

PRESS RELEASE



FRÉDÉRIC STUCIN WINS THE 11TH ANNUAL COMPETITION “UN PHOTOGRAPHE POUR EURAZEO”

FLORENCE LEVILLAIN RECEIVES A SPECIAL COMMENDATION

Paris, February 17, 2021 –

The Eurazeo judging panel has crowned **Frédéric Stucin** as the winner of the “Un Photographe pour Eurazeo” competition for **Le Décor (The Backdrop)**. His winning collection magnificently captures the empty streets of Paris during the first lockdown.

Since 2010, the competition has recognized the work of professional photographers, awarding winners a €10,000 prize and giving them the opportunity to put on an exhibition of their work. In keeping with our tradition of setting a theme for the competition, this year we asked the photographers to share a story of personal significance.

Headed by Jean-François Camp, the judging panel examined over 100 submissions of the highest artistic calibre.

Florence Levillain, a finalist for the second year in a row, **received a special commendation** for her highly expressive, captivating collection *Nébuleuse* (Nebula). The two award-winning collections, each in different photography styles, share a common theme: lockdown and the impact it has had on our lives and how we view the world.

Meanwhile, as part of the partnership Eurazeo established in 2019 with the ENSP (École Nationale Supérieure de Photographie) school of photography in Arles, two €5,000 grants were awarded to two graduates: Hélène Bellenger for her project **White Powder**, as well as Marie Hervé and Elsa Martinez for **Le sable des bruits (The Sand of Noise)**. The grants will support the artistic endeavours of these women who will also be offered mentoring from a former winner of the “Un Photographe pour Eurazeo” competition.

Philippe Audouin, Directeur Général Finances and CFO of Eurazeo, said,

“Every year, I take great pleasure in looking at the submissions we receive from dozens of photographers. I would like to thank each and every one of them, as they have made the competition the undeniable success it is today. Culture and the arts have greatly suffered this past year, so we are delighted to step up our support of photography.”

This year, not only did we pick an overall winner, but we also awarded a special commendation to a seasoned entrant whose poetic charm and gentleness we admire. Moreover, we will use our new endowment fund to support the work of three ENSP graduates. Thanks again to all the artists for helping us see the world in a different light.”

Jean-François Camp, President of the judging panel, added:

“It’s heartening to see that the ‘Un Photographe pour Eurazeo’ was able to go ahead despite the awful health and economic crisis. We received a huge number of submissions, including some from renowned photographers. We ended up choosing two photographers who had submitted very different visual narratives. Winner Frédéric Stucin submitted a collection on lockdown, which was quite a bold move given the number of submissions on that highly topical theme. His elegant portrayal of a deserted Paris in chiaroscuro, with dazzling lights and people trying to escape a twilight reality literally enthralled us.

Discussing his collection, Frédéric Stucin said,

“As I wandered through the streets of Paris during the first lockdown, I wondered whether my surroundings were actually real. The city had become a backdrop, a vast set on which filming had been suspended. With the odd passer-by, we explored the backdrop of our lives at a standstill. This turmoil, this feeling of darkness in the middle of the day was what I sought to capture on my daily walks around Paris. I’m delighted to have won a competition as prestigious as the Eurazeo Prize. I’m really proud to think of my work being included in Eurazeo’s collection alongside renowned artists. Receiving the award in recognition of my work means a lot to me. It’s a tough time for culture and photography in particular; the prize money will help me carry out my ongoing projects with greater peace of mind.”

Florence Levillain added,

“I am pleased to see my work being included in Eurazeo’s photography collection. I am grateful to the competition for helping photographers, particularly when we need support and encouragement now more than ever to ensure our creative process weathers this difficult, pandemic-stricken time.”

About Eurazeo

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