

THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR





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INTRODUCING THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

PETER EASTWAY



WE THINK THERE'S nothing more satisfying than seeing our photos published alongside the world's best.

This is our first year of The International Portrait Photographer of the Year Award and we're following a similar philosophy to our successful International Landscape Photographer of the Year Awards (now in its

eighth year). And because we want to create a book of 'contemporary' photography, we're not interested in old chestnuts that have won awards years ago, we want to see what is being captured and processed now.

The main aim of our Award is to be selected within the Top 101 portrait photographs of the year and be published in this annual book.

While we also have prizes (and our winning images this year are remarkable), as judges and successful entrants know, being a prize-winner is partly opinion and partly luck. That's why we put more emphasis on being in the Top 101 as there is plenty of room for a variety of tastes, approaches and styles. And any of the Top 101 photographs could be a prize-winner on the day.

Being in the Top 101 gives you a place in this exclusive book which is published online and can be purchased as a 'real' hardcover paper publication as well (it's proudly printed by Memento Pro).

Our judging process has been developed over several decades of competition experience. Once the first round of judging is completed, we have a score for each entry out of 300, expressed as a percentage.

We will then take the top 10 scoring entries from each of the four categories and ask the judges to confirm their choice of 1st, 2nd and 3rd. And then they will take the four category winners and choose the overall International Portrait Photographer of the Year.

For the book, we will take the top 10 entries from each category and then a further 60-70 top scoring images, weighted for the number of entries in each category (categories with more entries will be more highly represented in this selection).

We then check to ensure that there are not two or more photographs that are very similar (we are looking for variety) and there is also a limit on the number of photographs a single entrant can have in the Top 101 – no more than two, just to share the experience around. This produces our Top 101.

This year we had 948 entries and to be sure of a place in the Top 101, you needed a score of around 82.67%. We are very happy with the response for our first Award.

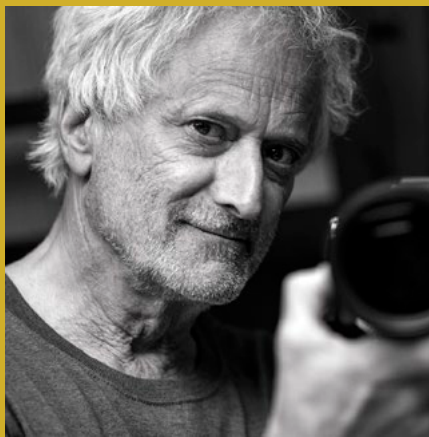
Our thanks go to our wonderful judging team: David Burnett, Charmaine Heyer, Rocco Ancora, Martina Wärenfeldt, Sanjay Jogia and Sarah Ferrara and our sponsor Memento Pro.

I hope you enjoy a collection of the best portrait photographs from around the world.

Peter Eastway

CHAIRMAN OF JUDGES

International Portrait Photographer of the Year Awards



David Burnett



Charmaine Heyer



Rocco Ancora



Martina Wärenfeldt



Sanjay Jogia



Sarah Ferrara

THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR



Forough Yavari

Photographer Forough Yavari explains that her winning portrait, titled *Solitude*, was created as part of a new chapter in her work.

“I think it was due to the time of creation, early 2020, the beginning of the pandemic. The pandemic was a very tough and challenging situation for everyone around the world. We have all had almost the same experiences in the past year and at the same time, we have individually had the experience of dealing with much bad news, depression and anxiety.

“When it started, I found myself disconnected from my mother and sister and it made me feel powerless and scared. One day when I was feeling depressed, I decided to paint myself, put the camera on a self-timer and capture all the emotions I had. There was no plan to do anything with those photos at the time, I just wanted to capture my feelings.

“Sometime later, when I was working on my submissions for the AIPP (Australian Institute of Professional Photography) Silver Lining Awards, I was going through all these images and decided to do something with them: a panorama image expressing all my feelings: fear of loss, feelings of helplessness and then confronting loss.

“The end result is *Solitude*.

“When I started art, all my interest was in painting or drawing people and their faces. I have never been interested in still life. And then when I picked up photography, I found myself even more interested in taking portraits. People are my main subject for study, to know more about them, exploring their personality. I love hearing about their life experiences and capturing their feelings, expressions and characters.

“Of course I’ve been inspired by painters like Rembrandt, Delacroix, Goya, mostly Romantic and Baroque painters, but since the early stages of my photography career, I’ve been more inspired by women photographers like Shirin Neshat, Lalla Essaydi – and Annie Leibovitz for the techniques and stories behind her images.”

www.foroughyavari.com

FOROUGH YAVARI

AUSTRALIA



CHARACTER STUDY

What does a subject reveal in a portrait?

Or is it the viewer who responds to the visual clues presented by the image?

Character can be the key to our understanding.



Zay Yar Lin

“My passion is to document people, landscapes and culture. I mainly focus on daily life, images that tell stories of people and give a sense of place. I am always seeking just the right moment and just the right light, trying to use my photographic instincts to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary.

“As a photographer, my objective is to witness and record human stories and I believe photography can capture powerful storytelling images to inspire us to make a positive change in our world.”

Zay Yar Lin was born in Taungdwingyi, Myanmar. “Myanmar is a country with a lot of beautiful locations and I’ve been photographing them since 2014.”

However, Zay Yar’s occupation is a seafarer, in fact the captain of a ship, and he spends most of his vacation time travelling around the world.

“I was on a photo trip to Ethiopia last year, visiting two or three villages where Suri tribes are living. The Suri tribes are very friendly and willing to be photographed for their portraits. Suri tribes paint their faces and bodies with colourful natural clay and adorn themselves with local flowers, and the women have wonderful bracelets on their wrists.

“I roamed in the villages and looked for subjects with distinct faces, hoping to capture some captivating portraits. It was during my roaming that I had the idea of photographing a kid surrounded by women’s hands with bracelets. I organised a number of Suri women with the help of a local guide and took a photo representing their tribal identity – and their character.”

Zay Yar has entered a lot of photo competitions in the past. “I saw that the International Portrait Photographer of the Year is presented by the organiser of the Better Photography Magazine Photo of the Year competition, which itself is prestigious and of a high standard – and that’s why I decided to enter my photos. I used to participate in many other competitions as I believe photography competitions are the best chance to show my skills, my artistic vision and the stories of people I photograph.”

<http://zayyarlin.photoshelter.com/>



SECOND PLACE: FOROUGH YAVARI | AUSTRALIA
I HAVE A DREAM





ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAIT

Whether indoors or outside, activity and location can create a portrait that integrates the subject with their environment.



Josef Bürgli

Explains Josef Bürgli, “The Mundari, also referred to as Mandari, are a small ethnic group and one of the Nilotic peoples, living north of the capital of Juba, South Sudan. Like other Nilotic tribes, they are very cattle-oriented and treasure their cattle more than anything else and are said to sleep close to their most prized cow. Their cattle serve as food, a form of currency and a mark of status. I found living with the tribe for three days an exceptional experience.

“The cattle are treated like members of the family and are well looked after. Ash from burnt cow dung is applied not only to the Mundari themselves, but also on their cattle as it acts as a natural antiseptic, mosquito repellent and provides protection for the skin from the scorching sun.

“The Mundari farm a breed of domestic cattle called Ankole-Watusi, which is characterised by very large, curved horns and is also known as ‘the cattle of kings’. These cows grow up to eight feet tall and are worth as much as \$500 each.

“I was fascinated by an image called *Mankind* by David Yarrow a few years ago. That hit me a lot. And I wanted to go there, visiting the Dinka and Mundari tribes. After the situation in South Sudan became better, I took a plane to Juba. It was an incredible and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Born in 1965 in Stans, Switzerland, Josef started his photography around 2000. “I studied engineering at the Bale Institute of Technology and now work full-time as a project and team leader for the local government. My photography focuses on music, culture, landscapes and wildlife; images that reflect a spatial and temporal journey through life.

“I seek the quiet moments and the light in whatever context I find myself. My photographic work is a journey of self-discovery and self-expression. It is the way by which I choose to get in touch with the people, things and world around me. I am fascinated with the world, exploring it through my eyes.”

“Mostly when I’m out in the field, either for concert or travel photography, I carry two Canon EOS 5D III bodies with 24-70mm and 70-200mm f/2.8 lenses mounted. No tripod, no other gear. All packed in a small Loewe bag.

“Lately, I have been using Adobe Camera Raw and the Nik collection to process my work, but sometimes I’ll drop into Adobe Lightroom for bulk editing, or on my smartphone, Snapseed is my go-to app for editing.”

Josef says he’s not into classical portrait photography, preferring to capture interesting portraits which show people in their own environment. “They are not staged. I walk around and take them.

“Being self-taught, I gained knowledge by myself and also by studying the masters. I love the work of Sebastião Salgado, Steve McCurry, Don McCullin and Jimmy Nelson. I was fascinated by their imagery, so I started photographing in black and white. Music photography, along with travel, have become two of my life passions.

Concluded Josef, “I enter a few competitions each year because I like comparing my images with other photographers’. It’s also a source of inspiration for me and I can learn a lot. The IPPOTY caught my interest because the best images will be gathered in a book and the prizes are cool!”

<https://www.joebuergi.ch>



SECOND PLACE: KAREN WALLER | AUSTRALIA
ERN, CAT AND VERANDAH





FAMILY SITTING

We all photograph our families. Some of us photograph families professionally. And great family portraits – whether singles or groups – play an important role in our personal histories and are integral to the art of portrait photography.



Zay Yar Lin

With two category first prizes in the 2021 International Portrait Photographer of the Year awards, Zay Yar is no stranger to success and publicity.

“I’m a lifetime member of the Myanmar Photographic Society and I have won Best Photographer of the Year in Myanmar twice. I’ve also won numerous national and international awards, including awards from Nikon and Sony. My photos have been published in *National Geographic Magazine*, *Digital Camera Magazine* and other international photography books and magazines. And I have showcased my work at many exhibitions across the world.”

Zay Yar currently uses a Nikon D850 and Nikon Z7. “My winning pictures were taken with a Nikon Z7 and I mainly use a Nikkor Z 14-30mm f/4, Sigma 24-70mm f/2.8 Art lens, and a Nikkor 70-200mm f/2.8 lens. I rarely use a tripod on my travel journeys as I am usually focusing on people photography. My camera bag is a Lowepro ProTactic 450AW II.”

When it comes to post-production, Zay Yar uses Adobe Camera Raw and Photoshop CC to edit his photos. “My approach to editing is to enhance what I want to show and support the story behind the photo. I always edit the main subject in a way that draws the viewer’s attention.”

“Portrait photography is about capturing a stunning and emotive portrait that evokes feelings in the viewers and captivates their attention. I’m a travel photographer and I really like people photography, both candid and posed portraits. When capturing portraits, I focus on my subject’s expression and emotion. Moreover, I’m looking for the story behind those people.”

Maiden of the Suri was photographed on a trip to Ethiopia, visiting a number of local villages. “She is seen sitting with her family on the grass at a Suri village.”

<http://zayyarlin.photoshelter.com>



SECOND PLACE: JATENIPAT KETPRADIT | THAILAND
PEOPLE OF THE RIVER





PORTRAIT STORY

Documentary. Photojournalism. Candid. Imagined. Composites.

A carefully captured or created portrait can show more than the people within, it can be a part of a larger dialogue.



Forough Yavari

Forough is a full-time fine art portrait and fashion photographer based in Brisbane, Australia. “I studied painting at university and in my second semester, I was asked to model for another student who was preparing her final year project. When I went to her studio, I fell in love with photography and since then, I’ve been taking photos along with my painting. Around 2008, I started to combine photography with my paintings and drawings in Photoshop, so that is how I learnt about composites as well as photography techniques.”

Forough is a keen Nikon photographer and her winning portrait was created with a Nikon Z7 and a 50mm f/1.8 lens. In the studio, she has a couple of BronColor Siros L 800 units. “These are superb for power, accurate colour temperature and being wireless, they make it much easier for me to explore different lighting patterns while shooting.”

Although not as relevant in this winning entry, Forough says that backdrops are an important part of her portrait work and she has custom drops created by Conny Van Lint. “A good backdrop is a part of my portrait process and gives depth and texture to my images. Collaborating with Conny, I can discuss and share my ideas and ask her to produce a hand-painted, high quality backdrop suitable for the project.”

In post-production, Forough mostly uses Capture One and Photoshop. “Post-production for me is like the final touch, enhancing the story or adding the atmosphere when it is not possible to capture it all in one shot. During my journey in photography and fine art, I have learned that good technique is just as necessary as having creativity in my work. Knowing your camera and mastering the gear you are working with, especially lighting, is a strong foundation for a creative image.”

Before moving to Australia, Forough says she had a good résumé as a working artist with many solo and group exhibitions. “In 2011 when I moved to Australia, I had a couple of exhibitions in Brisbane and Melbourne, but as I wasn’t an established artist and not recognised in Australia, I found myself starting out again. I realized I had to find a platform to show my work and photo competitions have been a good platform for me, not only in building a résumé, but also to challenge myself and to improve my technical skills.

“Since 2014, I’ve joined the AIPP and WPPI and have entered their competitions – and most importantly, found my community.”

www.foroughyavari.com



SECOND PLACE: FOROUGH YAVARI | AUSTRALIA
THE LONELINESS OF GRIEF





THE TOP 101
INTERNATIONAL
PORTRAIT
PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE YEAR

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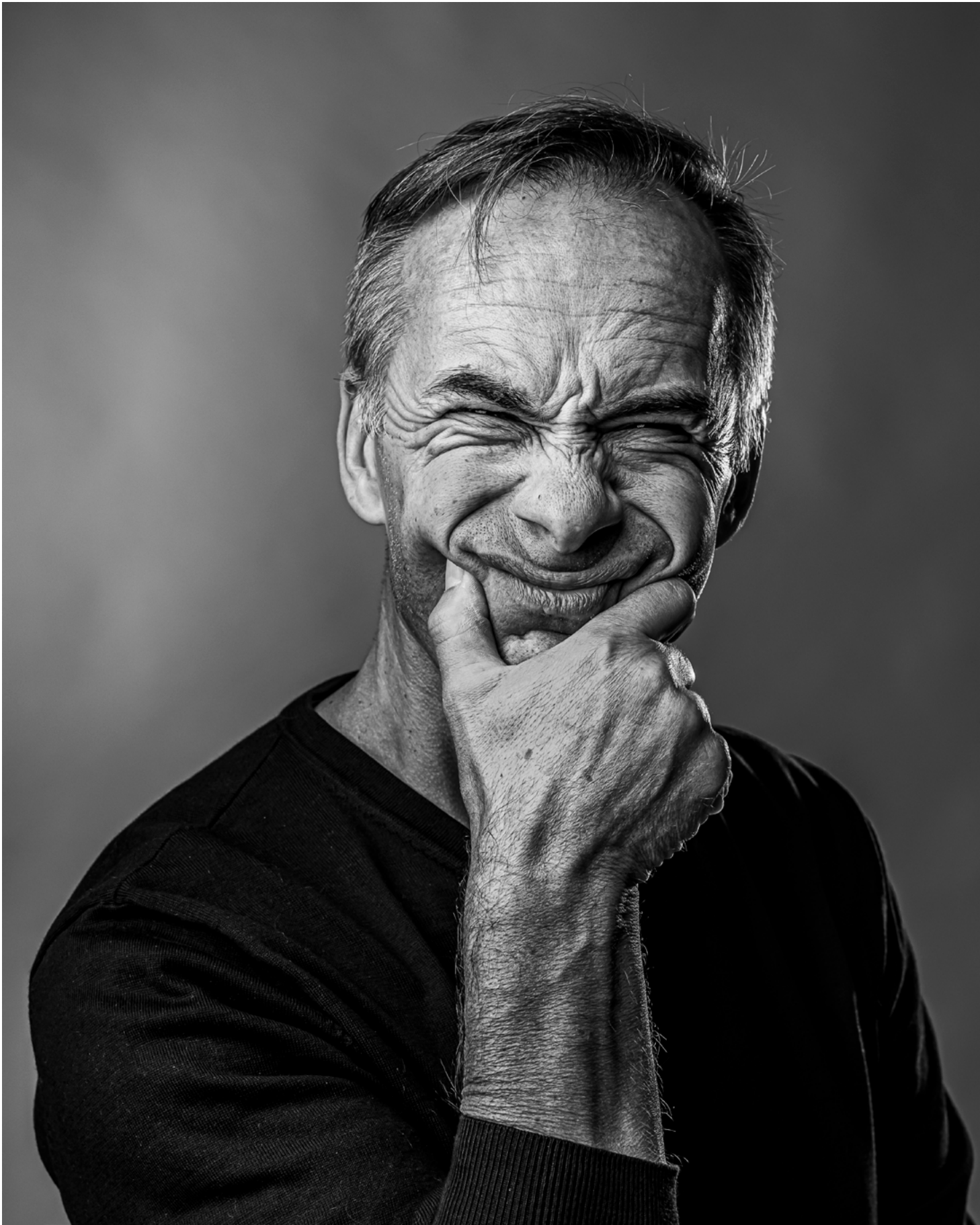
























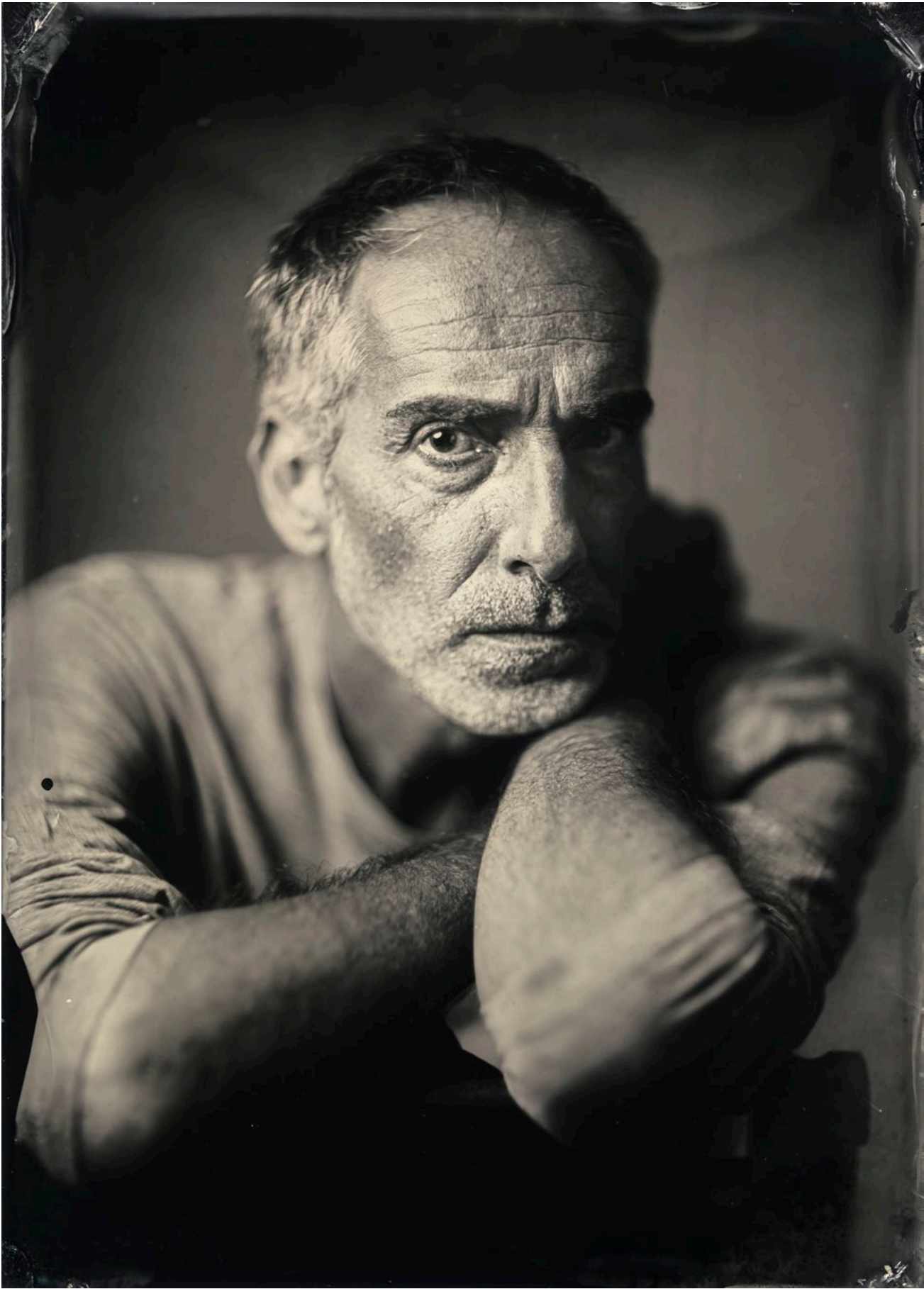


























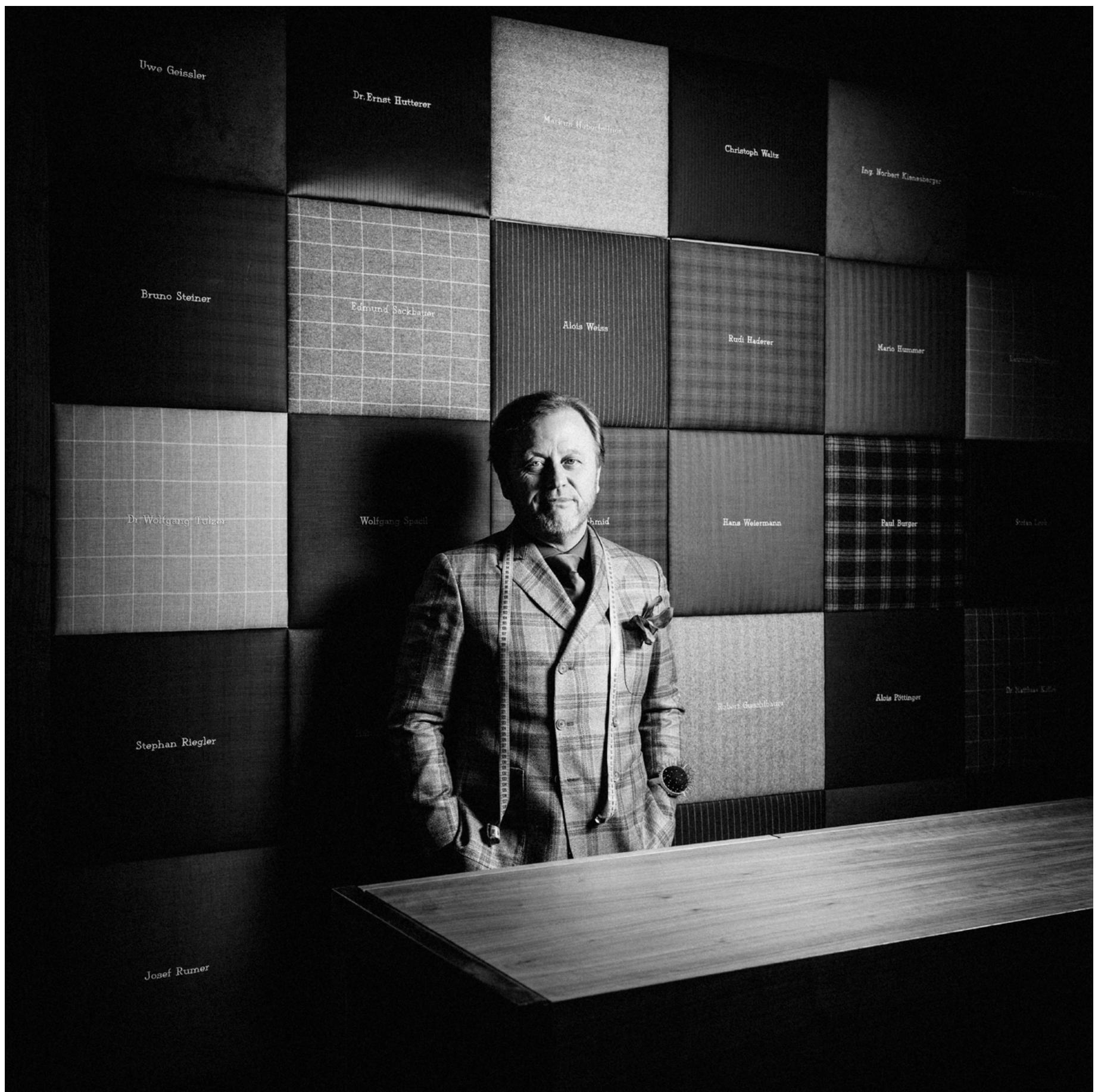












































































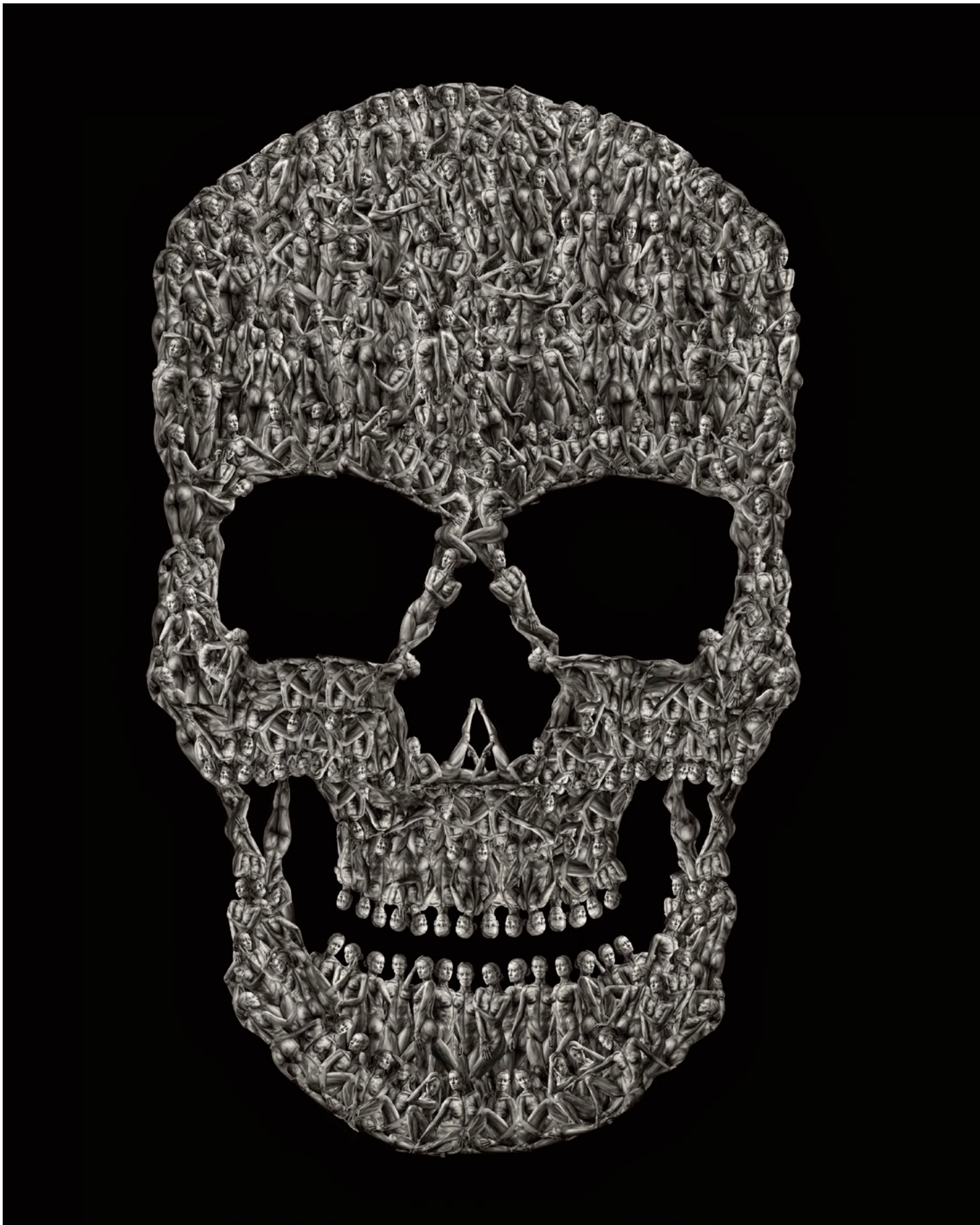




























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DAVID BURNETT

CO-FOUNDER CONTACT PRESS IMAGES

DAVID BURNETT (born Salt Lake City, Utah 1946). He learned photography at the Olympus High Yearbook and later shot pictures (mostly sports) at Colorado College (BA Poli Sci '68.) He began working as a freelancer for *Time* and later *Life Magazine* in the late 1960s, spending two years covering the war in Vietnam.

Following the demise of *Life Magazine Weekly*, he joined the French photo agency Gamma and subsequently, in 1975, he co-founded Contact Press Images in New York. His work for news magazines in Europe and the US has included politics, sports, and portraiture as well as the news. He has covered every Summer Olympic Games since 1984, including the 2018 Korea Winter Olympics and photographed every American President since John F. Kennedy. His awards include 'Magazine Photographer of the Year' from the Pictures of the Year Competition, the 'World Press Photo of the Year' and the Robert Capa Gold Medal from the Overseas Press Club.

He has produced photographic essays for *Time*, *Fortune*, *GEO*, *Paris-Match* and *ESPN Magazine*. He served on the World Press Jury in 1997, 1999 and chaired the jury in 2011. He also taught the World Press "Joop Swart Master Class" in 2007. He is the author of two photographic books: *Soul Rebel - An Intimate Portrait of Bob Marley* and *44 Days : Iran and the Remaking of the World*, pictures taken during the 1979 Iranian Revolution. He calls New York home, but is at home anywhere there is a good story.

www.davidburnett.com





JUDGE PORTFOLIOS

SANJAY JOGIA

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Sanjay Jogia is an internationally acclaimed, award-winning photographer who has been featured as One of the World's 6 Best Wedding Photographers by the global *Professional Photographer Magazine*. He is the only Wedding Ambassador for Canon UK representing the EMEA region, as well as being a global Brand Ambassador for X-Rite, Fundy Software, Tether Tools, Loupedeck, Canson Infinity, EIZO, Spiffy Gear and Dreambooks Pro.

Together, Sanjay and his wife Roshni established 'Eye Jogia Photography', a successful London-based Luxury Destination Wedding Photography Studio – but Sanjay's self-taught love of photography started at school by developing his own style and approach from a young age with his father's film Canon AE-1 camera. As a child he wanted to be a photographer, an architect and a car designer. He has accomplished two out of three... and as for cars, he loves F1 and driving (and owning) fast cars.

Known for his unconventional creativity in a timeless style, Sanjay travels the world as a photographer, educator, mentor, judge, brand and industry ambassador. His wedding images are a blend of 'reality' and 'fantasy' – a fashion and movie inspired approach using beauty lighting and posing techniques which are balanced with a sensitive, observant and almost portrait-like documentary approach for the majority of wedding images, giving his wedding couples the best of both worlds. Ultimately, he wants to tell the amazing story of all Eye Jogia couples in a way they will cherish with pride.

Sanjay has won over 80 Print Competition Awards and is now privileged to be invited regularly as a Judge for WPPI in Las Vegas, for SWPP in London, SM Fotografi in Sweden and for the British Photography Awards as an Associate amongst various online European competitions.

Sanjay has also proudly represented Team GB in the World Photographic Cup for the past two years with two of his images making it as 'finalist'.

<https://www.eyejogia.com>





JUDGE PORTFOLIOS

CHARMAINE HEYER

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER



Charmaine Heyer is an AIPP Grand Master, with one Platinum bar. She has been judging national competitions since 2006.

‘Photography gives me a chance to make a statement about life and the things that really matter to me. The post-production side of my work is where my heart is. Concepts and visual ideas sometimes originate from my subjects’ life stories, or a simple sketch that I choose to illustrate photographically.’

Charmaine has won the prestigious title of AIPP Australian Professional Photographer of the Year in 2009. She has also been AIPP Australian Illustrative Photographer of the Year in 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2019 and also AIPP Australian Creative Photographer of the Year in 2016.

In 2020, she also won 1st place in both the Portrait and Creative categories at the Rise International Photography Awards.

<https://www.highlights.com.au>



JUDGE PORTFOLIOS

ROCCO ANCORA

PHOTOGRAPHER, EDUCATOR, PRINTMAKER

Italian-born and Australian-based, photographer Rocco Ancora is one of the most prolific and awarded photographers in the wedding and portrait industry. His work is often described as emotive, dramatic, romantic and has reached a level of sophistication only possible by his pursuit of excellence over a 25-year career.

A Nikon Ambassador, Rocco has won the AIPP (Australian Institute of Professional Photography) Australian Wedding Photographer of the Year Award for an unprecedented four times. He's one of only three people in the world to achieve Grand Master of the AIPP and WPPI (Wedding and Portrait Photographers International) in the United States; where he is the third most awarded photographer of the organisation.

Rocco has shared his knowledge for over 15 years by teaching photographers all over the world in over 20 countries. He is not only an in-camera artist, but his colour and black and white darkroom experience in the nineties helped him to master the art of digital post-production with the flair and finesse synonymous with the Ancora name.

An active working professional wedding and portrait photographer, Rocco's company, Capture to Print also offers fellow photographers a wide range of services including raw file conversion, photo and album retouching, fine art printing and an exclusive competition print and mounting service.

As one of the world's pre-eminent master printmakers, Rocco presents his Capture to Print workshops and one-on-one mentoring so he can empower photographers to master the art of post-production and printmaking themselves.

<https://roccoancora.com>



ACCOLADES

2020 WPPI Photojournalism Grand Award

2019 WPPI Portrait Grand Award

2018 WPPI Wedding Grand Award

2013 WPPI Wedding Grand Award

2011 WPPI Photojournalism Grand Award

2004 AIPP Australian Wedding Photographer of the Year

2006 AIPP Australian Wedding Photographer of the Year

2007 AIPP Australian Wedding Photographer of the Year

2010 AIPP Australian Wedding Photographer of the Year

2013 AIPP Victorian Wedding Photographer of the Year

2011 AIPP Wedding Album of the Year



JUDGE PORTFOLIOS

MARTINA WÄRENFELDT

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER



She had artist dreams as a kid and now she is living her dream doing painterly fine art portraits for everyday people.

Martina Wärenfeldt is a Swedish portrait photographer who started out by taking photography classes at Santa Monica College in Los Angeles. After finishing her degree, she moved back to her home city Vaxjo, Sweden to establish her business. Now she is a veteran with 24 years as a full-time photographer and studio owner.

Martina is a multiple award-winning photographer, both nationally and internationally, with close to a hundred awards to date, mostly for her creative portraits, but also for fashion. She earned the title Swedish Master of Photography in 2019 and in spring of 2020, she was voted Portrait Photographer of the Year in Sweden for the third consecutive year.

Also, in the beginning of 2020 she won First Place and Overall Portrait winner at SWPP 16x20 print comp in London and in 2021 she was awarded Fashion Photographer of the Year by SWPP.

At the WPPI Annual Print Comp in 2020, Martina won her first 'First Place', as well as a second and a third in three different categories. Together with this, she also received her Master of WPPI. In the 2020 Federation of European Photographers, she won The Golden Camera in Portrait category (First Place).

Martina has been a speaker and taught workshops in Sweden, Finland and Norway. She recently judged both the national competition in Norway as well as in her native Sweden.

And just recently, Martina joined the team at Canon as one of their Canon Nordic Photographers.

https://www.instagram.com/martina_warenfeldt

<https://mstudio.se>



JUDGE PORTFOLIOS

SARAH FERRARA

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER, RETOUCHER, TRAINER

With an academic background in theatre, then languages and a past career in real estate, British-born, Italy-based Sarah Ferrara has been a self-employed business owner for 27 years and a professional photographer for ten, specialising in wedding, portrait and commercial beauty. She is a Fellow of The Societies of Wedding and Portrait Photographers (SWPP), and a Master of WPPI.

She has been a Print Competition judge at WPPI two years running, and is a fully qualified Print Competition Judge of The Societies of Photographers. She has been awarded over 100 silver and gold awards from international competitions, including six First Place trophies from WPPI and the Grand Award for the online Creative Division, four First Place trophies from The Societies of Wedding and Portrait Photographers, and from 2019 to 2020 was named Photographer of the Year four times, in Fashion, Avant Garde, Advertising and Maternity categories. Her work in wedding, fashion and portrait photography has been featured online, on billboards and in printed publications around the world.

Sarah also provides private mentoring, teaches advanced Lightroom and Photoshop techniques online to photographers around the world through her website ***fineartretouching.com*** and provides editing and retouching services to photography studios around the globe.

www.sarahferrara.com www.love-edits.com

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<https://www.instagram.com/sarahferraraphotographer>

<https://www.facebook.com/sarahferraraphotographer>





JUDGE PORTFOLIOS

PETER EASTWAY

FAIPP, HONFAIPP, HONFNZIPP, APPL, GMPHOTO, PBII, MNZIPP – CHAIRMAN OF JUDGES



Peter Eastway has been involved in photography, photography competitions and judging for over 30 years. He was the AIPP Australian Professional Photography Award Chairman for six years and has judged internationally around the world.

Peter has won many awards for his photography. In 1996 and 1998 he was the AIPP Australian Professional Photographer of the Year. He was Australian Landscape Photographer of the Year in 1995, 1996 and 1998, Australian Illustrative Photographer of the Year in 2004, and NSW Professional Photographer of the Year in 1995, 1996, 2004, 2010 and 2019. Most recently he won the 2019 AIPP Australian Professional Nature Photographer of the Year.

Peter's passion is for landscapes, portraiture and the printed page. He is the publisher of *Better Photography* magazine and website. He also featured in the *Tales By Light* television series, as seen on the Australian National Geographic Channel in partnership with Canon Australia. It is now available on Netflix.

Peter is an AIPP Grand Master of Photography, earned from a career spanning nearly 40 years. His role in the International Portrait Photographer of the Year Awards is as chairman of judges.

"While I'm known for my landscape photography, my passion remains for the portrait, whether in the studio or out on location. And if I had to nominate a favourite photographer, it would be Irving Penn."

www.petereastway.com

www.betterphotography.com



THE INTERNATIONAL PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

For the overall winner, a cash prize of US \$3,000, trophy, inclusion and feature in *The International Portrait Photographer of the Year Awards Book*.

THE INTERNATIONAL PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR – CATEGORY PRIZES

For each of the four categories:

FIRST PRIZE

Cash prize of US \$1,000, trophy, inclusion and feature in *The International Portrait Photographer of the Year Awards Book*, and a printed copy of *The International Portrait Photographer of the Year Awards Book*.

SECOND PRIZE

Cash prize of US \$500, trophy, inclusion in *The International Portrait Photographer of the Year Awards Book*, and a printed copy of *The International Portrait Photographer of the Year Awards Book*.

THIRD PRIZE

Cash prize of US \$250, trophy, inclusion in *The International Portrait Photographer of the Year Awards Book*, and a printed copy of *The International Portrait Photographer of the Year Awards Book*.

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Who are the world's leading contemporary portrait photographers? The aim of The International Portrait Photographer of the Year Awards is to invite photographers from around the world to present their best work. In turn, we engage six acclaimed portrait photographers – this year David Burnett, Charmaine Heyer, Rocco Ancora, Martina Wärenfeldt, Sanjay Jogia and Sarah Ferrara – to assess and deliberate, curating a body of work that is not only representative of the portrait art in 2021, but is inspirational for us all.

Our philosophy embraces the idea of a collection of photographs, putting as much emphasis on the Top 101 portrait photographs as the small number of prize winners. While our esteemed judges are undoubtedly experts in their field, even they acknowledge that the prize winners are a matter of opinion or choice, whereas the Top 101 portraits exhibit a level of quality and imagination that transcends personal bias. There is something for all tastes within this collection.

This is the first International Portrait Photographer of the Year Awards. We hope you will enjoy viewing a very special collection of the best contemporary portrait photography of 2021.

Front cover: Forough Yavari's portrait, titled 'Solitude', is the winner of The 2021 International Portrait Photographer of the Year Award and the Portrait Story category.

Top right: Zay Yar Lin's portrait, titled 'Tibal Identity' is the winner of the Character Study category.

Middle right: Josef Bürgli's portrait, titled 'The Mundari Cattle Herder', is the winner of the Environmental Portrait category.

Bottom right: Zay Yar Lin's portrait, titled 'Maiden of the Suri Tribe' is the winner of the Family Sitting category.



www.internationalportraitphotographer.com