

Press release | Amsterdam, 22 September 2016

Winner of the 2016 ING Unseen Talent Award announced

Unseen and ING are pleased to announce that Thomas Albdorf (1982, Austria) is the winner of the 2016 ING Unseen Talent Award. The award provides an exciting platform for emerging photography talent from Europe, giving young artists an unprecedented opportunity to present their work on an international scale. The award and the €10,000 prize to fund a new project was accepted at the opening event of Unseen Photo Fair, which took place in Amsterdam on 22 September.

The winner was chosen from five exceptional ING Unseen Talent Award finalists: Thomas Albdorf (1982, Austria), Laurianne Bixhain (1987, Luxembourg), Felicity Hammond (1988, UK), Miren Pastor (1985, Spain) and Tereza Zelenkova (1985, Czech Republic). All ING Unseen Talent Award finalists' works can be seen at the ING Unseen Lounge, during Unseen Photo Fair 2016, which runs from 23 to 25 September in Amsterdam. Each of the finalists created an artwork for the ING Collection in response to this year's theme: *Fool for Love*, which explores the passion and devotion required to pursue ones dreams.

The winner of the **ING Unseen Talent Award 2016 Public Prize** was also announced. The Public Prize winner was determined by an online poll, which closed on 19 September. The winner, Miren Pastor (1985, Spain), was awarded a commission to create new work for the ING Collection.

Rixt Hulshoff Pol, Director Unseen: *"My warmest congratulations go out to all the participants in the 2016 ING Unseen Talent Award, which offers a wonderful opportunity to so many young and talented artists. It's incredibly exciting to see how this theme has challenged the artists in different ways. Each work shows a personal connection to the theme, which is what I find so powerful".*

The ING Unseen Talent Award winner was selected by an international jury comprised of a range of professionals working across the industry, which included **Martin Barnes** (Senior Curator, Photography Department, Victoria & Albert Museum, UK), **Lucy Conticello** (Director of Photography, M, le Monde, FR), **Rineke Dijkstra** (Artist and 2014 & 2015 edition coach, NL), **Azu Nwagbogu** (Director, LagosPhoto Festival, African Artists' Foundation and National Art Competition, NG) and **Sanne ten Brink** (Global Head Curator, ING Collection, NL).

The report by the jury states: "Thomas Albdorf satisfied the theme with a very succinct approach. His use of technology and construction resulted in clear but sophisticated

images. The photographs were visually and conceptually multi-layered. In a powerful diptych he conveyed the universal experience of being both in and out of love.”

In addition to the project production fund of €10,000 for the winner, all five artists also had an opportunity to take part in an extensive talent programme under the guidance of American artist Todd Hido. The programme included various online coaching sessions and workshops, helping the nominees to further develop their work and introducing them to professionals in the field.

Sanne ten Brink, Global Head Curator of the ING Collection and member of the jury: *“Congratulations to all five ING Unseen Talent Award finalists. These artists have explored the boundaries of photography and bring new insights and inspiration. The breadth and quality of their work was extraordinary and will make an excellent addition to the ING Collection. We are proud to be [the main sponsor of Unseen](#) and to support these young artists with this platform and with the exposure they deserve to get one step ahead for the future”.*

EDITORS’ NOTES

ABOUT ING UNSEEN TALENT AWARD

The ING Unseen Talent Award is a joint initiative started in 2013 by ING and Unseen to provide emerging photography talent in Europe an international platform. 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).

ABOUT THOMAS ALBDORF

After working for several years as an art director, Thomas Albdorf (1982, AT) studied Transmedia Art at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, where he graduated in 2013. His work has been exhibited throughout galleries in Europe and the USA and featured in many magazines. He lives and works in Vienna, Austria.

Thomas Albdorf focuses on the contemporary, ever-changing status quo of the photographic image. He conceives photography as a chain of decisions ranging from the subject’s staging to post-production and the final print. In this way, the analogue negative doesn’t officiate as an enclosed photograph but rather a space of possibilities and probabilities. Alterations leave their visible mark in the final work, revealing their source as well as bringing their conditions of production up for discussion.

ABOUT MIREN PASTOR

Based in Madrid, Miren Pastor (1985, ES) studied Fine Arts at the University of the Basque Country and specialised in Photography in Blank Paper Escuela Madrid. This was a turning point in her career and it was there that Bidean was conceived as an ongoing project. Bidean investigates the passing of time and human relationships.

Taking adolescence as the epitome of change, Pastor reflects on the elements that determine our development and shape our identity, just like the unstable cycles of nature. Pastor has published two photobooks within the project so far.

ABOUT ING

A proud partner of Unseen, ING is a global financial institution with a strong European base offering banking services via ING Bank to more than 35 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. For further information, visit: www.ing.com/ING-in-Society/Art/ING-Collection.htm.

ABOUT UNSEEN PHOTO FAIR

Unseen Photo Fair is the annual international photography fair focused on new photography, which takes place from 23-25 September at the Westergas area in Amsterdam. 53 international galleries present the latest work of more than 150 artists. Additionally, the on-site fair is a place for the exchange of dialogue, artistic expression and ideas, and includes a full programme with a lot of interaction, debates and a book market.

ABOUT UNSEEN PHOTO FESTIVAL

Unseen Photo Festival is a 10-day celebration of photography throughout the whole city of Amsterdam. From 16-25 September, Unseen collaborates with many of the city's cultural institutions, artists and initiatives, using photography in innovative and unconventional ways. This year, the heart of the festival lies in the Spaarndammerbuurt neighbourhood, with as its main location Museum Het Schip.

For further information, visit:

www.unseenamsterdam.com

www.ingartcollection.com

www.unseenamsterdam.com/ing-unseen-talent-award

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