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## Media Release Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

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### Exhibition “Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2017” opens at the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main

The exhibition „Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2017” opens at MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main at MMK3 as of 29 June, presenting works by the four finalists **Sophie Calle**, **Dana Lixenberg**, **Awoiska van der Molen** and the artist duo **Taiyo Onorato & Nico Krebs**. **Dana Lixenberg** has been awarded the prestigious £30,000 prize for her multifaceted work “**Imperial Courts**” (Roma, 2015) on 18 May at the Photographers’ Gallery in London.

The 2017 shortlist exhibition has encompassed diverse photographic practices, which recognise and celebrate the many developments within the medium. All of the projects challenge the boundaries of the medium while establishing innovative approaches to documentary, landscape and portraiture. The exhibition is on display at MMK3 until 17 September 2017.

„After the huge success of the exhibition at the Photographers’ Gallery in London, we are very pleased that the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2017 is on view at Frankfurt’s MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, one of the the world’s most renowned museums of contemporary art. On its twentieth anniversary the prize is on international exhibition tour and will be presented subsequently at the Aperture Foundation in New York for its first-ever showing in the U.S”, said Anne-Marie Beckmann, Director, Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation.

“We are delighted to have the opportunity to show the finalists of this internationally renowned prize here at the museum once again. The exhibition corresponds perfectly to our collection’s emphasis on photography: the points of intersection between artistic and documentary photography have been a recurring theme here at the MMK since its opening in 1991. The photography medium encourages a subjective artistic perspective on the world that is essential to our museum’s international orientation”, comments Peter Gorschlüter, deputy director of the MMK.

The **Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize** celebrates its twentieth anniversary since being awarded for the first time by The Photographers’ Gallery in London in 1997. The prize is an annual award and in partnership with the 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**



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

### **The Artists**

**Sophie Calle's work**, one of her most personal projects „**My mother, my cat, my father, in that order**“, deals with the death of her parents and cat, her relationship with each of them and their impact on her life. The newly printed photographs of objects she identifies with her loved ones are exhibited alongside personal text panels written by Calle. These delve deeper into the sentimental attachments connected to these everyday objects, exploring her emotional responses and how their meaning has been transformed since her loved ones have passed away. Ultimately, her most recent work is also a reflection on her life and career to date, examining the transitory nature of relationships and the persistence of memory.

**Dana Lixenberg** has been nominated for her publication „**Imperial Courts**“ (Roma, 2015). Lixenberg has built up a multifaceted portrait of the mainly African-American neighbourhood of the Imperial Courts housing project in Watts in Los Angeles. Returning countless times over a time span of twenty-two years, Lixenberg gradually created a collaborative image of the changing face of this community. Some in the community were killed, while others disappeared or went to jail, while others, once children in early photographs, grew up and had children of their own. During her visits, Lixenberg began making audio recordings of residents' reactions to her images and in 2012 started working with the moving image. The resulting video considers both the mundane realities of daily life and the subtle dynamics that lie concealed beneath its surface. As a further response, she also created a multimedia website ([www.imperialcourtsproject.com](http://www.imperialcourtsproject.com)), which is a complex and evocative record of the passage of time.

**Awoiska van der Molen** has focused on black and white, abstracted images in different scales and formats. The artist has been nominated for her exhibition „**Blanco**“ at Foam Fotografiemuseum, Amsterdam (22 Jan. until 3 Apr. 2016). Van der Molen creates images that revitalise the genre of landscape photography. Traveling for weeks in solitude 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. She often employs a nuanced tonal palette that displaces the perceptions of space, distance and time: seafronts, trees, rock faces, leaves and mountains appear to converge and disperse; they are completely still and at the same time full of life. Untitled and unaccompanied by any information on the location of the shots, the large-scale gelatin silver prints are devoted solely to mirroring the artist's personal experiences at the respective sites.

**Taiyo Onorato and Nico Krebs'** project „**EURASIA**“ which has been on display at

Fotomuseum Winterthur last year, playfully draws on the iconography of a road trip constructing experiences drawn from memory and imagination. Onorato and Krebs' journey begins in 2013 in Switzerland, continues through the Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, and ends after 3-years and 17'000 kilometers 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.

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

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

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**Notes for Editors**

**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 1,700 works by over 120 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 MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main**

MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main is one of the world's most renowned museums of contemporary art. With its large-scale monographic exhibitions and its outstanding collection comprising over 5,000 works the MMK has been a center of attraction for local and international art lovers since its opening in 1991.

The new annex of the MMK, which opened in autumn 2014, marks a mile stone in the history of the museum: an additional space comprising 2,000 sqm within the newly built skyscraper TaunusTurm, in the heart of Frankfurt's financial district, has made it possible to present greater parts of the MMK Collection than ever before. With this, the MMK is represented by three exhibition venues in Frankfurt:

The exhibition space MMK 3, opposite of the MMK 1, features new positions of contemporary art as well as events and collaborations. The main building in the Domstrasse, the MMK 1, presents the classics of the Collection starting with Modern Art of the 1960s along with temporary exhibitions with leading international artists. The new annex in the TaunusTurm show the most recent acquisitions of the Collection alongside new productions.

### **The Photography Prize History**

Founded in 1997 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 2016 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 Foundation 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.