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# Budapest International Foto Awards Announces Winners of First Annual Photography Competition!

**(November 5, 2019)** The Budapest International Foto Awards (BIFA)—a brand new and hotly anticipated annual event that spotlights some of the most brilliant and insightful photography from around the world—has announced the winners in its first annual photography competition in both Professional and Student divisions.

The inaugural edition of the BIFA competition received over 2,700 outstanding entries from 82 countries, representing some of the most poignant and powerful stories told through photography.

Hossein Farmani, Founder and President of BIFA and its parent company, Farmani Group, shared his excitement at the winners' announcement:

*"I have always believed in the value of photography as an art form and medium of communication, especially in this day and age when true story-telling can seem endangered by the sheer volume of information that is at our fingertips. But truly great photography will always stand out and as this award has shown, strong images will continue to shine and significantly impact the way we see the world. That is what BIFA is about and I could not be more pleased and proud of the winners--each of them unique, beautiful, and thought-provoking works. Magnificent!"*

## 2019 BIFA Winners:

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### Photographer of the Year – BIFA 2019

After evaluating the thousands of outstanding images submitted to the competition, the Jury selected **Valery Melnikov** from the Russian Federation for the 2019 “Photographer of the Year” award—the top prize in the Professional division—for his insightful work, “**Grey Zone**”, covering some of the devastating impact of the conflict in the Donbass region of Ukraine. In addition to the title, the grand prize earned Melnikov a cash prize of \$3,000, the coveted BIFA trophy, and critical acclaim by the BIFA Jury.

### New Talent of the Year – BIFA 2019

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**Nancy Farese** took the top prize in the Amateur / Student division, being named 2019 “New Talent of the Year” for her documentary project, “**Potential Space: A Serious Look at Child’s Play**”. **Farese** will also receive the BIFA Trophy and a \$2,000 Cash Prize.

**1st place** Category Winners have also been awarded a \$200 Cash Prize, and all winners and Honorable Mentions will receive the BIFA Winner Certificate and Winner Seal, and are now featured on the Winners Gallery on the BIFA website.



## 2019 BIFA Exhibition:

The 2019 BIFA Winners Exhibition will be held at HybridArt Space. The event will showcase the winning images of the first Budapest International Foto Awards, comprising 40 images of the 1st and 2nd place winners of each category.

The Exhibition Opening and Reception will take place on the evening of **November 26, 2019, from 19:00 – 21:00**. There will be a meet-and-greet with BIFA winners, Jury, and members of the Press. Photographers and photography enthusiasts alike will enjoy an exceptional evening of admiring the winning images of the BIFA competition.



The work of the following photographers will be part of the Exhibition: Valery Melnikov, Nancy Farese, Cosimo Barletta, Mikhail Potapov, Márton Mogyorósy, Guntis Lauzums, Demetris Koilalous, Bruce Osborn, Rose Lecat, Ilaria Toscano, Anja Bruehling, Barbara Zanon, Peter Svoboda, Ty Stedman, Földi László, Andrea Francolini, Qian Jin, Elzbieta (ela) Kurowska, Jan Šmíd, Masumi Shiohara, Zhou Peng, Vladimir Spassov, Xavier Blondeau, You-ming Liu, Giulio Zanni, Giovanni Salvaggio, Ferenc Lorincz, Masaya Mizuno, Wioletta Sedlak, Matthew Portch, Chloe Meynier, Simone Arrigoni, Yukihiro Ono, Marco Marccone, Adam Kiefer, Gabriela Segura, Ana Rego and Patrick Zélis.

#### **Opening Hours**

November 27 to December 3, 2019,  
12:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

#### **Location**

HybridArt Space Gallery  
Galamb utca 6, 1052 Budapest

***The Budapest International Foto Awards (BIFA)** is an inspirational community that recognises the power and influence of photography in shaping how we see the world. We are here to nurture creative expression and support photographers who have important stories to share through their images. BIFA's mission is to promote the work of professional and emerging international photographers to the fast-growing artistic community of Budapest, putting them in the spotlight and providing them with a great platform to showcase their work.*

***Farmani Group** is a leading organization curating and promoting photography, design and architecture across the globe since 1985. The company's key mission is to discover and promote talent in these areas through competitions, awards, exhibitions, developing artist communities, providing networking opportunities and education.*