



Backlight 08 Photo Festival featuring works of 56 artists

Photographs and video-based projects of 56 artists were chosen for the international Backlight 08 Photo Festival.

The photographs and video projects were chosen by a jury of five curators: Ulrich Haas-Pursiainen (Photographic Centre Nykyaika, Finland), Alla Räisänen (Northern Photographic Centre, Finland), Krzysztof Candrowicz (Lodz Art Center, Poland), Martin Breindl (Fluss, Austria) and Alessandra Capodacqua (Fondazione Studio Marangoni, Italy). The jury met in Oulu in Finland at the end of March.

Altogether 572 artists submitted their proposals for projects to the main organiser Photographic Centre Nykyaika by the deadline, and a total of 12,000 photographs and video-based projects were received. "The artists have very different starting points. Some have formal artist training that is also reflected in their work. Some do not have the same kind of education nor the possibilities for receiving one, but their pictures are interesting in another way, rich in content and touching", Ulrich Haas-Pursiainen, curator and Project Manager of the Backlight 08 Photo Festival says.

Backlight 08 will be opened to the public across Europe in mid-September: on 14 September in Wolkersdorf, Austria, on 17 September in Florence, Italy, on 19 September in Oulu, Finland and on 20 September in Lodz, Poland and Tampere, Finland. The exhibitions will be open for approximately two months, after which they will tour around Europe as smaller entities over the winter. A representative selection of the whole of the Backlight 08 exhibition will also be presented at the Lodz Art Center in Poland in May 2009.

Backlight is an international Photo Festival that is well-known in the artistic circles. The title of Backlight 2008 is Tickle Attack – Humor, Laughter, Paradox, Irony and Absurd. The main organiser of the Photo Festival is the Photographic Centre Nykyaika in Tampere, which has organised the festival since 1987.

Artists chosen for Backlight 08 by the country:

Siri Hayes (Australia)

G.R.A.M. - Günther Holler-Schuster, Martin Behr (Austria)

Gerda Lampalzer (Austria)

Kurt Hoerbst (Austria)

Reiner Riedler (Austria)

Herman van den Boom (Belgium)

Katerina Držková / Barbora Kleinhamplová (Czech Republic)

Katerina Držková / Daniela Matjiková (Czech Republic)

Tatu Hiltunen (Finland)

Okko Oinonen (Finland)

Jorma Mylly (Finland) Pekka Niittyvirta (Finland)

Anu Suhonen (Finland)

Sari Tervaniemi (Finland)

Pekka Niittyvirta (Suomi)

Ilkka Tolonen (Finland)

Filippo Zambon (Italy/Finland)

Ilse Leenders & Maurits Giesen (France / The Netherlands)

Luce Moreau (France)

Bohnhof & Weinert – Anja Bohnhof, Karen Weinert (Germany)

Barbara Veronika Donaubauer (Germany)

Bettina Flitner (Germany)

Kathrin Günter (Germany)

Franziska Klose (Germany)

Wiebke Leister (Germany / United Kingdom)

Jan von Holleben (Germany)

Ivo Mayr (Germany)

Loredana Nemes (Germany)

Frauke Thielking (Germany)

Piero Steinle (Germany)

Anna Fabricius (Hungary)

Giuseppe Di Bella (Italy / United Kingdom)

Veronica Dell'Agostino (Italy)

Mauro Fiorese (Italy)

Marco Lanza & Saverio Lanza (Italy)

Camilla Micheli (Italy)

Atsuko Arai (Japan / Spain)

Midori Mitamura / Masanori Ikeda (Japan)

Ryudai Takano (Japan)

Mai Yamashita/Naoto Kobayashi (Japan / Germany)

Andrea Stultiens (The Netherlands)

Rafal Milach (Poland)
Oiko Petersen (Poland)

Daniela Cojbuc (Romania / France)

Paula Muhr (Serbia / Germany)

Martin Kollar (Slovakia)

Albin Biblom (Sweden)
My Hellsten (Sweden)

Elodie Pong (Switzerland)

John Goto with soundscape by Michael Young (United Kingdom)
Anne Guest (United Kingdom)
Liv Pennington (United Kingdom)
Edward Thompson (United Kingdom)

Erik Boker (USA)
Jonathan Gitelson (USA)
Lilly McElroy (USA)
Matt Siber (USA)

BACKLIGHT 08 Photo Festival – Facts:

Main Organiser of the Festival

Photographic Centre Nykyaiika / Finland / www.backlight.fi

Co-organisers

Fondazione Studio Marangoni (Italy / www.studiomarangoni.it),

FLUSS (Society for the Promotion of Photo- and Media Art / Austria / www.fotofluss.at)

Lodz Art Center / Poland / www.lodzartcenter.com) and

Northern Photographic Centre / Finland / www.pohjoinenvalokuvakeskus.fi)

The exhibitions are opened to the public across Europe in week 38. The main exhibitions are open for approximately two months.

Wolkersdorf (Austria), vernissage on 13 September

Florence (Italy), vernissage on 16 September

Oulu (Finland), vernissage on 18 September

Lodz (Poland) and Tampere (Finland), vernissage on 19 September

The exhibitions will be presented in the galleries of the European partners in winter 2008–09 and a representative selection of the whole of the Photo Festival will be presented at the Lodz Art Center in Poland in May 2009.

Theme

Tickle Attack – Humor, Laughter, Paradox, Irony and Absurd.

Each gallery will reflect a different artistic perspective to the theme.

Backlight 08 Photo Festival Programme in Tampere

In addition to exhibitions, the Backlight 08 Photo Festival consists of a comprehensive symposium with seminars, lectures, workshops and a residence program, a portfolio review and related exhibitions and guided tours.

More information:

Project Manager

Ulrich Haas-Pursiainen

Tel. +358 50 557 9960

Photographic Centre Nykyaiika

ulrich.haas@backlight.fi

www.backlight.fi

Newsletter:

PR Manager

Pirjo Talvio

Tel. +358 40 728 5260

pirjo.talvio@pointtia.fi



Education and Culture DG