

Press Release

21 March 2007



From the series *Let's be honest, the weather helped*, 1998



From the series *We decided to let them say, "we are convinced," twice*, 2002



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Walid Raad / The Atlas Group wins this year's Photography Prize

Walid Raad /The Atlas Group (b. 1967, Lebanon), has been awarded the *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize* for 2007. The Prize value is £30,000 and is awarded to one of the four shortlisted international photographers for their significant contribution to the medium of photography in Europe between 1 October 2005 – 30 September 2006. The Prize is on show and presented by The Photographers' Gallery, the exhibition continues until **9 April 2007**.

Walid Raad /The Atlas Group was awarded the Prize for the recent exhibition *The Atlas Group Project* at Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart in Berlin, Germany (22 September 2006 – 7 January 2007).

Undertaken between 1989 and 2004, *The Atlas Group* is a project to research and document the contemporary history of Lebanon. In this project the authenticity of photographic and video documents in the 'archive' are queried leaving the viewer uncertain as to how history - in particular one marked by the trauma of civil war - can be told and visually represented. Appearing to be based on one person's memories, it also draw on cultural fantasies constructed from the material of the collective memory.

Brett Rogers, Chair of the Jury 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. Each of them explores important global issues but none more urgent and powerful than that of Walid Raad /The Atlas Group. Raad's work opens up new possibilities for reinterpreting photography's role in the construction of 'history' especially in connection with his main project on the Lebanese Civil Wars. He demonstrates a new form of conceptual practice, one that combines the poetic with the political, and yet remains playfully engaging. Through his work Walid Raad questions the role of authorship and authenticity 'fact as a process' presenting the world and its functions as a complex layer of systems.'

Walid Raad / The Atlas Group was chosen by the Jury - Krzysztof Candrowicz (Poland), Director, Lodz Art Center; Shirana Shahbazi, (Iran) artist & winner of The Photographers' Gallery's 2002 Photography Prize; Urs Stahel, (Switzerland) Director, Fotomuseum Winterthur and Anne-Marie Beckmann, (Frankfurt), Curator, Art Collection Deutsche Börse.

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The other shortlisted photographers in this year's Prize, each being awarded £3,000, are: **Philippe Chancel** (France), **Anders Petersen** (Sweden), and **Fiona Tan** (Indonesia). The work included in the exhibition ranges from photojournalism to intimate social photography and from the exploration of the complexity of culture and place to the documentation of contemporary history. For further information on each of the shortlisted photographer's work on display please visit the gallery website: www.photonet.org.uk.

NOTES TO EDITOR

Anne-Marie Beckmann, responsible for the Arts Sponsorship Program of Deutsche Börse said:

'The Photographers' Gallery team has once again succeeded in bringing together the most important and interesting representatives of the European photographic scene. Photography plays a key role in our company culture. The Deutsche Börse Photography Prize is a very important part of our commitment to the medium.'

Tour

The exhibition will tour to C/O Berlin from 9 May – 11 July (www.co-berlin.com) and Neue Börse, Frankfurt from 30 August – 22 October.

Award presenter

Nicholas Glass, Arts Correspondent for Channel 4 News, presented the £30,000 award during the evening ceremony at The Photographers' Gallery. (www.channel4.com)

Previous Photography Prize winners are:

2006: Robert Adams (USA) / 2005: Luc Delahaye (France) / 2004: Joel Sternfeld (USA) / 2003: Jürgen Teller (Germany) / 2002: Shirana Shahbazi (Iran) / 2001: Boris Mikhailov (Ukraine) / 2000: Anna Gaskell (USA) / 1999: Rineke Dijkstra (The Netherlands) / 1998: Andreas Gursky (Germany) / 1997: Richard Billingham (UK).

About the Gallery

The Photographers' Gallery has been presenting its Photography Prize for the past 11 years. The Prize reflects its continued 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. (www.photonet.org.uk)

About Deutsche Börse Group

Deutsche Börse Group is one of the world largest exchange organisations and a major sponsor of photographic art. Since 2000 the Group collects contemporary photography which, to date, includes more than 600 works, most of them large-scale, by over 60 international artists. In addition, Deutsche Börse organises exhibitions for mainly 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.

Walid Raad / The Atlas Group is represented by Anthony Reynolds Gallery, London.

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