

News release

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'Imperialist' family portraits on the south coast and images of public nappers are among the winners of the Global SinoPhoto Awards 2024

<https://www.sinophoto-awards.com>

A take on stiff Victorian portraiture that juxtaposes an Imperialist style of family portraits taken of passers-by in Hastings and Southampton with their 21st century personal accoutrements has won the special Betser Prize in the international photo competition celebrating Chinese culture, the Global SinoPhoto Awards 2024.



The set of images, entitled '21st Century Types', was taken by London-born photographer, artist, writer and lecturer Grace Lau, of Chinese parentage, on her 30-year-old Hasselblad camera. For her project, she created a studio with props including the ubiquitous patterned carpet displayed in Victorian portraits, a ceramic vase with fake peonies, a Chinese stool and a fake panda skin rug which represented an ironic nod to the tiger and bear skin rugs that were popular with Victorian colonialist hunters. The embellished Oriental backdrop provided a discrepancy between the historic cultural context and the modern appearance of her subjects who are carrying everyday items such as coke bottles, chips, ice-cream, mobile phones,

sunglasses and plastic shopping bags. Grace has exhibited widely including at the National Portrait Gallery, Tate Britain in London, and Turner Contemporary Margate.



Other winners are international newspaper and Chinese magazine photographer Eric Leleu, who won Observational Photography Series with his entry 'Day Dreamers'. This set of images depicts Chinese workers napping in public places during the day as they balance their long hours of work with their need to rest, illustrating the complex relationship between private and public spheres in China and how intimacy is exposed to the community.



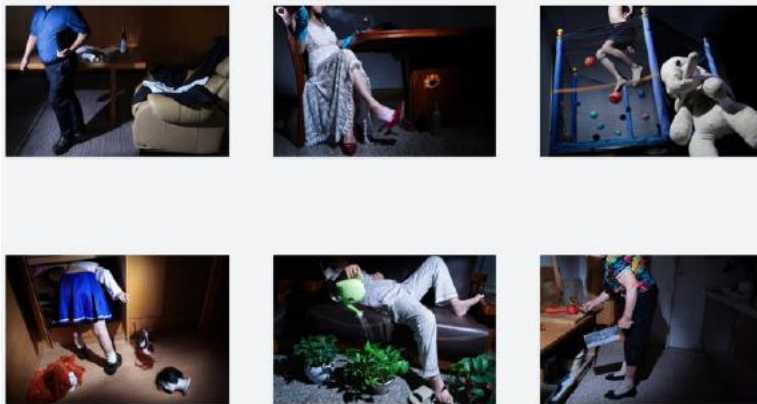
Similarly, the winner of Observational Photography Single Images is migrant worker turned photographer Youbing Zhan for 'Take a Break'. This photo captures workers at an electronics factory in Dongguan City, Guangdong Province, taking a 10-minute break from the dust-free work environment in which they produce computer hard drives, casting off their personal protective equipment in the changing room.



The winner of Constructed Photography Series is Yuxing Chen for 'The Oriental Scene', which investigates the concept of Chinoiserie architecture in the UK in the context of de-colonialism. The work uses a replica of the Porcelain Tower of Nanjing in Kew Gardens to show how the

pagoda became an iconic symbol of the early Western world's vision of the East, from the widely circulated oriental images of the Chinoiserie period to the pagoda scene at Kew Gardens.

The winner of Constructed Photography Single Images goes to visual artist, photographer and creative director Han Yang for 'Asian Body Paint'. Combining the abstract with the surreal, her commercial and personal work uses strong bold colours and futuristic elements to represent emotion and psychology in her work, embodying the inner world of the characters she depicts through the visual language of fashion.



The winner of Best Student Photographer 2024 is Jinling Geng for 'Insider / Outsider'. She used her family members in this staged, surrealist and playful series, photographing each family member with their belongings and then directing them into unusual compositions to explore



her own identity and her relationship with each family member, by projecting herself into each frame.

Highly commended was awarded to:

Laura Chen, 'Words From Dad', The Netherlands, Series

Simon Vansteenwinkel, 'Wuhan Radiography', China, 2020

Matjaz Tancic, 'The Sky is (not) the Limit', China, 2022

Daniela Olave, 'Not from Here, Not from There', Madrid, 2022

Youbing Zhan, 'Intensive Working Life', China, 2006 – 2015

Zhou Ji, 'Metempsychosis', China, 2023

Awards art director Gemma Barnett comments, "This year's finalists have incredibly diverse approaches to how they have used the medium of photography. Alongside traditional documentary photographs by Eric Leleu and Youbing Zhan, Laura Chen has physically woven two photographs together to explore the metaphor of the two cultures existing within her, Zhou Ji has found a photographic answer to Jackson Pollock's abstract paintings, and Han Yang has created a glossy fashion photograph with Eastern influence. Unlike the previous editions of the Global SinoPhoto Awards, this year's finalists have all established themselves within the photography world and had some success with their craft. This is a reflection that the Awards are growing year on year, attracting an increasingly strong group of artists and photographers to submit. "

Hi-res winning images [HERE](#)

To find out more about the awards and the winners, visit <https://www.sinophoto-awards.com>

For the first time, Christie's, 8 King Street, London is dedicating an exhibition to the cross-cultural discourse between China and the West by hosting an exhibition of all the GSPA Awards finalists until 14 February 2024.

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#SinoPhoto2024; #SinoPhotoWinners2024

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