

Travel Photographer of the Year 2007

The Travel Photographer of the Year has become one of the most coveted photographic competitions to win. This is partly due to the extravagant prizes – this year’s winner will have the opportunity to photograph the Dalai Lama – but also the high profile the competition has managed to achieve and hence the accompanying media opportunities.

The amateur and professional photographers from 51 countries who entered this year were judged on their ability to successfully capture more than one element of travel. A trend that is evident in this and other photography competitions is the increasing number of black and white images being submitted and winning prizes, in this case three categories. Definitely a heartening trend for the traditionalists, but more importantly, young photographers are beginning to get seduced by the charms of shooting in black and white.

This year the award was given to the first female winner of TPOTY, London-based Cat Vinton for her beautiful panoramic images of the snowy Norwegian landscape and evocative shots of a Nomadic family. The New Talent award winner is Barcelona-based American photographer, Charlie Mahoney. The Young TPOTY category (for photographers aged 16 and under) has been won by 14 year-old Luna Malka from Canada for her imaginative images on the theme “Fragile Earth”.

Other winners were Timothy Allen, Jean-Claude Louis, Maciej Duczynski and Richard Murai. All the winning images can be seen at www.tpoty.com, and will be on display at the Exposure Gallery in London and the TPOTY exhibition at Focus on Imaging at the NEC, Birmingham in February 2008.

Winner Travel Photographer of the Year 2008

The award was given to London-based Cat Vinton. Vinton has previously worked for Unicef, United Nations and Redd Barna, she now travels all around the world as a freelance photographer. Her crisp and simple panoramic images of the snow-covered Norwegian plains and her intimate study of nomadic family life in Mongolia caught the judges eye this year, entitling her to the prize of photographing the Dalai Lama on a trip to Dharamsala, India. She will also receive an Apple MacBook and software, and a £2500 TPOTY bursary.





New Talent

A new category introduced this year designed to support new photographers as they begin their careers. Photographer Charlie Mahoney has won the first ever prize for this category.



Sense of Place

Opposite page, top image: The brief for this portfolio category asks the photographer to capture the essence of a place and give the judges a real sense of what its like to be there. This category has commended a hugely diverse set of finalists, and this year awards Jean-Claude Louis of USA as the over-all winner. Louis's haunting depictions of Berlin shows derelict and un-healed areas of post-war decay. Runners up were Luke Duggleby (UK), Philippe Gueissaz (Switzerland) and Ashok Sinha (India, based USA).



Thrill

Above: Polish photographer Maciej Duczynski's has taken the prize for this category, his dramatic black and white images of European mountains contributing to a trend in monochrome photos this year. Runners up in this category were Felix Hug (Switzerland), Andrew Watson (Australia) and James Hill (UK).

One Shot - Special Places, and Amazing Faces

This category took the theme of finding a mesmerizing character, with mesmerising features, home or away. The winning image, taken by American photographer Richard Murai, shows a truly amazing face - an 84-year-old woman harvesting fresh water snail in Cambodia. The image depicts the woman during her 7-hour shift in chest level water, the small boat behind her containing all her worldly possessions. Runners up were Tony Baker (UK), Larry Louie (Canada),



Young TPOTY

Above: The other female winner in the competition this year was 14-year-old Luna Malka from Canada, who, through the theme "Fragile Earth" explored her concerns about environment.



One Planet, Many Lives

Above: Won this year by Timothy Allen (UK), whose colorful depictions of Bhutan and India swayed the judges, closely foll by Larry Louie's (Canada) portfolio of Tibetan worship. Allen's images mirror the patterns in the clothes of his subjects with an air of warmth and glossiness, whilst Larry Louie's Tibetan worshippers exist in a space of bleak yet spiritual content.