

2009. Spider Awards

Black and White Spider Awards

By Simon Wakelin

Black and White Spider Awards enters its 5th year dedicated to the advancement of outstanding black and white photography. Showcasing classic images from all corners of the globe and judged by leading industry figures, the Spider

Awards highlights the beauty and variety of the photographic image. And what a magnificent array of images! Looking through this year's submissions gave me inspiration: to glance at these fragments of time, of past moments that invite us in, each testament to an event that somehow arrested us with its presence.

In our over saturated, media-drenched world it is a refreshing change to regard the stunning power of the still image. Each black and white photograph serves to edify us in our modern, fast paced world. This year's jury included curators, editors, auctioneers and executives from the likes of Sotheby's, The Armory Show, VII, Tate Gallery, Communication Arts and Photo District News. Judging criteria was based on artistic merit, originality, subject and style, with all photographs passionately reviewed over an eight-week period before nominations honoring 84 title awards in 28 categories were awarded at the 5th Annual Black and White Spider Awards Photo Show.

The Photo Show is an exclusive invitation-only, online webcast ceremonies unveiling the winners live, this year attended by 35,000 online viewers logging on from a total of 154 countries. Both professional and amateur photographers were celebrated at the show. Also in attendance were the industry's most influential critics, auction houses and agents all coming together to celebrate the beauty and power of the black and white image.

What is impressive about the Spider Awards is its focus on artists as photographers; professionals come to the awards and use it as an outlet to stimulate their creativity, to sidestep the monotonous task of shooting specific images for commercial clients while amateurs ignite their muse and enter the competition to garner both confidence and notoriety.

As nominee Diana Michelle sums up: "My life revolves around photography. I feel elated to be nominated and value the professional evaluation of my work. Continuing to pursue this art form and share my heart with the world is my drive."





Left:
Shane Van Boxtel - USA
Professional | Photograph of the Year,
1st Place
Professional | Advertising
"Leap of Faith"

Bottom left:
Marjolijn De Groot - France
Professional | Fashion
"Beauty"

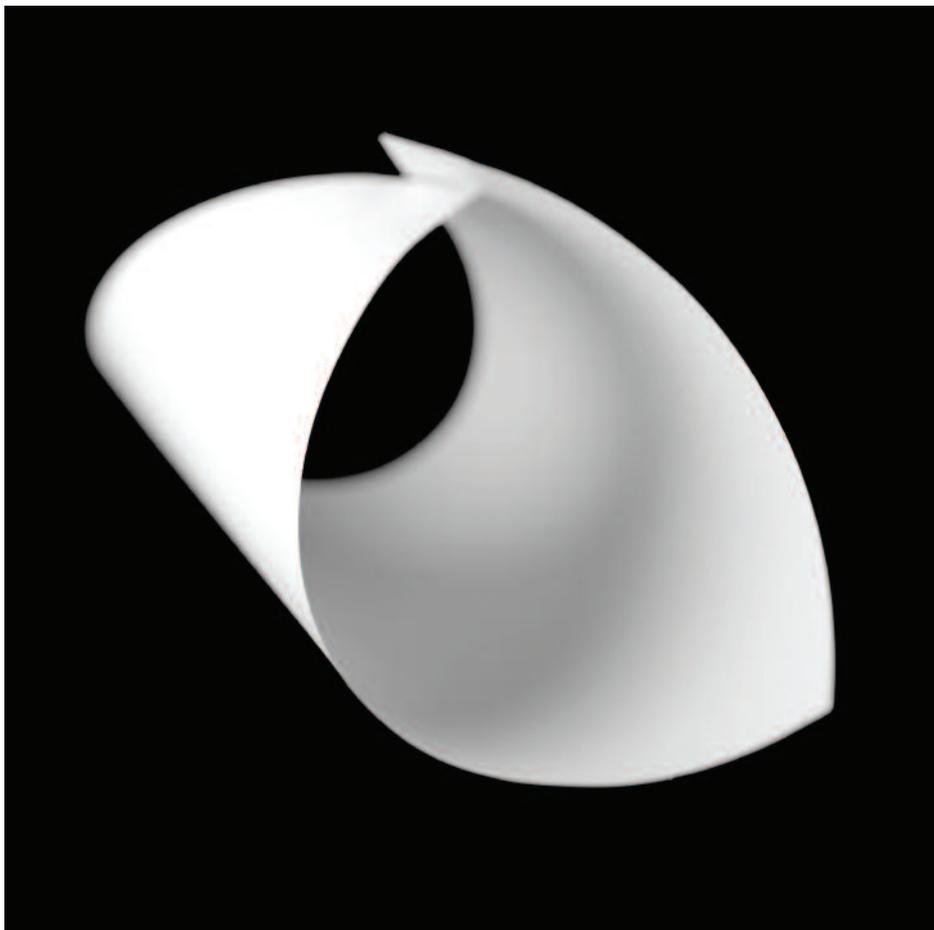
Top:
Nir Alon - Israel
Professional | Photojournalism
"Displaced Children in Congo"

Bottom right:
Ann Cutting - USA
Professional | Fine Art
"City with Man"



The photographer is always at the heart of the awards, something that Basil O'Brien and Michelle Hill had in mind when they founded the Black and White Spider Awards program back in 2004. Their idea was to create a program on the Internet (its Spider moniker a nod to the World Wide Web) to showcase photography talent from an international perspective. Since then it has grown exponentially larger in scope each year, testament to the growing interest in global black and white photography and success of the award show itself. Since its inception back in 2004 the program has focused on ways to benefit Amnesty International and Art for Disabled Children. In 2007 it launched an "International Charity Exhibition" in Brazil, a successful venture that showcased prize-winning works donated by Spider Fellows. The event drew coverage from CNN with over \$30,000 in funds raised from sales at the exhibit. Three years ago the program also became part of the World Photographic Arts Corporation (WPA), consisting of Black and White Spider Awards, International Color Awards which holds the Photography Masters Cup competition and book|BASIL Publishing.

You can see all the winning and nominated images from the 5th Annual Show at the official Black and White Spider Awards winners' gallery. Visit www.thespiderawards.com



Left top:
Olga Matsaeva - Russia
 Amateur | Photograph of the Year, 2nd Place
 Amateur | Nude
 "In the Mirror"

Left bottom:
Jason Nichols - USA
 Amateur | Photograph of the Year, 3rd Place
 Amateur | Still Life
 "Paper"

Right:
David Myers - USA
 Amateur | Silhouette
 "Summer"

Far right:
Satyaki Ghosh - India
 Professional | People
 "Innocent Smile"

Right bottom:
Francis Minien - UK
 Amateur | Wildlife
 "Birds"



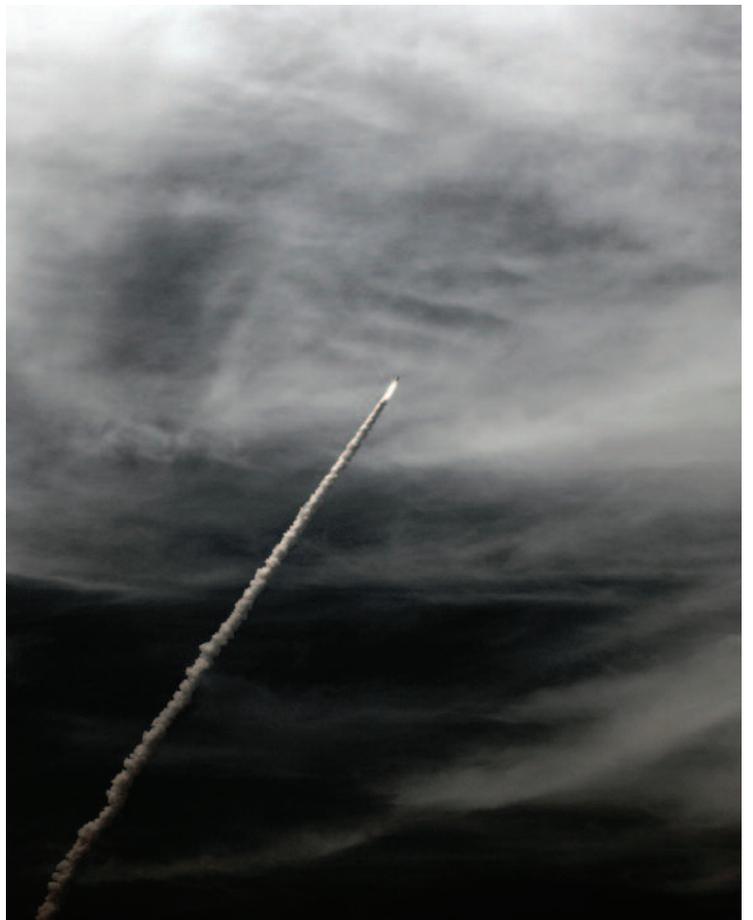


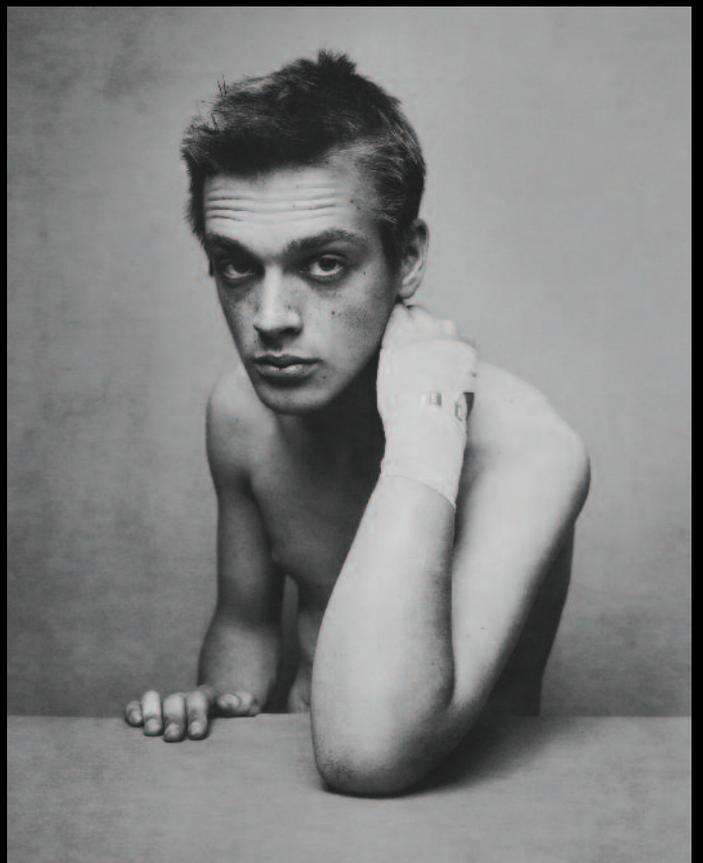
Above:
Sebastian Unterreitmeier-Germany
Amateur | Sport
"Soapbox Pilot"

Top right:
Niccolò Biddau - Italy
Professional | Still Life
"Alessi: Assembly of Kettle with Bird Whistle,
design Michael Graves"

Bottom right:
Peter Sutter - USA
Professional | Architectural
"A Study Staircase"

Bottom far right:
David Ryle - UK
Professional | Abstract
"Atlantis"





Left top:
Alberto Guglielmi - USA
Professional | Sport
"The Human"

Far left bottom:
Anatol Kotte - Germany
Professional | Nude
"Alexandra"

Left bottom:
Anatol Kotte - Germany
Professional | Photograph of the Year, 3rd Place
Professional | Portrait
"Boy"

Below:
Werner Branz - Austria
Professional | Photograph of the Year, 2nd Place
Professional | Nature
Coldness



David Allan Brandt - USA
Professional | Silhouette
"Grand Avenue"

