

Press Release



The V&A Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project launches international photography prize

The V&A Parasol Foundation Prize for Women in Photography
In partnership with Peckham 24

Vam.ac.uk | @V_and_A | #VamPhotography | @vamparasolwomenphoto

Today the V&A Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project launches a brand-new photography prize dedicated to supporting and championing contemporary women's photography which will run for three years. *The V&A Parasol Foundation Prize for Women in Photography*, organised in partnership with Peckham 24, is a career-enhancing opportunity open to all women photographers from across the globe. Also announced today is the inaugural theme for this year's prize, *Agents of Change*, alongside the selection panel for the prize.

The prize celebrates the outstanding talent of women photographers and provides a powerful platform to showcase the work of innovative artists working in the field of contemporary photography. The five winners of the prize will have their work displayed at Peckham 24 – south London's vibrant three-day contemporary photography festival – In May 2023. Winners will also receive career enhancing opportunities, including portfolio reviews, an invitation to a networking dinner with industry experts, and a financial bursary of £2000, as well as a spotlight on the V&A blog and the V&A Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project's Instagram account.

The winners will be selected by a panel of selectors co-chaired by Fiona Rogers, the inaugural Parasol Foundation Curator of Women in Photography at the V&A, and Vivienne Gamble, co-founder of Peckham 24 and Director of Seen Fifteen gallery, London. They will be joined by **Lesley A. Martin**, Creative Director of Aperture; **Ronan Mckenzie**, photographer, curator and founder of Black-owned artist space HOME; and Turner nominated multi-media artist and lecturer **Ingrid Pollard**.

This year's inaugural theme, *Agents of Change*, celebrates the place photography holds in documenting, celebrating and effecting change. Whether scientific or humanitarian, photography has been at the forefront of change since the introduction of photographic processes in the 1800s. As the world continues to be in flux, this theme invites photographers

to represent some of our most pressing issues: from technological innovations and sustainability efforts to social revolutions and political reform.

Established at the heart of South London's photography scene, Peckham 24 is a vibrant weekend festival which showcases and supports new talent and experimental artists in contemporary photography. Peckham 24 takes over Copeland Park and Bussey Building for a three-day festival of displays, talks and wider programming.

The prize has been made possible by the support of Ms. Ruth Monicka Parasol and The Parasol Foundation Trust, and forms part of the V&A Photography Centre's ongoing commitment to diversifying the museum's photographic programme offer and reaching new audiences outside of the museum in South Kensington. Earlier this year, The Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project presented the work of photographer Laia Abril at the Copeland Gallery, in collaboration with the V&A and Photoworks.

Fiona Rogers, Parasol Foundation Curator of Women in Photography at the V&A, said: *"We are delighted to announce The V&A Parasol Foundation Prize for Women in Photography, which marks a significant point in the development of the V&A Parasol Foundation Women in Photography programme. This new initiative represents a remit shared by us all to amplify the voices of women, champion diversity and promote equality in the arts. We are grateful to The Parasol Foundation Trust for their ongoing support."*

Vivienne Gamble, Artistic Director of Peckham 24 festival, said: *"We are thrilled to be partnering with the inaugural V&A Parasol Foundation Prize for Women in Photography. At the heart of Peckham 24 is a mission to champion new and diverse voices in contemporary photography. Our values are completely aligned with the V&A Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project, and we cannot wait to welcome the winning artists to the Peckham 24 2023 programme."*

The Prize is free to enter and open to all women photographic artists from around the world. To enter the 2022 competition, submissions must be made via the V&A's application portal, found on our [website](#).

- ENDS -

For further PRESS information please contact Shannon Nash on s.nash@vam.ac.uk / +44 (0)20 3949 2502 (not for publication).

A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from pressimages.vam.ac.uk

Full information about how to enter, including entry form and submission criteria can be found online at: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/parasol-foundation-prize-2022>

Entries open today, and submissions close at midnight on the 22 January. Applications must be submitted by the V&A's application portal. For accessibility issues please email parasolwomenphoto@vam.ac.uk.

About the Parasol Foundation Trust

The Parasol Foundation Trust is the philanthropic division of Parasol International and Ruth Parasol and family, helping to create opportunities for women to pursue their dreams and inspiring the next generation to follow in their footsteps.

The Trust was established in Gibraltar in 2004 and since then it has awarded over £40,000,000 for health, heritage and education grants in Gibraltar, UK, Israel, India, US, Spain and elsewhere.

Ruth Parasol is its Principal Benefactress giving much of her time as one of the Trustee Directors, guiding grant making, continuing to fund the Trust with her additional money and her private family office providing administrative and investment support.

<https://parasolfoundation.org/>

About Peckham 24

Peckham 24 is a not-for-profit festival established in 2016 by curator Vivienne Gamble and artist Jo Dennis. With a focus on supporting new talent and experimental artists working with photography, the festival creates a vibrant takeover of a number of warehouse and gallery spaces across Copeland Park and Bussey Building in the heart of Peckham's artistic scene.

About the selection committee

Lesley A. Martin is creative director of Aperture and founding publisher of The PhotoBook Review. Her writing on photography has been published in Aperture, IMA magazine, and FOAM, among other publications, and she has edited more than one-hundred books of photography, including *On the Beach* by Richard Misrach; *Illuminance* by Rinko Kawauchi; *LaToya Ruby Frazier: The Notion of Family*; *Zanele Muholi: Hail the Dark Lioness*; *The New Black Vanguard* by Antwaun Sargent; *Sara Cwynar: Glass Life*, and *Zora J Murff: True Colors*. Martin co-founded the Paris Photo–Aperture Foundation PhotoBook Awards in 2012, and received the Royal Photographic Society award for outstanding achievement in Photographic Publishing in 2020. She is currently a visiting critic at the Yale University Graduate School of Art.

Ronan Mckenzie is a multi-disciplinary artist from Walthamstow, North East London. Ronan has exhibited her work at spaces including Aperture Foundation, Red Hook Labs, Somerset House and The National Theatre, and is now the Director of HOME by Ronan Mckenzie, a multifunctional creative space. Her work has been presented on the covers of *The British Journal of Photography*, *Garage Magazine*, *Teen Vogue* and *Creative Review*, and within titles including *Luncheon*, *Vogue*, *POP*, *i-D* and *Wall Street Journal*. Notable within Ronan's practice is a sensitivity to honest, relatable emotion and the celebration of individuality. Alongside working commercially with brands including Nike, Glossier, Sephora, Universal Standard and Olay, Ronan lectures at universities and institutions. Her work is often tied together with her passion for creating more imagery of connections, relationships and black joy, presenting the world as she would like to see it.

Ingrid Pollard is a multi-media artist, photographer, researcher and lecturer. Pollard has developed a social practice concerned with representation, history and landscape with

reference to race, difference and the materiality of lens-based media. Her work is included in numerous collections nationally and internationally including Arts Council and the Victoria and Albert Museum and Tate Britain. Recent works include a major survey exhibit, Carbon Slowly Turning which has been nominated for the Turner Prize 2022.

In 2020 Ingrid Pollard and MK Gallery were awarded the Freelands Foundation Award to host a major exhibit of Ingrid's work in 2022. In 2019 Ingrid Pollard was a recipient of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists in 2018.

About the co-chairs of the selection committee

Fiona Rogers is the inaugural Parasol Foundation Curator of Women in Photography at the V&A. She was previously Director of Photography & Operations for Webber, a photographic agency and gallery with offices in London, New York, and Los Angeles. Prior to Webber she worked for Magnum Photos in a variety of roles, rising to Chief Operations Officer where she was responsible for running the agency and designing and implementing strategies in collaboration with the CEO.

Vivienne Gamble is an independent curator of contemporary photography. She is the Founder and Director of Seen Fifteen gallery in Peckham where she has been running a dynamic programme of exhibitions since 2015. She is the Artistic Director of Peckham 24 festival which she co-founded with the artist Jo Dennis in 2016. Over the course of five editions, she has grown the festival from a grass-roots idea into a highly anticipated date in the UK photography calendar. She is also currently an Associate Lecturer on the MA and BA Photography programmes at London College of Communication (UAL).