be human on this strange and fantastic planet."*

Under 30s award winner **Chirag Jindal** (b.1993) works at the intersection of documentary journalism, new media art and cartography. Based in New Zealand, Jindal's series *Into the Underworld - Ngā Mahi Rarowhenua* reveals a network of lava caves hidden beneath Auckland. Reduced to urban myth, their existence is not common knowledge and ongoing discoveries go often unreported by the urban developers that destroy them. Jindal's images are created using LiDAR, an emerging form of lens-based imaging applied in archaeological surveying and criminal

forensics.

He said of his award: *“As any other debut project, the work follows many long periods of experimenting, indecision and risk. It’s a privilege to have it be given this level of recognition and platform for outreach and exposure - especially amongst the high standard of photography in this year’s RPS exhibition.”*

Selected from over 1370 entries from 62 countries, the exhibition features the work of 43 international photographers. Spirituality, identity, inclusion and the environment are some of the powerful narratives explored this year.

The exhibition at the Royal Photographic Society opens on 15 February 2020, before touring across the UK and coincides with the first anniversary of the organisations move to Bristol.

Open to photographers of all ages and abilities, the next call-for-entries to the International Photography Exhibition (163) will open later in the year. To be notified when entry is open please send a reminder request to the Exhibitions Department.

A series of talks and workshops from the exhibiting photographers will be bookable online. For further details on the exhibition visit rps.org/ipe162.

The IPE is supported by theprintsace.

Image credits, L-R: Liminal State. From the series *Strange Land* ©Cody Cobb
No. 06 Ambury Road. From the series *Into the Underworld - Ngā Mahi Rarowhenua* © Chirag Jindal

For access to images and further information please contact RPS Communications Manager, Carly Heath, 07936 362364 carly@rps.org

Exhibition Information

Exhibition open: Saturday 15 February – Sunday 22 March 2020

Opening times: Thursday – Sundays, 10.00 - 17.00 (last admission 16.30)

Free admission (donations welcome)

Visitor enquiries: 0117 316 4450

Directions: rps.org/visit

Address: The Royal Photographic Society, RPS House, 337 Paintworks, Arncliffe, Bristol, BS4 3AR

IPE 162 Selection Panel

Cian Oba-Smith is an Irish Nigerian photographer whose work focuses on communities and subcultures, with an interest in approaching subjects that are often misrepresented.

Shannon Ghannam is the Global Education Director at Magnum Photos, responsible for the celebrated agency's educational programming.

Skinder Hundal MBE is CEO/Director of New Art Exchange, a leading contemporary arts space. He is passionate about supporting new talent, creating 'incredible encounters'.

Dr Yan Wang Preston is an artist and lecturer based in West Yorkshire, UK, whose work examines the contested states of nature in contemporary societies. Her recent projects *Mother River* and *Forest* won numerous awards.

Dr Michael Pritchard is Director, Education and Public Affairs at the RPS. He is a photo-historian and regular writer and lecturer on photography.

The exhibition will tour to the following venues:

RPS House, Bristol: 15 February – 22 March 2020

Royal Albert Hall, London: 2 April – 27 April 2020

Beverley Art Gallery, Beverley, East Yorkshire: 13 June – 12 September 2020

Oriel Art Gallery, Theatr Clwyd, Flintshire: 28 November 2020 – 16 January 2021

Note to Editors

About The RPS

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.

rps.org

About theprintspace

A leading Fine Art and Photographic printers who developed the online software, creativehub, which enables artists and photographers to order professional art printing, mounting and framing online. Theprintspace supports the RPS International Photography Exhibition, offering their award-winning printing services to shortlisted photographers worldwide, to submit their work for the final print selection.

theprintspace.co.uk

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