

News Release  
Tuesday 2 May 2023



## **V&A Parasol Foundation Prize for Women in Photography Winners Announcement** *Iranian photographer Gohar Dashti and Ukrainian photographer Anya Tsaruk are amongst the winners*

In partnership with Peckham 24

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Images can be found here for download: <https://vam.app.box.com/v/pressimages/folder/205609982624>

Today the V&A announces the five winners of the inaugural V&A Parasol Foundation Prize for Women in Photography. The prize is a three-year commitment by the museum and is dedicated to identifying, supporting, and championing innovative women artists working in the field of contemporary photography.

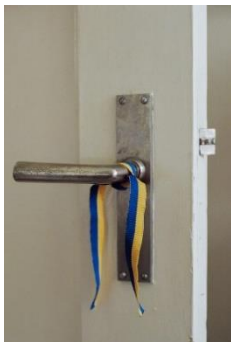
The prize attracted nearly 1400 submissions from artists all over the world, representing a broad visual and conceptual interpretation of the theme 'Agents of Change', which celebrates photography's role in affecting and documenting transformation, revolution and innovation. The five winners of the prize will have their work displayed at Peckham 24 – south London's vibrant three-day contemporary photography festival – which opens Friday 12 May 2023.

The winners were chosen from a shortlist of ten by the prize selection committee, 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 were 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.

**The selection committee said:** *"This range of artists wonderfully characterizes the concept of 'change agents' and demonstrates photography's ability to capture and influence societal and political evolution. Each artist represents a compelling shift in the medium, from traditional observational documentary practices to the exploration of archives and staged imagery as a means of reflecting upon authentic, lived experiences."*

### **About the winners:**

#### **Anya Tsaruk 'Mother Land' (2022)**



**Anya Tsaruk** is a Ukrainian photographer based in Berlin. Her artistic approach focused initially on documentary and street photography but evolved in the past year to expose the realities of war in Ukraine and its consequences. Her series 'Mother Land' is an autobiographical example of how families have been affected by the war.

**Vân-Nhi Nguyễn 'As You Grow Older' (2021)**



**Vân-Nhi Nguyễn** is a Vietnamese photographer and designer based in Hà Nội, Việt Nam. Her work is concerned with the reconstruction of collective memory – be it that of her own identity or of the larger community – and its relationship to contemporary society. Her ongoing project, 'As You Grow Older', takes the familiar shape of a family photo album and features portraits in which each individual is presented in their own space.

**Gohar Dashti 'Home Series' (2017)**



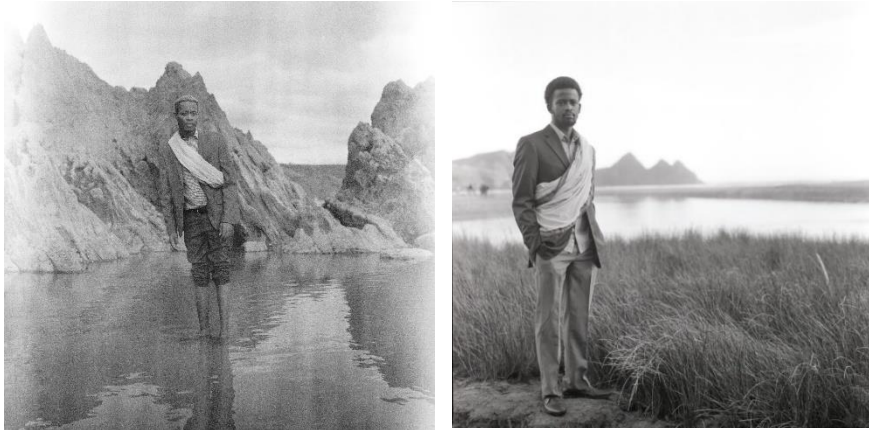
**Gohar Dashti** is an Iranian American photographer and video artist lives and works in Tehran. Her native country is a dominant feature in her work, with particular focus on its topography, socio-geography, and history of violence. In 'Home Series', Dashti documents the places 'left behind' in Iran; evidence of those displaced by years of conflict.

**Priyadarshini Ravichandran 'Surge' (2019)**



**Priyadarshini Ravichandran** is an Indian photographer whose work is connected with lived experience, including stories of women, their lives and the land. 'Surge' (2019) is a poetic and personal exploration revealing the complexity of familial relationships.

**Cynthia MaiWa Sitei 'Spear of a Nation' (2019)**



**Cynthia MaiWa Sitei** is a Kenyan British visual artist and curator whose work is heavily influenced by the culture of storytelling. She integrates photography, text and the archive to explore themes such as stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination. Responding to the colonial archive of British social anthropologist Edward Evan Evans-Pritchard, 'spear of a nation' embarks on its own expedition to critically reflect on acculturation and assimilation, and the legacy of colonialism.

The five winners of the prize will have their work displayed at Peckham 24 – south London's vibrant three-day contemporary photography festival – which opens Friday 12 May 2023. Each artist will also receive career enhancing opportunities, including 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 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 photography Collection and programme and to reach new audiences outside of the museum in South Kensington.

- ENDS -

**For further PRESS information about the V&A Parasol Foundation Prize for Women in Photography please contact Shannon Nash on [s.nash@vam.ac.uk](mailto:s.nash@vam.ac.uk) / 020 7942 2502 (not for publication). A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from [pressimages.vam.ac.uk](https://pressimages.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. She is the founder of Firecracker, an online platform and annual grant supporting women and artists.

**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).