

## Media Release

### Excellence and Innovation Celebrated at 143<sup>rd</sup> Royal Photographic Society Awards



The Royal Photographic Society is delighted to announce the recipients of its 2021 Awards.

**Katie Bouman, Bruce Davidson, Zelda Cheatle, Vanley Burke, Mitra Tabrizian, Phoebe Boswell and Tyler Mitchell** are amongst those being celebrated this year.

The Royal Photographic Society Awards are the world's longest running and most prestigious photography accolades. Now in its 143<sup>rd</sup> year, the awards recognise individuals working across both still and moving image. The Awards celebrate significant achievements, showcase new and emerging talent, and highlight notable contributions from RPS members.

The 2021 recipients tell remarkable stories, and their work is a testament to the power of photography to inspire, uplift, incite change and bring about personal, social, and cultural wellbeing.

The eighteen categories span different genres and applications of photography, including the recognition of achievements in moving image, new media, science and imaging, education, and curation. The categories continue to evolve to reflect new ways of seeing, making, and sharing photography.



The RPS Awards will be announced online on **26 October 2021 at 1900 (BST)** at [rps.org/awards](https://rps.org/awards).

The RPS Awards winners 2021 are:

### **Progress Medal**

**Katie Bouman**, for her scientific and technical advancement in photographic imaging. Her involvement in the International Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration in April 2019 produced the first image of a black hole, 53.5 million light-years from Earth.

### **Centenary Medal**

**Bruce Davidson**, for his sustained and significant contribution to photography. A member of Magnum Photos since 1958, Davidson is lauded for his intimate photo-essays and the documentation of counter-culture communities.

### **Outstanding Contribution to Photography Award**

**Zelda Cheadle**, acclaimed curator, editor, and gallerist, for raising the profile of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century photographers and young artists throughout her career, and for the establishment of the first photography fund.

### **Honorary Fellowships**

**Vanley Burke, VALIE EXPORT, Lola Flash, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Dana Lixenberg, Alec Soth** and **Mitra Tabrizian** for their exceptional and innovative work connected to the art or science of photography.

### **Lumière Award**

**Phoebe Boswell**, for major achievements in film and video. Her multidisciplinary practice centres upon drawing but spans animation, sound, video, writing, interactivity, and performance to create immersive installations.

### **Cinematic Production Award**

**Ava DuVernay**, writer, director, producer, and film distributor, for sustained contribution to filmmaking. Ava is an Academy Award nominee and Emmy, BAFTA, and Peabody Award winner.

### **Hood Medal**

**Dexter McLean**, a photographer with cerebral palsy, for his advocating of the disabled community through his documentary and portrait work.



### **Vic Odden Award**

**Silvia Rosi**, for her self-portraiture photography that explores personal history, heritage and origins. The Vic Odden Award recognises a notable achievement in the art of photography by an individual aged 35 or under.

### **Editorial, Advertising and Fashion Photography Award**

**Tyler Mitchell**, photographer and filmmaker, for his work that spans genres to explore and document a new aesthetic of Blackness.

### **Education Award**

**Esther Teichmann**, lecturer at the Royal College of Art, for her still and moving image work that investigates the relationship between fiction, myth, and lived experience.

### **Curatorship**

**Azu Nwagbogu**, for his work as Founder and Director of the African Artists' Foundation, a non-profit organisation based in Lagos, Nigeria. Azu also served as Interim Director / Head Curator of the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art in South Africa, and as Founder and Director of Lagos Photo Festival.

### **J Dudley Johnston Award**

**Professor Emeritus Helen Ennis**, for major achievement in Australian photographic history, publishing and her illustrious curatorial career.

### **The Selwyn Award**

**Dr Caroline Erolin**, Senior Lecturer working across the School of Science & Engineering and the School of Art & Design at the University of Dundee. The Selwyn Award recognises an imaging science-based researcher under the age of 35.

### **Scientific Imaging Award**

**Kym Cox**, for her photography and practice dedicated to the phenomena of soap bubbles. Kym was also previously successful in the RPS Science Photographer of the Year exhibition.

### **Photographic Publishing Award**

**Gerhard Steidl**, for his significant achievements in the publication of contemporary photobooks under his imprint 'Steidl' as well as his extensive German literature, and curation of international exhibitions.



### **Combined Royal Colleges Medal**

**Douglas Anderson**, for his outstanding contribution to photography and its application in the service of medicine and surgery. Douglas is commended for the development of a digital system that captures an ultra-wide field view of the retina in a single scan.

### **Fenton Medals & RPS Members' Award**

The Fenton Medallists, awards bestowed on individuals who have provided significant service to the RPS, are Mary Crowther, Mark Reeves, Stewart Wall, Rex Waygood and Peter Hayes. The RPS Members' Award goes to Sheila Haycox.

### **International Photography Exhibition 163 Awards**

The RPS also recognises the award winners of the International Photography Exhibition 163, the longest-running photography exhibition that celebrates the most compelling images and stories from photographers across the globe.

The **Under 30's Award** goes to **KyeongJun Yang** for his project 'Men Don't Cry'. The **IPE Award** goes to **Tim Franco** for his project 'Unperson' which portrays defectors from North Korea.

The selected exhibition photographs will be on view at RPS Gallery from April 2022.

### **RPS Bursary Recipients**

**Supratim Bhattacharjee**, recipient of the **Joan Wakelin Bursary**, awarded in partnership with The Guardian

**Joanna Vestey**, recipient of the **Environmental Bursary**, awarded in partnership with the Photographic Angle

**Jimmi Ho**, recipient of the **Postgraduate Bursary**, supported by MPB.

Evan Dawson, RPS CEO said: "At the RPS we believe photography helps us lead more creative and fulfilled lives. Our Awards are unique because they recognise individuals from many different fields, demonstrating the far-reaching potential of this powerful medium. By sharing incredible achievements in photography, we hope to inspire and motivate many more people around the world, for many generations to come."

The RPS host an ongoing series of events with past and present award recipients:

[rps.org/awardstalks](https://rps.org/awardstalks).

— ENDS —



For further information, images and biographies, please contact Rebecca Lee, RPS Communications Manager: [rebecca@rps.org](mailto:rebecca@rps.org)

Image credit: Tyler Mitchell, Butterfly, 2019 © Tyler Mitchell. Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

[rps.org/awards](https://rps.org/awards)

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#### **ABOUT THE RPS AWARDS**

The RPS awards selection committee is made up of members of the Royal Photographic Society and respected external advisors from all fields of photography. Nominations for 2022 are open now (closing 31 January 2022). Previous recipients of the RPS Awards include Sally Mann HonFRPS, Steve McCurry HonFRPS, Annie Leibovitz HonFRPS, Sir David Attenborough HonFRPS, Martin Parr HonFRPS and Sir Don McCullin HonFRPS.

#### **ABOUT THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

The Royal Photographic Society (The RPS) is an educational charity with a diverse and international membership. Founded in 1853, when photography was in its infancy, the objective of the RPS is to make the art and science of photography more widely available and is committed to bringing photography to everyone. Today, the RPS is a world-leading photographic community, based in Bristol, UK, with a membership of over 10,000 photographers. The RPS aims to inspire people through its innovative exhibitions, its award-winning RPS Journal, and its highly respected awards and events. The RPS helps photographers create images through its educational programmes, qualifications, and its public initiatives; and it seeks to connect photographers through its UK and international regional hubs, and specialist groups. Membership is open to everyone.

[rps.org](https://rps.org)

