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## Media Release Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

### Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2017 shortlist announced

The four artists shortlisted for the *Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2017* are **Sophie Calle**, **Dana Lixenberg**, **Awoiska van der Molen** and **Taiyo Onorato and Nico Krebs**. This year's shortlist celebrates established photographic narratives alongside experimental and conceptual approaches to documentary, landscape and portraiture. All of this year's nominated artists investigate questions of truth and fiction, doubt and certainty, what constitutes the real and ideal and the relationship between the observer and the observed.

Works by the shortlisted photographers will be exhibited at The Photographers' Gallery from 3 March until 11 June 2017 and subsequently presented at the Museum für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt from 29 June until 17 September 2016. The winner will be announced at a special award ceremony during the exhibition run.

The *Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize* is an annual award established by The Photographers' Gallery, London in 1996 and in partnership with Deutsche Börse Group since 2005. Since 2016 it has been awarded together with the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation, a non-profit organisation specifically focused on the collecting, exhibiting and promoting of contemporary photography.

The £30,000 prize rewards a living photographer, of any nationality, for a specific body of work in an exhibition or publication format, which is felt to have significantly contributed to the medium of photography between 1 October 2015 and 30 September 2016.

The shortlisted artists were nominated for the following projects:

**Sophie Calle** (b.1953, France) has been nominated for her publication *My All* (Actes Sud, 2016).

**Dana Lixenberg** (b. 1964, The Netherlands) has been nominated for her publication *Imperial Courts* (Roma, 2015).

**Awoiska van der Molen** (b. 1972, The Netherlands) has been nominated for her exhibition *Blanco* at Foam Fotografie Museum, Amsterdam (22 Jan - 3 Apr 2016). **Taiyo Onorato and Nico Krebs** (both b. 1979, Switzerland) have been nominated for their

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exhibition *EURASIA* at Fotomuseum Winterthur (24 Oct 15 – 14 Mar 16).

The members of the *Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2017* jury are: Susan Bright, Curator; Pieter Hugo, Artist; Karolina Lewandowska, Curator of Photography at Centre Pompidou Paris; Anne-Marie Beckmann, Director of Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation and Clare Grafik, Head of Exhibitions, The Photographers' Gallery as the non-voting chair.

2017 marks twenty years of the Prize and reaffirms its position as a measure of talent and excellence. The award remains committed to showcasing photographers and works of all genres and approaches which exemplify exceptional viewpoints and bold practice.

Clare Grafik, Head of Exhibitions, The Photographers' Gallery, and non-voting Chair of the Jury said: "We are incredibly excited by this year's four nominees whose work reflects the dynamism of photographic practices in the contemporary field, and considers our relation to time, place and memory through a diversity of forms. From an in-depth exploration of our relationship to landscape in Awoiska van der Molen's timeless monochrome works to Onorato and Krebs' response to an eastern road trip where fiction, fact and memory merge. Dana Lixenburg's project documenting a Los Angeles community from the aftermath of the race riots of 1992 to the present day, and finally Sophie Calle transforms over fifty works melding autobiographical and sociological investigation, into postcard form."

Anne-Marie Beckmann, Director Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation, said: "We congratulate The Photographers' Gallery on the twentieth anniversary of the Photography Prize, which was initiated by the Gallery in 1997 and has established itself as a unique award recognising the most influential photographic artists. This year's shortlist proves once again the relevance of the Prize. The artists offer diverse approaches, exploring the medium in its materiality and special relationship to time and transience. We are also delighted that the exhibition will be returning to Frankfurt's MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst where it will be showcased in summer 2017."

**Notes for Editors:**

**Please find enclosed an image sheet with captions, please contact us directly for high-res press images.**

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**Sophie Calle** (b.1953, France) has been nominated for her publication *My All* (Actes Sud, 2016) which finds the artist experimenting with yet another medium - the postcard set. Taking stock of her entire oeuvre, this set of postcards functions as a beautiful portfolio of Calle's work, as well as a new investigation of it, in an appropriately nomadic format. Over the past thirty years, Sophie Calle has invited strangers to sleep in her bed, followed a man through the streets of Paris to Venice, hired a detective to spy on herself before providing a report of her day, and asked blind people to tell her about the final image they remember. In doing so, she has orchestrated small moments of life, establishing a game, then setting its rules for herself and for others.

**Dana Lixenberg** (b. 1964, The Netherlands) has been nominated for her publication *Imperial Courts* (Roma, 2015). In 1992, Dana Lixenberg travelled to South Central Los Angeles for a magazine story on the riots that erupted following the verdict in the Rodney King trial. What she encountered inspired her to revisit the area, and led her to the community of the Imperial Courts housing project in Watts. Returning countless times over the following twenty-two years, Lixenberg gradually created a collaborative portrait of the changing face of this community. Over the years, some in the community were killed, while others disappeared or went to jail, and others, once children in early photographs, grew up and had children of their own. In this way, *Imperial Courts* constitutes a complex and evocative record of the passage of time in an underserved community.

**Awoiska van der Molen** (b. 1972, The Netherlands) has been nominated for her exhibition *Blanco* at Foam Fotografie Museum, Amsterdam (22 Jan - 3 Apr 2016). Van der Molen creates black and white, abstracted images that revitalise the genre of landscape photography. Spending long periods of time in solitude and silence in foreign landscapes, from Japan to Norway to Crete, she explores the identity of the place, allowing it to impress upon her its specific emotional and physical qualities and her personal experience within it. With this intuitive approach van der Molen aims to find a pure form of representing her surroundings, by focusing on the essential elements in and around her. Her work questions how natural and manmade environments are commonly represented and interacted with.

**Taiyo Onorato and Nico Krebs** (both b. 1979, Switzerland) have been nominated for their exhibition *EURASIA* at Fotomuseum Winterthur (24 Oct 15 – 14 Mar 16). *EURASIA* playfully draws on the iconography of the road trip constructing experiences drawn from memory and imagination. Onorato and Krebs' journey begins in Switzerland, continues

through the Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, and ends in Mongolia. Throughout their travels the duo encounters landscapes and people in a state of ongoing transition from ancient traditions and post-Communist structures to modernity and the formation of an independent identity. Using a mix of analogue media and techniques including 16mm films, large-format plate cameras and installation-based interventions, Onorato and Krebs compose a narrative that is as much fiction as documentation.

### **The Photographers' Gallery**

The Photographers' Gallery opened in 1971 in Great Newport Street, London, as the UK's first independent gallery devoted to photography. It was the first public gallery in the UK to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller, Robert Capa, Sebastião Salgado and Andreas Gursky. The Gallery has also been instrumental in establishing contemporary British photographers, including Martin Parr and Corinne Day. The success of The Photographers' Gallery over the past four decades has helped to establish photography as a recognised art form, introducing new audiences to photography and championing its place at the heart of visual culture.

[www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk](http://www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk)

### **Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation**

The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation is a Frankfurt-based non-profit organisation. The foundation activities focus on collecting, exhibiting and promoting contemporary photography. Deutsche Börse began to build up its collection of contemporary photography in 1999. Art Collection Deutsche Börse now comprises more than 1,600 works by over 100 international artists. Expanding the Art Collection Deutsche Börse is one of the key aims of the foundation. The collection and a changing exhibition programme are open to the public. Together with The Photographers' Gallery in London, the foundation awards the renowned Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize each year. Other focal points include promoting new talent, supporting exhibition projects of international museums and institutions, and the expansion of platforms for academic discussion about the medium. Further information is available at [www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org](http://www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org)

### **The Photography Prize History**

Founded in 1996 by The Photographers' Gallery, and now in its twentieth year, the Prize has become one of the most prestigious international arts awards and has launched and established the careers of many photographers over the years. Previously known as the Citigroup Photography Prize, the Gallery has been collaborating with Deutsche Börse

Group as title sponsors since 2005. In 2015 the Prize was retitled as the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize following the establishment of the foundation as a non-profit organisation dedicated to the collection, exhibition and promotion of contemporary photography. Winner of the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2016 was Trevor Paglen for his exhibition "The Octopus" at Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany (20 June - 30 August 2015). Past winners include Paul Graham, Juergen Teller, Rineke Dijkstra, Richard Billingham, John Stezaker and Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin.