



PRESS RELEASE

London: 13 November 2019

JOANA CHOUMALI, PRIX PICTET 2019 - FIRST AFRICAN WINNER OF 100,000 SWISS FRANC (£80,000, US\$100,000)

WORLD'S TOP PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE

For downloadable press images click on the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/PPHope2019>

45 year-old Joana Choumali from Côte d'Ivoire was announced as winner of the eighth cycle of the Prix Pictet, the global award in photography and sustainability, with a theme of *Hope*. She is the first ever African winner of the Prix Pictet.

The announcement was made at a ceremony at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London on Wednesday 13 November 2019 at the opening of an exhibition of the work of the twelve shortlisted photographers. The award takes the form of a cash prize of 100,000 Swiss francs to the winner.



Born in 1974 and based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Joana Choumali works on conceptual portraits, mixed media and documentary photography. Winner of the CapPrize Award (2014), Emerging Photographer LensCulture Award (2014), Magnum Emergency Grant Foundation (2016) and the Fourthwall Books Award in South Africa (2016), she exhibited at the Pavilion of the Ivory Coast during the 57th Venice International Biennale. In her latest works, Choumali embroiders directly onto her images, completing the act of creating the photograph image with a slow and meditative gesture.

The photographs for her Prix Pictet winning series *Ça va aller* (It will be okay) were taken three weeks after the terrorist attacks in Grand Bassam on Sunday 13th March, 2016. She said, 'This work is a way to address the way Ivorian people deal with trauma and mental health. The attacks re-opened the mental wounds left by the post electoral war of 2011. Back home I felt the need to process this pain and I discovered that I could do so through embroidery. Each stitch was a way to recover, to lay down the emotions, the loneliness, and mixed feelings I felt. As an automatic scripture, the act of adding colourful stitches on the pictures has had a soothing

effect on me, like a meditation. Adding embroidery on these street photographs was an act of channelling hope and resilience.'

The distinguished international jury of the Prix Pictet convened in London this week to decide the winner. The Jury members for the eighth cycle, *Hope*, are: **Sir David King**, Affiliate Partner, SYSTEMIQ Limited and Senior Strategy Advisor to the President of Rwanda (Chair of the Jury); **Martin Barnes**, Senior Curator, Photographs, Victoria and Albert Museum, London; **Richard Mosse**, winner of the seventh Prix Pictet, *Space*; **Philippe Bertherat**, Member of the International Council of Sotheby's; **Jan Dalley**, Arts Editor, Financial Times; **Herminia Ibarra**, Charles Handy Professor of Organisational Behaviour, London Business School; **Jeff Rosenheim**, Curator in Charge, Photographs, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; **Kazuyo Sejima**, Co-Founder, SANAA, and Pritzker Prize-winning architect.

In a statement issued today on behalf of the Prix Pictet Jury, Sir David King, Chairman of the Jury, said:

"We were inspired by the words of our founding President, the late Kofi Annan, who in his final Prix Pictet address spoke of mankind's potential to find hope in adversity, and of his profound hope that it was not too late to reverse the catastrophic damage that we have visited on the natural world and its most vulnerable inhabitants. Let's be under no illusion that in these past two years the crisis we are facing has deepened. Yet hope remains, albeit fragile and elusive. The work of the twelve shortlisted photographers underlines the great hope of the Prix Pictet—the wager that we all make with the future, that art can inspire action and triumph where words alone have failed.

*The Jury were unanimous in their selection of Joana Choumali's series *Ca va aller* (it will be ok) as the winner of Prix Pictet 'Hope'. In an extremely strong field, her work stood out as a brilliantly original meditation on the ability of the human spirit to wrest hope and resilience from even the most traumatic events. Her outstanding work made by embroidering directly onto the photographic image is a carefully calibrated response to the trauma of terrorist attack in 2016. It is an inspiration to us all and a worthy winner of the eighth Prix Pictet".*



Joana Choumali – Untitled, 2019 – From the series *Ça va aller*, 2016-19
© Joana Choumali, Prix Pictet

A free exhibition of the work of the shortlisted photographers, listed below, is now on show at the Victoria and Albert Museum until 8 December 2019.

Shahidul Alam, born 1955 Bangladesh, based in Dhaka
Joana Choumali, born 1974 Côte d'Ivoire, based in Abidjan
Margaret Courtney-Clarke, born 1949 Namibia, based in Swakopmund
Rena Effendi, born 1977 Azerbaijan, based in Istanbul
Lucas Foglia, born 1983 USA, based in San Francisco
Janelle Lynch, born 1969 USA, based in New York
Ross McDonnell, born 1979 Ireland, based in New York
Gideon Mendel, born 1959 South Africa, based in London
Ivor Prickett, born 1983 Ireland, based in Europe and the Middle East
Robin Rhode, born 1976 South Africa, based in Berlin
Awoiska van der Molen, born 1972 Netherlands, based in Amsterdam
Alexia Webster, born 1979 South Africa, based in New York

The Prix Pictet was founded by the Pictet Group in 2008. Today the award is recognised as the world's leading prize for photography. On an approximately 18-month cycle each theme aims to promote discussion and debate on issues of sustainability. The prize of 100,000 Swiss francs is awarded for a body of work that speaks most powerfully to the theme of the award.

Following the award, the Prix Pictet exhibition tours the world, showing in over a dozen locations, bringing the work of the shortlisted photographers before a wide global audience. The *Hope* tour begins in Tokyo on 12 December 2019 (Hillside Forum) and follows with shows in leading spaces in Zurich, Monaco, Moscow and Lausanne, among others.

The Prix Pictet award is accompanied by a full-colour 140-page book published by teNeues, covering in detail the work of the shortlisted photographers, together with selected images from the wider group of nominees, and essays on the theme of the prize by leading thinkers and writers.

The Prix Pictet today also launches its first podcast series entitled, *Prix Pictet: A lens on sustainability*. This series consists of five initial episodes where the greatest global creators, thinkers and photographers discuss photography and sustainability. The first five episodes are entitled: (1) Photography as Witness, (2) Displacement, (3) Consumption, (4) Conflict and Destruction, and, finally, (5) Hope. Each episode approaches its selected theme with a photographer, an on-location interview, and panel discussion. Collaborators and guest speakers to date have included Jeff Rosenheim, Don McCullin, Elif Shafak, Dylan Jones, Hannah Starkey, Nadav Kander, Lionel Barber and Funmi Iyanda among others. It is now accessible on iTunes, Spotify and the Prix Pictet website.

Prix Pictet: Hope

The Porter Gallery, V&A, Cromwell Road, Knightsbridge, London SW7 2RL

14 November – 8 December 2019

Admission free

www.prixpictet.com

www.vam.ac.uk

Press Office:

Catherine Philippot - Relations Media

248 boulevard Raspail 75014 Paris

+33(0)140476342

cathphilippot@relations-media.com

Media enquiries:

Jane Quinn/Dennis Chang, Bolton & Quinn +44 (0)20 7221 5000

jq@boltonquinn.com or dennis@boltonquinn.com

Notes to Editors

Joana Choumali, born 1974 Côte d'Ivoire, based in Abidjan

Series: *Ça va aller*, 2019

Joana Choumali is visual artist/photographer based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. She studied graphic arts in Casablanca, Morocco, and worked as an art director in an advertising agency before embarking on her photography career. She works mainly on conceptual portraits, mixed media and documentary photography. Much of her work focuses on Africa and what she learns about the innumerable cultures around her. In her latest works, Joana embroiders directly onto her images, completing the act of creating the photograph image with a slow and meditative gesture. Joana has exhibited her work at the Museum of Civilizations-Abidjan; the Donwahi Foundation for Contemporary Art, Abidjan; the Rotonde des Arts Contemporary Art Center, Abidjan; the Vitra Design Museum, Basel; the Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakech; the Museum of Photography, St Louis, Senegal; the Tropen Museum, Amsterdam; the International Photography Biennale of Bamako; the Photoquai Biennale (Quai Branly Museum- Paris); the Foundation Blachère; the Zeitz Mocaa Museum of Contemporary Arts-Capetown. In 2014, Choumali won the CapPrize Award and the 2014 Emerging Photographer LensCulture Award. In 2016, she received the Magnum Emergency Grant Foundation and the Fourthwall Books Award in South Africa. In 2017, she exhibited her series *Translation* and *Adorn* at the Pavilion of the Ivory Coast during the 57th Venice International Biennale.

About the Shortlisted Photographers

Shahidul Alam, born 1955 Bangladesh, based in Dhaka

Series: *Still She Smiles*, 2014

A photographer, writer, curator and activist, Shahidul Alam obtained a PhD in Chemistry at London University before focusing on Photography. Returning to his hometown Dhaka in 1984, he documented the democratic struggle to remove General Ershad. President of the Bangladesh Photographic Society for three terms, Alam set up the award-winning Drik agency, Bangladesh Photographic Institute, Chobi Mela festival, Majority World agency and Pathshala, the South Asian Media Institute. Alam's work has been shown at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Royal Albert Hall, London; Tate Modern, London; and the Museum of Contemporary Arts, Tehran. He has been a guest curator of the Whitechapel Gallery, London, Winterthur Gallery, Switzerland, National Art Gallery, Malaysia, Musee de Quai Branly, Paris, the Brussels Biennale and the Auckland Festival of Photography. His numerous awards include the Shilpakala Award, the highest state honour given to Bangladeshi artists. He was the 2018 recipient of the Lucie Foundation Award and will be presented with the ICP award in 2019. His show "Best Years of My Life" was the central exhibit at the Global Forum for Migration and Development in Berlin in 2017. His show "Embracing the Other" which challenges Islamophobia and Extremism was shown to international acclaim at the Bait Ur Rouf mosque in 2018.

Margaret Courtney-Clarke, born 1949 Namibia, based in Swakopmund

Series: *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain*, 2014-2018

After studying art and photography in South Africa, Margaret Courtney-Clarke spent the next four decades working as a photographer in Italy, the USA and across Africa. Courtney-Clarke began her career working under Italian photographer and filmmaker Pasquale De Antonis photographing art, architecture and antiquities, before travelling as a freelance photographer on magazine assignments in Europe and Africa during the 1970s and 1980s. In 1979 Courtney-Clarke became a persona non grata under the Apartheid laws and renounced

her South African citizenship – she would later return to South West Africa under the protection of the United Nations and claim her Namibian citizenship. Throughout her career, Courtney-Clarke would pursue personal projects in Africa documenting feminine identity. The body of work, *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain* (2014 - 2018), marks a new phase in Courtney-Clarke's photographic work, documenting the artist's return to Namibia and her engagement with a people and landscape in crisis. They evidence her passionate concern for human enterprise and failure, and for an environment infused with remnants of apartheid as well as hope. More than 200 exhibitions of the author's photography have been held around the world.

Rena Effendi, born 1977 Azerbaijan, based in Istanbul

Series: *Transylvania: Built on Grass*, 2012

Educated as a linguist, Rena Effendi's early work focused on the oil industry's effects on people's lives in her region. As a result, she followed a 1,700 km oil pipeline through Georgia and Turkey, collecting stories along the way. This work of six years was published in 2009 in her first book *Pipe Dreams: A Chronicle of Lives along the Pipeline*. Effendi's work has been exhibited worldwide at institutions such as the Saatchi Gallery, London, Istanbul Modern, the Venice Biennial, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, among others. Effendi's photographs are in the permanent collections of Istanbul Modern, the Open Society Foundations and the Prince Claus Fund. She has won several international photography awards, in 2011, Rena Effendi became the laureate of the Prince Claus Fund Award for Culture and Development and in 2012 she was shortlisted for the Prix Pictet for her series *Chernobyl: Still Life in the Zone*. In 2014, Rena Effendi won two awards in the World Press Photo 'Observed Portraits' categories. She has also been on the jury of prestigious photographic competitions such as World Press Photo and the Sony World Photography Awards. Effendi has worked on editorial commissions for the National Geographic Magazine, The New York Times Magazine, Vogue, Marie Claire, The New Yorker, GEO, The Daily Telegraph, Newsweek, TIME Magazine, The Sunday Times, New York Magazine and many others.

Lucas Foglia, born 1983 USA, based in San Francisco

Series: *Human Nature*, 2006-2019

Lucas Foglia grew up on a farm in New York and currently lives in San Francisco. His third book, *Human Nature*, was recently published by Nazraeli Press. Foglia's prints are held in major collections including Denver Art Museum, Foam Fotografiemuseum in Amsterdam, the International Center of Photography in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Philadelphia Museum of Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Janelle Lynch, born 1969 USA, based in New York

Series: *Another Way of Looking at Love*, 2015-2018

Janelle Lynch is an American large-format photographer with a 20-year career during which she has investigated themes of absence, presence, transcendence, and the life cycle through the landscapes and waterways of the United States, Mexico, and Spain. Lynch received an MFA in Photography from the School of Visual Arts where she studied with Joel Sternfeld and Stephen Shore. In 2003, she completed the Master Class in Photography. From 2015-2018. Lynch studied perceptual drawing and painting with Graham Nickson at the New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture. Her photographs are in museum collections including The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Museum of the City of New York; New York Public Library; Brooklyn Museum; George Eastman Museum; and the New-York Historical Society. She has three monographs published and her work has been shown internationally, for example at the Museo Archivo de la Fotografía (Mexico City), the Southeast Museum of Photography (Daytona Beach, FL), and at the Newark Museum, Frankfurt Forum Fotografie,

and the Festival International de Mode et de Photographie à Hyères. Lynch's work has appeared in international publications and she is a faculty member at the International Center of Photography and a frequent guest lecturer.

Ross McDonnell, born 1979 Ireland, based in New York

Series: *Limbs*, 2012

Ross McDonnell is a filmmaker and photographer from Dublin, Ireland.

His work takes the form of long-term documentary projects focused on themes of sustainability, conflict, migration and ecology. His first film 'Colony' was a multi-award-winning exploration into the plight of declining Honeybee populations in the United States and its impact on agriculture. His following films focused on conflict in Mexico and Afghanistan as well as social housing in his native Dublin. His most recent film 'Elián' produced for CNN Films, BBC and Amazon was nominated for a News and Documentary EMMY award in 2018. Ross' photographic work has been exhibited and published around the world. He is a regular contributor to publications like Time Magazine, The New York Times Magazine and The Sunday Times Magazine.

Gideon Mendel, born 1959 South Africa, based in London

Series: *Damage: A Testament of Faded Memory*, 2016

Gidon Mendel studied Psychology and African History at the University of Cape Town. He began photographing in the 1980s, during the final years of apartheid. It was his work as a "struggle photographer" during this period that first brought his work to global attention. In the early 1990s, he moved to London, continuing to respond to global social issues, with a major focus on HIV/AIDS, particularly in Africa but expanding worldwide during the last twenty years. Mendel's earliest work from South Africa was highlighted in the *Rise and Fall of Apartheid* touring exhibition, curated by Okwui Enwezor. His recent project, entitled *Dzhangal*, an 'anti-photographic' response to the global refugee crisis was shown at Autograph in London and the book is published by GOSTBooks. Since 2007, Mendel has been working on *Drowning World*, his long-term art and advocacy project about flooding that is a personal response to climate change. Solo shows of *Drowning World* have been shown at many galleries and public installations around the world, including Les Rencontres de la Photographie in Arles. Amongst many accolades, Mendel has won the Eugene Smith Award for Humanistic Photography, six World Press Photo Awards, first prize in the Pictures of the Year competition, a POY Canon Photo Essayist Award, and the Amnesty International Media Award for Photojournalism. In 2015 he was shortlisted for the Prix Pictet Award (Disorder) for *Drowning World*. In 2016 he was the first recipient of The Pollock-Krasner Foundation's "Pollock Prize for Creativity" and also received the Jury Prize of the 2016 Greenpeace Photo Award.

Ivor Prickett, born 1983 Ireland, based in Europe and the Middle East

Series: *End of the Caliphate*, 2017-2018

Most recently the work of Ivor Prickett has focused on the fight to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Working exclusively for the The New York Times he spent months on the ground reporting in both words and pictures. His work in Iraq and Syria earned him first prize in the General News Stories category of the 2018 World Press Photo and he was named as a finalist in the Breaking News Photography category of the Pulitzer Prizes. The entire body of work titled 'End of the Caliphate' is due to be released as a book by German publisher Steidl in 2019. Based in the region since 2009, Ivor documented the 'Arab Spring' uprisings in Egypt and Libya, working simultaneously on editorial assignments and his own long-term projects. Travelling to more than ten countries between 2012 and 2015 he documented the Syrian refugee crisis in the region as well as Europe, working closely in collaboration with UNHCR to produce the body of work 'Seeking Shelter'. Ivor's work has been recognised through a number of prestigious awards including The World Press Photo, The Pulitzer Prizes, The

Overseas Press Club Awards, Pictures of the Year International, Foam Talent, The Taylor Wessing Portrait Prize and The Ian Parry Scholarship. His pictures have been exhibited widely at institutions such as Foam Gallery Amsterdam and The National Portrait Gallery, London. He is a European Canon Ambassador and holds a degree in Documentary Photography from the University of Wales Newport.

Robin Rhode, born 1976 South Africa, based in Berlin

Series: *Principle of Hope*, 2017

The Berlin-based multidisciplinary artist engages in a variety of visual languages such as photography, performance, drawing and sculpture to create arrestingly beautiful narratives that are brought to life using quotidian materials such as soap, charcoal, chalk and paint. Coming of age in a newly post-apartheid South Africa, Rhode was exposed to new forms of creative expression motivated by the spirit of the individual rather than dictated by a political or social agenda. The growing influence of urban music, film, and popular sports on youth culture as well as the community's reliance on storytelling in the form of colourful murals encouraged the development of Rhode's hybrid street-based aesthetic. He has had major solo and group exhibitions at a number of important museums around the world such as; Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, Switzerland; Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, NY, USA; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; Hamburger Bahnhof Museum für Gegenwart Berlin, Germany; Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; The Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH, USA; Hayward Gallery, London, UK. Furthermore, he has participated at 51st International Venice Biennale, Italy, Biennale of Sydney, Australia, The New Orleans Biennial, USA. His work is in the public collections of Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Julia Stoschek Collection, Düsseldorf, Germany; Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA; The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Awoiska van der Molen, born 1972 Netherlands, based in Amsterdam

Series: *Am schwarzen Himmelsrund*, 2010-2018

Awoiska van der Molen is a Dutch artist working with the medium of photography. She studied Architecture and Design followed by Photography at Minerva Art Academy Groningen, Netherlands. In 2003 she graduated with an MFA in Photography at the St. Joost Academy, Breda, Netherlands. In 2017, van der Molen was shortlisted for the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize for her exhibition 'Blanco' and was also the recipient of the Larry Sultan Photography Award 2017 in San Francisco. She was awarded the Japanese Hariban Award in 2014 and was a finalist at the Hyères Festival International de Mode et de Photographie in France in 2011. Her first monograph 'Sequester' was nominated for the Paris Photo / Aperture First Book Prize in 2014 and received the Leipzig Silver Medal for 'Best Books from all over the World'. Solo exhibitions of her work have been held at Museum Kranenburgh, Bergen NH (2019); Foam Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam (2016); Kousei-Inn, Kyoto (2015), and she has participated in numerous group exhibitions including Les Rencontres de la photographie d'Arles in France (2019); Pier24 Photography, San Francisco (2017); Victoria & Albert Museum, London (2017); The Photographers' Gallery, London (2017); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2016); FoMu, Antwerp (2015) and Huis Marseille, Amsterdam (2013). Her work is represented in museum collections worldwide including the Pier 24 Photography, San Francisco; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Museum of Photography, Seoul; Fotomuseum The Hague; Huis Marseille, Amsterdam; and Foam Amsterdam.

Alexia Webster, born 1979 South Africa, based in New York

Series: *Street Studios*, 2011-2018

Alexia Webster is a South African photographer and visual artist. Her work explores ideas of intimacy, family and identity across the African continent and beyond. She was awarded the Artraker Award for Art in Conflict, the CAP Prize award for Contemporary African Photography, and she received the Frank Arisman Scholarship at the International Centre of Photography in New York City. Her work has been exhibited across South Africa, Nigeria, the United States, Europe, Réunion Island and India. She is widely published in numerous international publications. Most recently, Webster travelled to Tijuana, Mexico as part of an International Media Foundation fellowship and grant.

Press Office:

Catherine Philippot - Relations Media
248 boulevard Raspail 75014 Paris
+33(0)140476342
cathphilippot@relations-media.com

Media enquiries:

Jane Quinn/Dennis Chang, Bolton & Quinn +44 (0)20 7221 5000
jq@boltonquinn.com or dennis@boltonquinn.com