

HUAWEI Announces US\$20,000 Grand Prize Winner from Over 400,000 Entries for Second Annual NEXT-IMAGE Awards

World-renowned Photographer Alec Soth Gives Master Class in Shanghai

[Shanghai, China, and New York, USA. 26 September, 2018] Michał Wesolek from Poland has been named as the Grand Prize winner and Best-in-Category Award winner of the 'Good Night' category for the second annual HUAWEI NEXT-IMAGE Awards, which are run with the support of the International Center of Photography (ICP), the world's leading institution dedicated to photography and visual culture. The overall winner, six best-in-category winners and 50 runner-up prize winners were chosen after much deliberation by a judging panel of 10. Having kicked-off in June, in total over 400,000 submissions from 130 countries were received over an eighty-day period.

With the NEXT-IMAGE Awards being a smartphone only competition, the popularity of mobile photography was shown in the more than doubled increase in submission numbers. The top five countries for submissions meanwhile were China, the Philippines, Lithuania, Poland and Hungary – highlighting the huge international appeal of the contest. The most popular category to enter was 'Hello, Life!', accounting for 35% of entries received. The five other categories, 'Good Night', 'Faces', 'Check-In', 'Timeline' and 'Storyboard', were also well supported.

The Grand Prize winner has won US\$20,000, a HUAWEI P20 Pro smartphone, a HUAWEI Matebook X Pro laptop, and will also enjoy the enviable opportunity of his photograph being widely exposed in cities around the globe. The best-in-category winners each won a HUAWEI P20 Pro smartphone and a HUAWEI Matebook X Pro laptop, with the 50 runner-ups also winning a HUAWEI P20 Pro.

The judges were impressed with the diversity, depth and quality of this year's entrants across the six categories, but were particularly impressed by the Grand Prize winning image, 'Caught in a Beam of Light'.

Speaking about the winning image, **Mark Lubell, Executive Director of the ICP** said: "This image is terrific and mysterious. The light bears down splitting the image into two halves of dark, in the spotlight a man walks away from us. We want to learn more. We look at this image two or three times. It pulls us in. It answers and creates questions at the same time."

Karin Rehn-Kaufmann, Art Director and Chief Representative Leica Galleries International said, "The winning picture is a little like a fairytale. You have to look several times at the picture and it still keeps a secret."

Li Changzhu, Vice President of Handsets Product Line for HUAWEI Consumer

Business Group added, "The flying snowflakes are reflecting the light ray in the top left corner, adding deeper meaning to the image. They cast out the mystery and hollowness of the dark."

Renowned Magnum Photos photographer Alec Soth said, "It is a breathtaking picture that has both mood and genuine mystery. I could not stop looking at this photograph. An extraordinary example!"

Pulitzer-prize winning photographer and the founder of SCôP (Shanghai Center of Photography), Liu Heung Shing commented, "The photographic situation created here challenges the realism of the photographer's work. It's impressive."



Taken with HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro



HUAWEI NEXT-IMAGE AWARDS 2018
Grand Prize Winner & Best-in-Category Winner of GOOD NIGHT

Michał Wesolek (Poland)

< Caught in a Beam of Light >



HUAWEI next-image awards

Another stand-out image that caught the judge's eye was 'Ambos' taken by Adriana A Navarro from Uruguay, the Best-In-Category winner of 'Faces'.

Awards judge Drew Leventhal said, "It feels very contemporary, deals with a modern subject matter, but is not an overthought like some of the other images. This one is more subtle and looks better on screen."



Taken with HUAWEI P20



HUAWEI NEXT-IMAGE AWARDS 2018
Best-In-Category Winner of FACES

Adriana A Navarro (Uruguay)

< Ambos >



 next-image
awards

Mark Lubell meanwhile was drawn to 'Born with Love', the Best-in-Category winner of 'Check-In', taken by Wang Yanping from China.

He said, "It tells a story and draws the viewer in to find out more. Nine arms reach out to a young baby. We can see that this must be taken in India or a nearby region, and want to learn more."



Taken with HUAWEI P10



HUAWEI NEXT-IMAGE AWARDS 2018
Best-In-Category Winner of CHECK-IN

Wang Yanping (China)

< Born with Love >



 next-image
awards

Building on the momentum surrounding the NEXT-IMAGE Awards, HUAWEI has been holding a series of events focused around the company's vision to expand on visual expression. This includes a Master Class run by judging panel member, and world-renowned photographer, Alec Soth. The event saw image makers from China, France, Thailand and the USA travelling to attend the two-hour lecture in Shanghai. During the Master Class, Alec shared how he started in photography, his own experiences of executing photography projects, his vision of photography, and how to make photo books with the audience. The second part of the lecture was focused on the subject and the photographer, especially on how to approach strangers for portrait photography.

Alec Soth said: "When you start photography, my advice is to try every kind of photography that you can: sport, black and white, street photography - and then listen to your voice and pursue what you need to pursue. One cool thing about the HUAWEI NEXT-IMAGE Awards is that they allow experimentation, which ties in with this advice."

The NEXT-IMAGE judging panel is comprised of leading industry luminaries, including: Alec Soth; Mark Lubell; Karin Rehn-Kaufmann; Liu Heung Shing; and Li Changzhu from HUAWEI.

This year they are also joined by five up-and-coming young visual creatives, including recent graduates of the ICP School. They were invited as HUAWEI believe that mobile photography cannot just be defined by experts, but also by a young generation who use their phones on a daily basis. They include:

- **Morgan Court** - a visual artist and graduate from the New Media Narratives program at the ICP.
- **Drew Leventhal** - a Brooklyn based image-maker who works primarily in photography and collage, and is a recent graduate of the General Studies program at the ICP.
- **Sharon Pulwer** - an Israeli photographer and journalist based in New York. She is a recent graduate of the ICP Documentary Practice and Visual Journalism program.
- **Chatchawarn Janthachotibutr** - a Bangkok-born photographer who worked professionally in Thailand before moving to New York.
- **Wang Xue** - an Executive Producer for Lens.

From November 8th to 11th, HUAWEI will display the winning works from the NEXT-IMAGE Awards and Editor's Picks as part of a special photo exhibition at the annual Paris Photo, the

first international art fair dedicated to the medium of photography. This will take place at the iconic Grand Palais, situated just off the Champs-Élysées. The Awards are an important part of HUAWEI's overarching NEXT-IMAGE Plan to redefine visual expression and culture through more professional and intuitive smartphone cameras. For more details, please refer to the official NEXT-IMAGE Awards website: <https://gallery.consumer.huawei.com>.

- End -

About HUAWEI Consumer Business Group

HUAWEI's products and services are available in more than 170 countries, and are used by a third of the world's population, ranking third in the world in mobile phone shipments in 2015. Fifteen R&D centres have been set up in the United States, Germany, Sweden, Russia, India and China. HUAWEI Consumer BG is one of HUAWEI's three business units and covers smartphones, PC and tablets, wearables, mobile broadband device, family device and device cloud service. HUAWEI's global network advantages, global operation capacity and global partnership are built on 20 years of expertise in the telecom industry. HUAWEI Consumer BG is dedicated to delivering the latest technologies to consumers and sharing the happiness of technological advances with more people around the world. Walk the walk and make dreams come true.

For more information please visit: <http://consumer.huawei.com/en>

or follow us on:

www.youtube.com/c/huaweismartphones

<https://www.instagram.com/huaweinextimage>

About the International Center of Photography (ICP)

The International Center of Photography (ICP) is the world's leading institution dedicated to photography and visual culture. Cornell Capa founded ICP in 1974 to preserve the legacy of "concerned photography"—the creation of socially and politically-minded images that have the potential to educate and change the world— and the center's mission endures today, even as the photographic medium and imagemaking practices have evolved. Through its exhibitions, school, public programs, and community outreach, ICP offers an open forum for dialogue about the role that photographs, videos, and new media play in our society. To date, it has presented more than 700 exhibitions and offered thousands of classes at every level. ICP brings together photographers, artists, students, and scholars to create and interpret the realm of the image. Here, members of this unique community are encouraged to explore photography and visual culture as mediums of empowerment and as catalysts for wide-reaching social change. Visit www.icp.org to learn more.