

Press release

Issued, London: *Thursday 4 May 2017*

RICHARD MOSSE WINS 7TH PRIX PICTET

**Awarded by Honorary President Kofi Annan at a Ceremony
at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London**



Richard Mosse was this evening (Thursday 4 May 2017) announced as winner of the seventh Prix Pictet, *Space*, selected from a shortlist of twelve. Mosse was chosen for his series *Heat Maps 2016-17*. The prize, with a value of 100,000 Swiss Francs, is sponsored by Swiss wealth and asset managers, the Pictet Group.

Kofi Annan, Honorary President of Prix Pictet, announced the prize at a reception for the opening of an exhibition of the work of the twelve shortlisted photographers at the **Victoria and Albert Museum** in London, which opens to the public on 6 May and continues until 28 May 2017.

Richard Mosse's *Heat Maps* series documents refugee camps using a military grade thermal camera that can detect body heat from a distance of 30.3 km. The series focuses on the journey of migrants across Europe, the Middle East and north Africa. Mosse has used the camera to scan the sites, creating densely detailed panoramic thermal images, tracing each camp's perimeter and the anthropology of life within.

Richard Mosse was born in Ireland in 1980 and received his MFA in Photography from Yale University in 2008. His work has been exhibited in major museums and galleries worldwide. His latest series, *Heat Maps*, was exhibited at the Barbican, London, in February 2017.

Speaking at the ceremony, Kofi Annan said: 'Whether they focus on our cities; on the oceans, borders and barricades; on outer space or on the humanitarian crises unfolding across Europe; each of the photographers shortlisted for this cycle of the awards address their subject with a brilliant singularity of vision.'

"Again and again they present us with visions of people carrying on against what are frequently dreadful odds.

"Perhaps in this there is hope. Hope that, despite the catastrophic damage that we have visited on the natural world and on the lives of our most vulnerable fellow citizens, it is not too late for us to reverse the damage we have done – to allow each other the space to think again.

"For all the havoc they portray, the artists shortlisted for Space have shone a light on this possibility. We would be foolish to ignore their messages."

Speaking on behalf of the Jury, **Sir David King**, Chair of the Judges, said: "Our task as the Jury was as demanding as I have ever known, because of the outstanding quality of the work submitted for the Prix Pictet shortlist. It was only after a long and lively debate that we arrived at the decision to award the 7th Prix Pictet to Richard Mosse for his 'Heat Maps' series. It is a brilliantly original and topical narrative on the fragile lives of displaced people, who cling to existence in the margins of first world economies."

The twelve shortlisted photographers were **Mandy Barker** [b. 1964, UK] based in Leeds, **Saskia Groneberg** [b. 1985, Germany] based in Munich, **Beate Guetschow** [b. 1970, Germany] based in Berlin and Cologne, **Rinko Kawauchi** [b. 1972, Japan] based in Tokyo, **Benny Lam** [b. 1967, Hong Kong] living and working in Hong Kong, **Richard Mosse** [b. 1980, Ireland] based in New York City and Ireland, **Sohei Nishino** [b. 1982, Japan] based in Tokyo, **Sergey Ponomarev** [b. 1980, Russia] based in Moscow, **Thomas Ruff** [b. 1958, Germany] based in Düsseldorf, **Munem Wasif** [b. 1983, Bangladesh] based in Dhaka, **Pavel Wolberg** [b. 1966, Russia] based in Tel Aviv, and **Michael Wolf** [b. 1954, Germany] based in Hong Kong.

Founded in 2008 by the Pictet Group in Geneva, Switzerland, the Prix Pictet is established as the world's leading award for photography and sustainability. It has reached an audience of over 400 million people worldwide through over 80 exhibitions in 54 different cities. To date there have been seven cycles of the award, each of which has highlighted a particular facet of sustainability. The seven themes are: *Water, Earth, Growth, Power, Consumption, Disorder* and *Space*. A book has been published on each of the themes showcasing the work of the shortlisted photographers. The six previous Prix Pictet laureates are, in order: Benoit Aquin, Nadav Kander, Mitch Epstein, Luc Delahaye, Michael Schmidt and Valérie Belin.

Prix Pictet at the V&A

6 – 28 May 2017

V&A

Cromwell Road
London SW7 2RL
Admission Free

<http://www.prixpictet.com/>

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Notes to Editors

The Jury for the seventh cycle of the Prix Pictet was:

Professor Sir David King, Chairman, UK Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change (SRCC)

Martin Barnes, Senior Curator of Photographs, V&A

Valérie Belin, photographer, winner of the sixth Prix Pictet in 2015

Philippe Bertherat, former Managing Partner of the Prix Pictet Group, collector and philanthropist

Jan Dalley, Arts Editor, Financial Times

Emmanuelle de L'Ecotais, Curator of Photography, Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris

Dambisa Moyo, global economist and author

Sebastião Salgado, photographer

Wang Shu, architect, Professor, Winner of the Pritzker Prize 2012

Richard Mosse, b. 1980, Ireland

Richard Mosse received his MFA in Photography from Yale University in 2008. He has exhibited at the Venice Biennale; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis; The Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach; Palazzo Strozzi, Florence; Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal; The Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham North Carolina; Kunsthaus Graz; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; UNSW Australia, Sydney; Foam Fotografiemuseum, Amsterdam; The Photographers' Gallery, London; FOMU Fotomuseum, Antwerp; Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival Toronto; Minsheng Art Museum Shanghai; Kunsthalle München; Akademie der Künste, Berlin; Portland Art Museum; Salaam Kivu International Film Festival, Goma and others. Mosse is a recipient of the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize (2014); Poynter Fellowship in Journalism (2014); B3 Biennale Award, Frankfurt (2013); an ECAS Commission (2013); Visual Arts Bursary from the Arts Council of Ireland (2012); Künstlerhaus Bethanien Residency (2012); the Guggenheim Fellowship (2011) and a Leonore Annenberg Fellowship (2008–10). *Heat Maps*, has been commissioned by the Barbican Art Gallery, London and the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.

About the V&A photography collection

The V&A has collected photographs since it was founded in 1852. In 1977, the collection was designated the National Collection of the Art of Photography in recognition of its significance. The V&A has recently expanded its vast collection of historic and contemporary photography with the transfer of the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) collection from the Science Museum Group. The addition of over 270,000 photographs, 26,000 publications and 6,000 pieces of camera-related equipment reinforces the V&A's position as one of the most important photography collections in the world.