

PHOTOGRAPHIES CONTEMPORAINES – THE FONDATION HSBC POUR LA PHOTOGRAPHIE PRIZE WINNERS

For the first time in France and as part of the Rencontres d'Arles, HSBC France is presenting "photography's new guard" in a retrospective of the prize winning photographers since the Fondation HSBC pour la Photographie (HSBC Foundation for Photography) was founded in 1995. These photographers were the subject of the recent book *Photographies Contemporaines – Points de vue*, published by Editions Textuel.

In order to give the public an overall view of this "young generation of photographers", the exhibition will also include works by the Foundation's 2007 prize winners.

The part of the exhibition taken from the book features the work of 24 young photographers of today. With images chosen in the past by the Fondation HSBC pour la Photographie set side by side with more recent ones, the exhibition gives the viewer the chance to follow the evolution of their work.

In both cases – the photographers whose work has been selected from the book, and the 2007 prize winners – all these French, Japanese, Danish, English and American artists are Fondation HSBC pour la Photographie laureates born in the 1960s and 1970s.

In their emphasis is on the contemporary world – its issues, excesses, contradictions and mutations – they reveal the spectacular evolution of the documentary genre, doing so in a way that abolishes the traditional dichotomy between journalist and artist.

Intimate and dreamlike pictures, portraits, documentary images and landscapes – the exhibition explores their individual approaches, sensibilities and ways of seeing. And what strikes us most of all is the vitality of this young photography.

The Fondation HSBC pour la Photographie laureates since 1996:

1996	Henry Ray / Eric Prinvault	2002	Laurence Demaison / Rip Hopkins
1997	Bertrand Desprez / Jean-François Campos	2003	Laurence Leblanc / Mathieu Bernard-Reymond
1998	Milomir Kovacenic / Seton Smith	2004	Malala Andrialavidrazana / Patrick Taberna
1999	Yoshiko Murakami / Catherine Gfeller	2005	Brigitta Lund / Eric Baudelaire
2000	Valérie Belin / Carole Fékété	2006	Clark & Pougnaud / Marina Gadonneix
2001	Franck Christen / Jo Lansley & Helen Bendon	2007	Julia Fullerton-Batten / Matthew Pillsbury

THE FONDATION HSBC POUR LA PHOTOGRAPHIE

The Fondation HSBC pour la Photographie, created in April 1995 under the aegis of the Fondation de France, is chaired by Charles-Henri Filippi, Chairman of HSBC France. Chantal Nedjib, Director of Communication for HSBC France, is its Executive Director.

The HSBC Foundation is committed to providing ongoing assistance to the new generation of photographers. Each year it runs a competition and pick two laureates after a rigorous selection procedure. The competition runs from October to December every year to:

- living, contemporary photographers of any age or nationality
- photographers working on the representation of reality, irrespective of their methods or approach
- who have not yet published a monograph.

At the end of the competition, an artistic advisor - a different advisor is chosen every year to ensure a fresh approach - proposes a shortlist of some ten or so candidates. He/she then submits the shortlist to the Executive Committee, which then votes for selects the laureates by secret ballot.

To support the work of its laureates, the Fondation HSBC pour la Photographie:

- co-publishes a first monograph for each of its laureates, in collaboration with publishing company Actes Sud, for the fund of the "Fondation HSBC pour la Photographie",
- organises exhibitions of their work in Paris, the French provinces and outside France
- advises HSBC France on building up its own fund by acquiring works by its laureates photographers.