



Release: Saturday, March 8, 2008

Winners Announced in the 65th Annual Pictures of the Year International Competition

Photographers Stephen Katz from *The Virginian-Pilot* and John Moore of *Getty Images* achieved premiere honors in the 65th annual Pictures of the Year International (POYi) competition and set the mark of excellence for photojournalism in 2007. The *Los Angeles Times* set the gold standard for editing by earning the Angus McDougall Overall Excellence in Editing Award for the second straight year.

POYi is privileged to announce these premier awards and category winners, with support from the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute (www.rjionline.org) and the Missouri School of Journalism.

Katz was named the 2007 Newspaper Photographer of the Year and Moore was honored as the Magazine Photographer of the Year. The judges recognized similar strengths with the work of these two photojournalists — a strong balance of powerful aesthetic with solid journalistic content that reflects an intimacy with their subjects. Katz demonstrated a stunning visual report of his home community in Norfolk, plus the judges applauded his supplemental service for *Physicians For Peace*. Moore's portfolio focused on regions of conflict within Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq. His historic documentation on the assassination of former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto reflected the tragedy of that nation.

A new premiere category for POYi this year was the Global Vision Award that recognizes environmental project work. Daniel Beltra, freelance for Greenpeace, is the inaugural winners for this award. His entry contrasted the destruction of the rain forest with the ice pack of the Antarctic. Beltra writes: "The Amazon Rainforest represents over half the world's remaining tropical forests. This primeval wilderness harbors the greatest biodiversity on earth. More than 17 percent of the Amazon has already been cleared by loggers, ranchers and soy farmers. Thousands of miles away lay the Antarctic continent, one of the world's most pristine environments. The fate of this remote wilderness hinges on the smallest change in temperature."

Multimedia entries doubled from last year and filled four days of judging. The Best Use of Multimedia in both major and small markets went to NGM.com, *National Geographic Magazine's* online component, and *MediaStorm.org* respectively.

A special honor was created this year for a remarkable and unique submission to POYi. The judges and director conferred the first "Distinguished Leadership in Photojournalism Award" in recognition of "Magnum Founders: In Celebration of 60 Years" and the member photographers who have guided the development of photojournalism since the founding of Magnum. The distinction honors the publishing house of *Verso Limited Editions*, the photo agency of Magnum Photos, and the preeminent photojournalists Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, George Rodger, and David Seymour.

In the Editing Division, the *Los Angeles Times* won the Angus McDougall Overall Excellence in Editing Award. This was the first year that the judges were directed to heavily consider the online component when rewarding a news organization. The judges noted the *Times'* solid pictures editing in print and online, and their commitment to fundamental storytelling in both media formats.

Among additional prestige awards, Steve Liss, of *Polaris Images* won the World Understanding Award for "Voices from Juvenile Detention: Kids Behind Bars." The story documents pre-trial juveniles that are held in Texas and Oregon facilities. Scott Strazzante, of the *Chicago Tribune* won the Community Awareness Award for his documentation of the changing face of a community landscape from rural to suburban in "Echoes of the Past." Robert Cohen, of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, earned the One Week's Work Award for his seven-day work portfolio. The Best Photography Book Award went to *Double Blind: War in Lebanon 2006* by Paolo Pellegrin and Scott Anderson.

POYi premiere award winners are presented with Tiffany crystal engraved trophies and cash prizes. A complete list of all the winners and their images may be found online at www.poyi.org.

Eleven of the most highly respected professionals in our field reviewed more than 46,000 images during the three weeks of judging. The grueling and intense process began on Sunday, Feb. 17 and continued through Friday, March 7. During the first week, four judges reviewed entries in the Newspaper and General Division categories, followed by another panel the next week for Magazine Division, and a third panel for Multimedia and Editing Division entries.

This is the second year that Pictures of the Year International has conducted the international competition as a program of The Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute (RJI) at the Missouri School of Journalism. RJI is journalism's advanced studies center whose mission is to engage media professionals, scholars and other citizens in programs aimed at improving the practice and understanding of journalism in democratic societies. Since its founding in 1944, POYi has become the oldest and one of the world's largest and most highly respected photojournalism competitions. For six decades, newspaper and

magazine photographers have sent their strongest images to be judged in an annual contest started by the late Cliff Edom, the University of Missouri professor who coined the term "photojournalism."

POYi prides its contest as serving an educational and professional development role within an academic setting. Four graduate students serve as POYi coordinators each year with the assistance of many other student volunteers. The dedicated four — Tony Castellano, Stephanie Hinkle, Alison Hodgson, and Amanda Wilson — sorted thousands of photographs, stories, pages, books, and Web links, then orchestrated the technology to display the work during the contest.

An impressive program by the premiere winners is slated for the annual POYi Education and Awards Program to be held in the Washington, D.C. on April 17-18. POYi will be working in partnership with the University of Maryland, the Corcoran College of Art & Design, and American University to host this extraordinary recognition of the world's best photojournalists. Details on the program agenda and accommodations will be posted on this site within the coming days.

Selected winning photographs are available upon request. For more information, feel free to contact POYi director Rick Shaw at 573-864-7691 or email shawrf@missouri.edu.