



Press release 23-03-2012

Awarded Commitment

Noorderlicht shows award-winning photography with a mission

The Noorderlicht Photogallery pays homage to documentary photography with an exhibition of recent winners and nominees in three photography competitions that have social consciousness-raising as their mission: the Prix Pictet, the FotoEvidence Book Award and the AnthroGraphia Award for Human Rights. The result is a gripping exhibition about human respect, crying injustice and a sustainable world. The diverse work by 15 photographers is to be seen in the Noorderlicht Photogallery from 14 April through 20 May. Matthieu Rytz, founder of AnthroGraphia, will open the exhibition on 13 April.

From different points of departure, each of the three awards sees documentary photography as a means of raising the awareness of society about issues of human capacities and powerlessness. Where the Prix Pictet seeks to encourage a more environmentally aware and sustainable society with its prizes and commissions, FotoEvidence unflinchingly seeks confrontation with its raw and sometimes frankly shocking images of violations of human rights. With photography that transcends the bounds of genres, the AnthroGraphia Award for Human Rights focuses on developing better understanding among different cultures.

An homage to documentary photography

Noorderlicht has brought these awards together under the umbrella of one exhibition because their missions are directly connected with what Noorderlicht has championed for many years: photography as a medium that can play a role in social discussions and processes, engaging society with contemporary issues. In addition, Noorderlicht wishes to underscore the importance of such awards. They offer a different way of spotlighting documentary photography, thereby playing a role in stimulating the creation of new stages for presenting photography in a changing media landscape. The starting point remains the same: telling stories about the world around us, with photography with an outward gaze. With *Awarded Commitment*, Noorderlicht pays homage to the heart of documentary photography.

Participating photographers

Prix Pictet Commissions: Chris Jordan (Growth 2009), Ed Kashi (Earth 2010) and Munem Wasif (Water 2011).

FotoEvidence Book Award 2011: Javier Arcenillas (winner), Boniface Mwangi (honorary mention), Paula Bronstein, William Daniels, Lizzie Sadin and Majid Saeedi (finalists).

AnthroGraphia Award 2011: Christian Vium (winner), Saiful Huq and Paolo Patrizi (honorary mentions), Chien-Chi Chang (winner multimedia), Francesca Mancini and Stefano de Luigi (honorary mentions multimedia).





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14 April – 20 May

Noorderlicht Photogallery

Akerkhof 12, 9711 Groningen, NL

Opened Wednesday – Sunday,

noon - 6 p.m.

Free Admission

www.noorderlicht.com

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(winner AnthroGraphia Award 2011)

Coming up at Noorderlicht Photogallery in 2012

Dirk-Jan Visser - OFFSIDE - Football in Exile: 26 May - 7 July, 2012

In this exhibition Dirk-Jan Visser tells the story of FK Qarabag Agdam, a professional football club from the city of Agdam, in Azerbaijan, who were forced into exile as a consequence of the war in Nagorno Karabach (1991-1994). Visser visualizes the tragedy through the eyes of various parties involved: players, trainers and fans; soldiers and refugees; sons and daughters; wives and widows.

About Noorderlicht

The Noorderlicht Photogallery is a permanent exhibition space for photography that is not afraid to cross boundaries, be they national or genre, to tell its story. Through the gallery Noorderlicht seeks to offer a platform for young local talent, but also bring idiosyncratic masters from The Netherlands and other countries to the attention of a wider audience. Moreover, the gallery functions as a laboratory for the annual photo festivals. But Noorderlicht does more. Through its publications, master classes, discussions, lectures and provision of photography commissions, Noorderlicht stimulates the development of photography, particularly documentary. Rooted in the northern Netherlands, Noorderlicht casts its gaze across the whole world, with an eye for social themes and visual beauty.

To request interviews, or obtain visual material and more information, press can contact Charissa Caron or Olaf Veenstra, publicity@noorderlicht.com, +31 (0)50-318 22 27.

Noorderlicht | Akerkhof 12 | 9711 JB Groningen | +31 (0)50 318 22 27 | publicity@noorderlicht.com | www.noorderlicht.com