

PRESS RELEASE | Amsterdam, 14 June 2016

## ING Unseen Talent Award: A partnership that puts the focus on emerging photographic talent in Europe

Unseen and ING are delighted to announce the five finalists selected for the launch of the European edition of the **ING Unseen Talent Award**. Created to coincide with the annual Unseen Photo Fair & Festival in Amsterdam, the award provides an international platform for emerging artists across Europe to present their work on a global scale.

The five ING Unseen Talent Award finalists are **Thomas Albdorf** (b. 1982, Austria), **Laurianne Bixhain** (b. 1987, Luxembourg), **Felicity Hammond** (b. 1988, United Kingdom), **Miren Pastor** (b. 1985, Spain) and **Tereza Zelenkova** (b. 1985, Czech Republic).

**Sanne ten Brink**, Head Curator of the **ING Collection**: “The finalists of the ING Unseen Talent Award 2016 symbolise a new generation of emerging photographic talents from Europe.”

**Rixt Hulshoff Pol**, Director **Unseen**: “This intensive collaboration with ING is a true tribute and support to our continuous enthusiasm for new photography and artists who push boundaries with their work.”

All five finalists take part in the **ING Unseen Talent Programme**, an online coaching course that includes a range of workshops with different professionals in the field, unprecedented opportunities for professional networking, and a commission for the **ING Collection**. The finalists will create a final work in response to the award’s 2016 theme *Fool for Love*, which explores the passion and devotion required in the pursuit of ones dreams.

Finalists will be coached by internationally established American artist **Todd Hido**, who will give feedback on their portfolios, whilst helping them to develop a new work and encouraging them to think about how to present their art in a wider context.

**Todd Hido**: “Very early in my career, I was the recipient of a grant at a point when it had a tremendous impact on my ability to focus on my photography in a way that would have not been possible otherwise. I’m excited to help give young photographers a similar opportunity with the ING Unseen Talent Award. There’s something quite remarkable about getting a bit of recognition for your work, not to mention the international exposure that this award will bring.”

Leading up to Unseen Photo Fair, finalists will also have an incredibly informative on-site PR session, a thought-provoking workshop on curating exhibitions with Tim Zeedijk (Rijksmuseum Amsterdam) and a Speed-Dinner with all 2016 ING Unseen Talent Award talents, scouts, coaches and jury members, offering a chance to develop contacts and learn new tips and tricks. Finalists will be guided through the online sessions by Jim Casper (Editor-in-Chief LensCulture).

The **ING Unseen Talent Award** winner will be announced at the **Award Ceremony** on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2016 during the official opening night of **Unseen**. The winner of the ING Unseen Talent Award will receive €10,000 towards a project production fund. The newly produced works by this year's five finalists will be presented in the **ING Unseen Lounge** at Unseen Photo Fair 2016, which runs from the 23<sup>rd</sup> until the 25<sup>th</sup> of September in Amsterdam. In addition to the ING Unseen Talent Award, the finalists will also be competing for the **ING Unseen Public Award**, which will be launched online at the beginning of September.

### **ING UNSEEN TALENT AWARD**

The ING Unseen Talent Award is a joint initiative started in 2013 by ING and Unseen to provide an international platform to emerging photographic talent in Europe. The focus of the award is to support talented artists at the beginning of their careers and to share their work with an international audience. Winners of previous ING Unseen Talent Awards include Sophie Jung and Lara Gasparotto (2015), Anne Geene and Maurice van Es (2014) and Ola Lanko (2013).

### **ING UNSEEN TALENT AWARD SELECTION PROCESS**

To create a pool of emerging talent from across Europe for the 2016 **ING Unseen Talent Award**, participating scouts were invited to select six to eight photographic talents from a specific region to make up the award long list. In order to qualify, these young photographers must have graduated within the last five years and must be based in Europe.

The 2016 cultural scouts were **Simon Bainbridge** (Editorial Director, British Journal of Photography, UK), **Sena Cakirkaya** (Head of Photography, Istanbul Modern, TR), **Paul di Felice** (Founder, Café-Crème edition and Board Member, European Month of Photography, LU), **María García Yelo** (Director, PhotoEspaña, ES), **Felix Hoffmann** (Chief Curator, C/O Berlin, DE) and **Adam Mazur** (Editor-in-Chief, Szum Magazine, PL).

The 2016 ING Unseen Talent Award long list includes: **Thomas Albdorf** (AU), **Carlos Alba** (ES), **Kerem Ozan Bayraktar** (TR), **Laurianne Bixhain** (LU), **Lucian Bran** (RO), **Álvaro Calvo** (ES), **Federico Clavarino** (IT), **Gerardo Custance** (FR), **Raphaël Dallaporta** (FR), **Damien Daufresne** (FR), **Robert Frankle** (LU), **Kirill Golovchenko** (UA), **Anna Grzelewska** (PL), **Sarah Hablützel** (CH), **Felicity Hammond** (UK), **Dominic Hawgood** (UK), **Paul Hutchinson** (DE), **Mattia Insolera** (IT), **Sam Ivin** (UK), **Kemê** (ES), **Vendula Knopova** (CZ/SK), **Yulia Krivich** (PL/UA), **Magda Kuca** (PL), **Tina Lechner** (AU), **Theresa Martinat** (DE), **Nikola Mihov** (BG), **Stefanie Moshammer** (AU), **Irene O'Callaghan** (NL), **Miren Pastor** (ES), **Helena Petersen** (DE), **Sevim Sancaktar** (TR), **Michal Sierakowski** (PL), **Selim Süme** (TR), **Paulina Otylie Surys** (UK), **Katy Strange** (NL), **Inge Trienekens** (NL), **Gianfranco Trippodo** (IT), **Peter Watkins** (UK), **Maja Wirkus** (DE), **Wiktoria Wojciechowska** (PL), **Cemre Yesil** (TR), **Tereza Zelenkova** (CZ), **Marta Zgierska** (PL), **Lily Zoumpouli** (GR) and **Sylwana Zybura** (UK).

An international jury will select the award winner. Comprised of a range of professionals working across the industry, the jury includes: **Martin Barnes** (Senior Curator, Photography Department, Victoria & Albert Museum, UK), **Lucy Conticello** (Director of Photography, M, le Monde, FR), **Rineke Dijkstra** (Photographer and 2015 edition coach, NL), **Azu Nwagbogu** (Director, LagosPhoto Festival, African Artists' Foundation and National Art Competition, NG) and **Sanne ten Brink** (Head Curator, ING Collection, NL).

**ING Unseen Talent Award Ceremony 22 September 2016**  
**Unseen Photo Fair Amsterdam 23-25 September 2016**

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## **EDITORS' NOTES**

### **ABOUT ING**

ING is the main sponsor of Unseen. As a global financial institution with a strong European base, ING Bank's more than 52,000 employees offer retail and wholesale banking services to more than 34 million private, corporate and institutional customers in more than 40 countries. With its historical links with art, particularly the visual arts, culture is one of the pillars of ING sponsorship policy.

### **ABOUT UNSEEN PHOTO FAIR**

Unseen is the annual international photography fair based in Amsterdam. Welcoming 53 galleries from around the world, it focuses on new photography and highlights the most recent developments by presenting emerging talent and new work by established artists. Unseen brings together leading figures in the industry with artists, curators, collectors and photography enthusiasts, creating an exchange of dialogue, artistic expression and ideas. The fair is complemented by a three-day speakers' programme jam-packed with lectures and debates, as well as a celebration of the printed world of photography books at the Unseen Book Market.

For further information, visit:

[www.unseenamsterdam.com](http://www.unseenamsterdam.com)

[www.ingartcollection.com](http://www.ingartcollection.com)

[www.unseenamsterdam.com/ing-unseen-talent-award](http://www.unseenamsterdam.com/ing-unseen-talent-award)

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