



Press release | Amsterdam, 23 September 2016

ANNOUNCING UNSEEN AWARD WINNERS

The fifth edition of Unseen Photo Fair opens with new talent.

Several prestigious awards and project funds, founded to foster the careers of emerging artists, were presented during the first days of Unseen. These include the ING Unseen Talent Award, the Outset | Unseen Exhibition Fund, the Meijburg Art Commission and the Unseen Dummy Award.

THOMAS ALBDORF (AT) WINS ING UNSEEN TALENT AWARD

On Thursday, 22 September, the day of the official opening of Unseen Photo Fair, an international jury announced the winner of the ING Unseen Talent Award. Jury winner **Thomas Albdorf** (1982, Austria) received a project fund of €10,000. In addition, **Miren Pastor** (1985, Spain) was confirmed as the winner of the Public Prize, which was decided by an online poll. Pastor received a commission to create new work for the ING Collection.

Watch a short video of the award here:

<https://youtu.be/rTWaQZwKBxU>

For images and a detailed press release on the award nominees, please visit:

www.unseenamsterdam.com/press

ELSPETH DIEDERIX (KE) RECEIVES MEIJBURG ART COMMISSION

On Friday, 23 September, **Elsbeth Diederix** (1971, Nairobi, KE) was selected as the recipient of this year's Meijburg Art Commission at Unseen Photo Fair. Talented, up-and-coming artists competed for the Meijburg Art Commission by submitting a proposal for a unique artwork with a focus on photography. After being nominated, five artists developed their proposals for a site-specific commission. These were then presented to an international jury, which included **Wilbert Kannekens** (Chairman Managing Board, Meijburg & Co), **Genevieve Fussel** (Senior Photo Editor, *The New Yorker*) and Unseen's 2016 campaign artists, **Christto & Andrew**.

Besides **Elsbeth Diederix**, the nominees for this year's Meijburg Art Commission are: **Awoiska van der Molen** (1972, NL); **Mandy Barker** (1964, UK); **Motohiro Takeda** (1982, JP); and **Yoko Ikeda** (1965, JP).

The jury report states: "*We were taken by the understated complexity of her images. Upon first glance, they are striking photographs of flowers. Upon a closer look, however, the viewer realizes that the work has great depth. Elspeth is constructing environments, manipulating reality by creating flowers that don't actually exist. Her work requires you to*

think a bit more, to wonder what is going on, what has she done to create the image? Her work reminds us of the famous Dutch Masters and its typical lighting."

Elspeth Diederix will be given a project fund to produce her site-specific work for the Meijburg & Co office. The artwork will subsequently be added to the Meijburg & Co art collection.

REN HANG (CN) RECEIVES 2016 OUTSET | UNSEEN EXHIBITION FUND

On Friday, 23 September, the curatorial committee for Outset | Unseen Exhibition Fund – an institutional platform for emerging talent – selected **Ren Hang (1987, CN)** as the recipient of the 2016 Outset | Unseen Exhibition Fund.

At Unseen Photo Fair, a curatorial committee comprising **Alona Pardo** (1974, curator Barbican Art Gallery, London), **Carolyn H. Drake** (1985, independent curator, Director at *A Tale of a Tub*, Rotterdam) and **Thomas Dukes** (1984, curator Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool) selected Ren Hang to present a solo exhibition at Foam at the beginning of 2017.

Originally from Chang Chun in the Jilin province of Northeastern China, Ren Hang (b.1987) is a poet and photographer living and working in Beijing. Deliberately provocative, Ren Hang's images challenge conventional codes of morality in a still highly conservative society. The artist's work has appeared in leading independent magazines in China and around the world.

The explicit nature of Ren Hang's photography has often made it difficult for galleries in his homeland to mount exhibitions of his work. Despite this, his images have been exhibited widely; with several solo shows in China and appearances in numerous group shows internationally in countries including Italy, France, Russia, Israel and Sweden.

The jury said: *'Employing the language of fashion photography, Ren Hang's irreverent and playfully sexual compositions create new sculptural forms using the body. The curatorial committee are impressed by the consistent quality and sophistication across his practice and within each image.'*

DIETER DE LATHAUWER (BE) WINS UNSEEN DUMMY AWARD

On Friday, 23 September, an international jury chose **Dieter Lathauwer** (1978, BE) as the winner of the 2016 Unseen Dummy Award. The Unseen Dummy Award, an initiative of Unseen and Lecturis, gives the winning artist an entrée into the international photography industry. The Dummy, *I Loved My Wife (killing children is good for the economy)*, by Dieter de Lathauwer, will be published and presented during Unseen Photo Fair 2017.

Dieter notes that his book *"highlights one of the darkest sides of the previous century in Europe, which was and still remains under-exposed."*

This year's jury members, **Paul van Mameren** (Managing Director, Lecturis), **Irma Boom** (graphic designer), **Sean O'Hagan** (journalist, The Guardian) and **Francesco Zanot** (Chief Curator, Camera Centro Italiano per la Fotografia's), state: *"The combination of found photographs, stills from propaganda films from the German authorities, and Lathauwer's own evocative images made for a powerful and unsettling narrative. The subject concerns the psychiatric state hospitals where thousands of people were killed over two years in Austria, because they were Jews, gays or immigrants. His photographs of the locations*

merge with the found material to create a sustained mood that suggests the horror without depicting directly. It is an accomplished photo book about a very dark subject matter that, to this day, remains relatively unknown."

The dummies selected for the shortlist are exhibited at the Unseen Book Market until Sunday, 25 September. The winner of the Unseen Dummy Award 2015 was **Yoshinori Masuda** (JP).

UNSEEN PHOTO FAIR 23 – 25 SEPTEMBER

UNSEEN PHOTO FESTIVAL 16 – 25 SEPTEMBER

www.unseenamsterdam.com

Founding partners

Unseen was founded by partners Foam Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam, Office for Cultural Business Development Platform A, and Vandejong Creative Agency.

Editor's notes

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.

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 more information & images please visit www.unseenamsterdam.com or contact the Unseen Press Office:

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