



# New East Photo Prize 2018

## SHORTLIST ANNOUNCEMENT

Exhibiting at **Calvert 22 Foundation** from **12 October – 2 December 2018**

**Press preview:** Thursday 11 October, 4:30pm – 6pm **Private view:** 6pm – 9pm

Calvert 22 Foundation is proud to announce the finalists of the 2018 New East Photo Prize, the second edition of the competition, which celebrates contemporary photography from Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Russia and Central Asia. This year's shortlist includes **16 photographers and collectives from Latvia, Romania, Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Russia, Croatia, Slovakia and Azerbaijan**, who will be part of a dedicated group show at Calvert 22 Foundation in Shoreditch this autumn.

The overall winner of this year's New East Photo Prize and the winners of two special prizes will be announced at the exhibition private view on Thursday 11 October.

The biennial prize received over 600 entries this year from 26 New East countries. With a diverse range of work reflecting a whole spectrum of approaches and topics, the New East Photo Prize is a unique glimpse into the self-identity of an underrepresented region and the lives of its people.

Among the photographers is Latvia's **Alnis Stakle**, who explores the Crimean coastline in his series *Heavy Waters* by tracing the slow decline of the area's Soviet legacy after the peninsula's capitalist rebirth. **Michał Solarski's** (Poland) *Infirmi* gives a peek into the modern life of Soviet sanatoriums, health resorts which still function today after falling into different states of decay. Hungary's **Antal Bánhegyesy** explores links between identity and religion through the Orthodox churches built in Romania in the last 27 years, while **Boglárka Éva Zellei** (also Hungarian) focuses on the lives of Christian communities through the ritual of baptism. **Fyodor Telkov's** (Russia) *Ural Mari* presents the mysterious religious rituals preserved throughout the Soviet regime, while Ukrainian collective **Join the Cool** put their own quirky spin on school graduations and coming of age in Eastern Europe.

*"It was a great adventure: a challenge, but also a lot of fun discovering new talents [from the New East] and seeing great work from familiar authors"*, said Tomasz Kulbowski, documentary photographer and educator based in Lublin, Poland, and one of the New East Photo Prize judges.

*"Each of the shortlisted photographers demonstrate a unique approach to the people, places and stories that shape the*

region, here seen through the lens of a generation of photographers from whom we have much to learn. Committed to recognising and developing talent from across the region, the New East Photo Prize has proven itself once again to be an important space for emerging photographers to gain international recognition, and we look forward to working with each of them in the exhibition and beyond”, said Ekow Eshun, Creative Director of Calvert 22 Foundation and New East Photo Prize judge.

Launched in 2016, the New East Photo Prize seeks to broaden perceptions of the New East through the medium of photography. It is a Calvert 22 Foundation initiative supported by its award-winning online magazine, *The Calvert Journal*.

The New East Photo Prize accepts photo projects made within the last two years in the countries which make up the New East. As well as exhibiting their work in London with Calvert 22 Foundation, the winner will also be offered a cash prize of £1,000 to help develop their work further.

Two special prizes are also up for grabs. New East Photo Prize partner Metro Imaging will present one finalist with the company’s Mentorship Award, comprising 12 months of tailored support and £1,000 credit with Metro Imaging.

The Fabrika Travel Photography Prize will be awarded to a travel photography project that best documents the landscape, culture, people or history of a region or place. The winner will receive a five-day trip to Georgia, staying in Fabrika, a hostel and urban hotspot in Tbilisi, and Rooms Hotel Kazbegi, with tours of the capital and the mountains.

On **Friday 12 October and Saturday 13 October**, Calvert 22 Foundation will host the **New East Photo Weekend** in partnership with Metro Imaging, with a series of interactive events including talks, workshops and one-to-one advice sessions aimed at photographers of all ages. **Tickets: £15 (£10 students)**. Please visit **calvert22.org** for more info.

The 16 finalists and their projects are below:

**Antal Bánhegyesy (Hungary)**, *Orthodoxia*. Bánhegyesy currently lives and works in Budapest, where he has won a number of international prizes. The project reveals links between Romanian national identity and religion, exploring the 7,000 Orthodox churches built in Romania following the fall of communism just 27 years ago.

**Vika Eksta (Latvia)**, *The Devil’s Lake*. Eksta is a visual artist and pedagogue interested in portraiture, performance, archival research and the border between documentary and fiction. Her project examines a mysterious lake in the middle of a forest in eastern Latvia’s Aglona region. The artist grew up close to the lake itself, but only started to photograph it in 2015. The project was first exhibited in June 2018 in Riga but remains unfinished, with plans for a photo book on the horizon.

**Daria Garnik (Russia)**, *Gagarin*. Garnik has a degree in art criticism and has been working as a freelance photographer since 2013. Her project travels to the hometown of the first man in space – pioneering Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin – to explore the icon’s cult of personality and the town’s surreal sense of nostalgia for him.

**Ilkin Huseynov (Azerbaijan)**, *Shared Waters*. The winner of several international prizes, Huseynov is a Baku-based photographer capturing Azerbaijan’s ever-changing landscape and modern social issues. His project travels to different spots along the Kura and Araks rivers in the south Caucasus, where issues such as water contamination, deprivation, and industrial decline blight local communities.

**Join the Cool (Ukraine),** *Viniетка (Ukrainian graduation album)*. The creative collective – Anastasiya Lazurenko, Kristina Podobed, Daria Svertilova and Genia Volkov – blend performance, mixed media, and non-traditional documentary and fashion photography. Their project plays with the clichés surrounding school “vignettes”: the graduation albums which school children still receive in many post-Soviet countries. The collective blends old stereotypes with their own alternative imagery, creating a touching and atmospheric picture of school life in Ukraine.

**Karol Pałka (Poland),** *Edifice*. Pałka is a Polish photographer whose work has already been featured in a number of international publications. His project is a visual journey back to a time many would rather forget, documenting the architecture of Europe’s communist regimes. Once national landmarks which welcomed world leaders such as Nikita Khrushchev and Fidel Castro, each building now tells a story about power and its impermanence.

**Lucia Sekerková (Slovakia),** *Vrājitoare*. Sekerková is a student of Advertising Photography in Zlin, Czech Republic, and the 2013 winner of the Czech Press Photo Canon Junior Award. Her project looks into the life of vrājitoare, Romanian Roma women who identify as witches, fortune tellers, goddesses and healers. It is a business inherited across generations, with 9-year-old girls already starting their own promotional vrājitoare profiles on social media.

**Michał Solarski (Poland),** *Infirmi*. Solarski is a London-based Polish photographer who divides his time between commercial and personal projects. His photography is strongly connected to his own background and experiences, concentrating on leisure, migration and memories. His project takes viewers into the world of Soviet-era sanatoriums: magnificent spas built for the workers to rest and re-energize. Though in varying states of decay, many of these amazing buildings are still functioning.

**Michał Sierakowski (Poland),** *Wild Fields*. Sierakowski is a documentary photographer capturing how landscapes influence communities and the ways in which people transform environments to fit their needs. His project focuses on the relationship between Ukraine’s modern landscape and national identity as the country constructs new national myths.

**Alnis Stakle (Latvia),** *Heavy Waters*. Stakle has exhibited widely in solo and group shows both in Latvia and internationally. He is a board member of Riga Photomonth and Professor of Photography at Riga’s Stradins University. His project studies the towns and villages across the Crimean coastline, where the slow decay of the region’s Soviet legacy is interspersed with splashes of the peninsula’s new capitalist rebirth.

**Lana Stojićević (Croatia),** *Sunny Side*. Stojićević won the Metro Imaging Mentorship Award as part of the New East Photo Prize in 2016. She also won the Croatian Association of Artists’ annual award for best young artist and has been exhibited internationally. Based around the futuristic swimming pool at the Zora Hotel in Primošten, Croatia, the project creates a narrative in the style of a 60’s sci-fi film, exploring both the factual and fictional.

**Elena Subach and Viacheslav Poliakov (Ukraine),** *City of Gardens*. Subach and Poliakov use documentary photography to create stories about our relationship with everyday objects and places. The project travels around the Polish city of Katowice, once an industrial site, now branded a “city of gardens”, in the hopes of reflecting uniquely Polish aesthetics in an era of rapid globalisation.

**Fyodor Telkov (Russia), *Ural Mari*.** Telkov is an acclaimed Yekaterinburg-based photographer and a participant in numerous international contests, exhibitions and festivals. His project looks into the contemporary lives of the Ural Mari, a people trying to preserve their ancient culture and pagan practices amid changing political regimes and forced Christianisation.

**Peter Trembeczki (Hungary), *Victory*.** Trembeczki dedicates his work to collective memory and intergenerational issues. His project features Hungarian buildings that have either been abandoned or modified. Often grotesque, these sites have become subjects of collective remembrance: reflections of the nation's social-political psyche.

**Adam Wilkoszarski (Poland), *After Season*.** Wilkoszarski is a documentary and landscape photographer based in Poznań, Poland. His work concentrates on how places change once abandoned and deserted by the people, and this project looks at holiday resorts suspended in time at the end of the season, when the tourists have left and beaches and hotels lie empty.

**Bolgárka Éva Zellei (Hungary), *Furnishing the Sacred*.** Zellei is a photographer and visual artist based in Budapest, Hungary. Her project explores the visual language of contemporary Christian communities by documenting the act of baptism. Although the ceremony has existed for more than 2,000 years, each church and setting shows a different attitude towards religious life.

## Notes to Editors

### About Calvert 22 Foundation

Calvert 22 Foundation celebrates the culture and creativity of the New East — Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Russia and Central Asia — enriching perceptions of the region and furthering international understanding.

Calvert 22 Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation committed to dialogue and discovery, to the development of international creative networks, and to the role of learning and education as the basis for knowledge sharing and institutional exchange. The foundation's activities include:

**Calvert 22 Space** – the London headquarters of the foundation that hosts seasonal programmes, events, talks and screenings for a first-hand experience of the contemporary culture and creativity of the New East

**The Calvert Journal** – an online magazine of New East contemporary culture, including art, film, architecture, design and avant-garde culture

**The Calvert Forum** – a think tank for the New East, focused on research and policy for the creative industries

### About *The Calvert Journal*

*The Calvert Journal* is an online guide to the contemporary culture of the New East. Based in London, the Journal publishes a daily mix of news and feature stories with an emphasis on outstanding photography and feature writing. The mission of the Journal is to tell fresh stories from a part of the world under-reported by international media.

## Full List of Judges

**Joanna Ruck** – Joanna is the Deputy Head of Photography at *The Guardian* and currently works on the website's live news desk. Joanna has worked on some of the biggest stories of the past fifteen years including international conflicts, terror attacks, natural disasters and numerous elections.

**Tomasz Kulbowski** – Tomasz is a documentary photographer and educator based in Lublin, Poland. He is a member of the Un-Posed photography collective, as well as a founder and director of the ongoing Eastreet project, a bi-annual exhibition and publication dedicated to documentary photography from Eastern Europe.

**Marina Paulenka** – Marina is a photographer, as well as a Founder and the Artistic Director of the Organ Vida – International Photography Festival, Zagreb, and the Organ Vida Photography Organisation, the leading institution for contemporary photography in Croatia.

**Ekow Eshun** – Ekow is the Creative Director of Calvert 22 Foundation and the former Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, a position he held from 2005–10. He appears frequently on TV and radio programmes, including Radio 4's *Saturday Review* and *Front Row*.

**Steven Macleod** – An award-winning creative director, photographer and master printer based in London, Steve has been at the forefront of photographic imaging for over 25 years. As the director of Metro Imaging, he has both collaborated with a vast network of clients and developed a range of new and innovative photographic printing practices.

**Markéta Kinterová** – Markéta Kinterová is an independent artist working with photography as a tool for conceptual art. She is also creative director of Prague-based Fotograf 07 z.s., comprising the Fotograf Gallery, Fotograf Festival and *Fotograf Magazine*. She is the Head of Studio of Documentary Photography, FAMU (Film and TV School of Academy of Performing Arts in Prague).

**Dermot Doorly** – Previously a photo editor and art director at Getty Images, Dermot has spent the past seven years in charge of photography at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Dermot divides his time between photo research, editing and photographing projects funded by the EBRD.

**Ana Svanidze** – Ana currently manages Fabrika Hostel in Tbilisi, Georgia: a youth-oriented design hostel which acts as a focal point for young travellers, adventure seekers and artists to socialise, work and live together. An adventurer and restless explorer herself, Ana's other big passion is photography.

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1. Peter Trembeczki – from *Victory*
2. Vika Eksta – from *The Devil's Lake*
3. Daria Garnik – from *Gagarin*
4. Boglárka Éva Zellei – from *Furnishing the Sacred*
5. Antal Bánhegyesy – from *Orthodoxia*
6. Lucia Sekerková – from *Vrājitoare*
7. Fyodor Telkov – from *Ural Mari*
8. Lana Stojićević – from *Sunny Side*

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9. Join the Cool – from *Vinietka (Ukrainian graduation album)*
10. Michał Solarski – from *Infirmi*
11. Ilkin Huseynov – from *Shared Waters*
12. Karol Pałka – from *Edifice*
13. Adam Wilkoszarski – from *After Season*
14. Alnis Stakle – from *Heavy Waters*
15. Elena Subach and Viacheslav Poliakov – from *City of Gardens*
16. Michał Sierakowski – from *Wild Fields*

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### **The New East Photo Prize 2018**

Calvert 22 Foundation

12 October – 2 December 2018

Free Entry

22 Calvert Avenue

London E2 7JP

Wednesday – Sunday

12pm – 6pm

**Press preview: Thursday 11 October, 4:30pm – 6pm**

**Private view: Thursday 11 October, 6pm – 9pm**

### **Press enquiries**

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For more information about the prize, please visit

**[calvert22.org](http://calvert22.org)**