

DEUTSCHE BÖRSE PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE 07

The Photographers' Gallery
5 & 8 Great Newport Street
London WC2H 7HY
www.photonet.org.uk
info@photonet.org.uk
Call: +44 (0)20 7831 1772

Open: Mon – Sat 11.00 – 18.00
Thurs 11.00 – 20.00
& Sun 12.00 – 18.00

Press Release

January 2007

Exhibition: 9 February–9 April 2007
Press View: 8 February 2007

Annual Photography Prize exhibition will be on display from February



Air Koryo flight attendant, Pyongyang
© Philippe Chancel



Gap 2005 © Anders Petersen



The Changeling 2006
© Fiona Tan



Onlookers
© Walid Raad/The Atlas Group

The annual exhibition of four shortlisted photographers for the *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize* will be open from **9 February - 9 April 2007**. The Prize is presented by The Photographers' Gallery and is the opening venue for the exhibition. The £30,000 award will be announced and presented to the winner at the Gallery on 21 March 2007.

The shortlisted photographers are: **Philippe Chancel, Anders Petersen, Fiona Tan and Walid Raad/The Atlas Group**. The work represented ranges from photojournalism to intimate social photography and from the exploration of the complexity of culture and place to the documentation of contemporary history.

The *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2007* aims to reward a living photographer, of any nationality, who has made the most significant contribution to the medium of photography in Europe between 1 October 2005 – 30 September 2006.

The Photographers' Gallery continues its commitment to showcasing new talent and highlighting the best of international photographic practice with generous support from the title sponsors, Deutsche Börse Group. The Prize continues as one of the most prominent exhibitions at The Photographers' Gallery and is amongst the most prestigious international arts awards.

Nominations have been made by the Academy, a group of 75 experts invited by The Photographers' Gallery and representing photography institutions throughout Europe. These nominations were for a significant exhibition or publication and the final shortlist was made by the Jury and chaired by Brett Rogers, Director of The Photographers' Gallery.

The Jury for 2007 is: Krzysztof Gandrowicz (Poland), Director, Lodz Art Center; Shirana Shahbazi, (Iran) artist & winner of The Photographers' Gallery's 2002 Citigroup Photography Prize; Urs Stahel, (Switzerland) Director, Fotomuseum Winterthur and Anne-Marie Beckmann, (Frankfurt), Curator, Art Collection Deutsche Börse.

The four shortlisted photographers are:

Philippe Chancel (b. 1959, France) nominated for his exhibition *DPRK*, shown at the Arles Photography Festival, France (4 July – 17 September 2006). Chancel has been working as a photographer for the last 20 years, investigating the shifting and complex terrain between art, documentary and journalism. Taken in North Korea in 2005, the crisp colour photographs in this series provide a chilling and detached comment on the monumental political narcissism under which the country operates. In *DPRK*, Chancel manages to capture the all-encompassing aesthetic of communist ideology, as well as the finely orchestrated details of its daily propaganda: a rare glimpse into a totalitarian state usually closed off to Western eyes.

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Anders Petersen (b. 1944, Sweden) nominated for his exhibition *About Gap and St Etienne*, shown at the Arles Photography Festival, France (4 July – 17 September 2006). Petersen first became known for his seminal series *Café Lehmitz* (published in 1978), a daily chronicle of a Hamburg coffee shop frequented by transvestites and prostitutes. Since then, Petersen has continued to explore people on the fringes of society through his camera, and developed his own distinct style - a raw and intimate social photography aiming to show the hidden aspects of human nature. The series *About Gap and St Etienne*, which resulted from a two-week residency in these two southern French towns in 2005, exudes a poetic sadness, restlessness and sense of urgency that characterises his photography.

Fiona Tan (b. 1966, Indonesia), nominated for her exhibition *Mirror Maker* at Landesgalerie in Linz, Austria (1 June – 20 August 2006). The human subject is central to Tan's work through which she questions and explores the complexities of culture and place and how these elements come to shape our individual identity. Combining both photographic and film footage in her practice, the exhibition included past and more recent projects dealing with portraiture and the nature of photography; including *Vox Populi* (2004), a photographic installation that captures key moments in the lives of more than 100 Norwegian families over several generations, and *Countenance*, a typological inquiry in 200 filmic portraits, produced in Berlin in 2002.

The Atlas Group, a project by Walid Raad (b. 1967, Lebanon), has been nominated for the exhibition *The Atlas Group Project* at Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart in Berlin, Germany (22 September 2006 – 7 January 2007). The Atlas Group is a project undertaken by Walid Raad between 1989 and 2004 to research and document the contemporary history of Lebanon. However, the authenticity of the photographic and video documents in this archive are continuously queried, leaving the viewer uncertain how history - in particular one marked by the trauma of civil war - can be told and visually represented. The 'documents' in the exhibition appear based on a person's actual memories but also draw on cultural fantasies constructed from the material of collective memories.

Brett Rogers, Chair and Director of The Photographers' Gallery, said:

"This year's shortlist demonstrates the immediacy and power of the photographic image when pushed to its limits by contemporary artists and photographers. The work of all four nominees encompasses global issues and questions the camera's role as an objective recording instrument. Culturally diverse in their backgrounds and concerns, their work reflects a strong sense of social engagement in addressing subjects of both a personal and political nature."

Sabine Sauermann, Head of Deutsche Börse Sponsoring, commented:

"As title sponsor of this prestigious prize we are very pleased to announce, together with The Photographers' Gallery, the four shortlisted artists for the *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2007*. The nominees as well as the shortlisted artists once again reflect the aims of the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize, being an international and contemporary photography award. We are looking forward to exhibiting the work of the four shortlisted artists at C/O Berlin and in our headquarters in Frankfurt next year."

Deutsche Börse Group is the world largest exchange organisation and a major sponsor of photographic art. The Group owns an extensive art collection of contemporary photography which, to date, includes more than 500 works, most of them large-scale, by over 50 international artists. In addition, Deutsche Börse organises exhibitions for young artists in the Group's global headquarters in Frankfurt and sponsors photographic exhibitions in Europe. Further information on Deutsche Börse Group and its photography collection can be found at www.deutsche-boerse.com/art.

For further press information or to request images please contact the Press Office:

Call: Sam Trenerry +44 (0)20 7841 5058 / Sioban Ketelaar +44 (0)20 7841 5054

Email: press@photonet.org.uk or Visit: www.photonet.org.uk