

SOPHIE ZENON WINS THE 10TH ANNUAL COMPETITION “UN PHOTOGRAPHE POUR EURAZEO”

Paris, January 20, 2020

The judges of the competition “Un Photographe pour Eurazeo” have awarded first prize to the collection submitted by Sophie Zénon, *Dans le miroir des rizières (Maria)*.

Since 2010, this competition has been recognizing the work of professional photographers, offering prize money of €10,000. This year, to mark the 10th anniversary of the competition, Eurazeo invited participating photographers to recount a story that is of deep personal significance.

The Eurazeo Prize for emerging photographers, created this year in partnership with French National School of Photography, ENSP, was awarded to Camille Kirnidis.

The work of both artists will be exhibited from February 6 to 14, 2020 at the Hôtel de l'Industrie, 4 place Saint-Germain-des-Près in Paris, France. They will also be on display in Eurazeo's offices in Paris and New York.

Virginie Morgon, CEO of the Executive Board, said, *“For this anniversary edition, we decided to put our annual theme to one side and invite the photographers to give us a glimpse of their world. We wanted them to show us something new, open our eyes, take us on a journey and inspire us. We set them a challenge – seduce and surprise us! We were thrilled with the quality of the collections submitted, which just goes to show that our competition has come to be highly regarded in the industry. Among the stunning entries, it was Sophie Zénon's work that moved us the most. She tells the story of a quest for identity and the importance of our roots and origins. I am especially delighted that the winner of our 10th anniversary edition is a woman.”*

Jean-François Camp, President of the judging panel, added, *“Of the many entries, the judges selected the collection submitted by Sophie Zénon. Rarely in the history of our photography competition, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, has a winner so clearly stood out in the eyes of the entire panel. This is the second time Sophie has entered our competition and her work managed to perfectly capture the theme we were looking to explore – that of a story of deep personal significance that transports us to a world of poetic fantasy. Sophie Zénon enchanted us with the aesthetic quality of her photographic compositions. We are pleased to invite you to admire her work from February 6 at the Hôtel de l'Industrie, place Saint-Germain-des-Près in Paris, which is a sublime celebration of memory and imagination taking flight in places of breathtaking beauty.”*

Discussing her collection, Sophie Zénon explained, *“The collection submitted to the Eurazeo Prize tells a story that is very personal to me. Titled “Dans le miroir des rizières (Maria)”, it echoes the life of my Italian grandmother, Maria, in her youth in the paddy fields of Po in Italy. Maria's past has been handed down from generation to generation, and it is now I, one of her grand-daughters, who is searching for answers about the meaning of the words “origin” and “identity”.*

This work draws inspiration from a buried memory and considers matters such as exile and the loss of a place you were born or once lived. What kind of a story, or imagination, can you stir when everything you are is missing? Taking photos from the family album and brought to life in poetic micro-fictions, I built my own album, my own story. It's an invitation to reconsider a family memory."

The collection was produced using the "Résidence pour la Photographie" grant awarded by the Fondation des Treilles, which Sophie Zénon won in 2015.

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