

“Swiss Press Photo 16”

03.05.2016 – 03.07.2016

Press release

Not to be released before:

03.05.2016 | 10 a.m.

“Swiss Press Photo 16” – the 25th anniversary

The National Museum Zurich will be showing the best Swiss press photos from the last 25 years in an exhibition running until 3 July. Niels Ackermann won the “Swiss Press Photo 16” award with his photo story documenting the edge of the forbidden zone in Chernobyl. He portrayed young people, with their dreams and hopes, who are trying to put behind them the problems created by their parents’ and grandparents’ generation. The Swiss Press Photo competition is now in its 25th year. To commemorate this anniversary, a collection of the prize-winning Swiss press photos from the last 25 years is being published in book form.

238 photographers participated in this year’s competition. The jury judged a total of 3,620 pictures and chose Niels Ackermann as “Swiss Press Photographer of the Year, 2015”. Ackermann’s work portrays the young people living at the edge of the forbidden zone of Chernobyl, their desperation and sensitivity, as they battle against ruin and loss. “Instead of focusing on the devastation of the nuclear power plant disaster, I turned my perspective around by 180 degrees and photographed the young people of Salvutysh, who want to look ahead into the future”, said Ackermann. Niels Ackermann was born in 1987 in Geneva and spent the last year living in Kiev.

“Swiss Press Photo 16”

The exhibition at the National Museum Zurich shows key events of the past year captured in photographs, in six different categories. The photograph by **Pascal Mora** shows a man holding a white sheet up in front of a hotel in Zurich. The picture does the opposite of that which we would expect from a news photo: it hides, rather than reveals. And, yet, the story it refers to is one of uncovering the intrigue and dirty dealings of FIFA (“**News**” category). Black and white, reduced to the level of abstraction: **Kaspar Thalman** documents vividly the huge efforts made to save a small village (“**Daily Life**”) through the building of avalanche protection barriers.

The reportage by **Daniel Rihs** on the Feast of the Holy Trinity celebrated by Eritrean refugees provides touching insight into another world, different but not foreign (“**Swiss Stories**”). Anyone who gazes upon the face of the 101-year-old woman portrayed by **Mara Truog** will wonder about all that her eyes have seen in her long lifetime (“**People**”). The pilot in the St. Moritz “Cresta Run”, on the other hand, might have been happier if the eye of the camera had been looking away. **Arnd Wiegmann** caught his wild fall on film: bad luck can sometimes have a funny side as well (“**Sports**”).

Jury in 2016

Daphné Anglès, photo editor, The New York Times, Paris; Luc Debraine, journalist, L’Hebdo, Lausanne; Lars Boering, Director of World Press Photo, Amsterdam; Rachel Fichmann, senior picture editor, Le Matin Dimanche, Lausanne; Antonio Mariotti, film and photography critic, Corriere del Ticino, Lugano; Koni Nordmann, senior picture editor, Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich; Bernhard Giger, journalist and jury president, head of Kornhausforum, Bern.

Publications

“25 Years of Swiss Press Photo 1991–2016”

The 51 best press photos since the Swiss Press Awards were launched 25 years ago, featured as double-page spreads, 48 x 32 cm. Plus, all the press photos from 1991–2016. Texts by Bernhard Giger, Michel Guerrin and Fred Ritchin. 176 pages.

German, French, Italian, English

Till Schaap Edition, Bern

CHF 39

“Swiss Press Photo 16”

German, French, Italian and English

Till Schaap Edition, Bern

ISBN 978-3-03828-069-9

CHF 25

Please direct enquiries to:

Ricabeth Steiger, Curator, Swiss National Museum

Phone +41 (0)58 466 67 20 | ricabeth.steiger@snm.admin.ch

Juliette Wyler, Media & PR, Swiss National Museum

Phone +41 (0)58 466 65 49 | juliette.wyler@snm.admin.ch