



## **Olaf Schuelke, GERMANY shortlisted for world's biggest photography awards**

- **Selected from 173,444 images from 171 countries**
- **Images will be exhibited in London and published in Sony World Photography Awards book**
- **Winners revealed 23 April – competing for \$25,000 prize**
- **Images available at [press.worldphoto.org](http://press.worldphoto.org) or [image.net](http://image.net)**

© Olaf Schuelke, Germany, Shortlist, Professional, Arts & Culture 2015 Sony World Photography Awards

**24 February:** German photographer **Olaf Schuelke** is today announced on the shortlist for the Professional Arts & Culture category of the world's biggest photography competition, the Sony World Photography Awards.

Schuelke's series, BURMA PUNK was selected from 173,444 images from 171 countries, the highest number of entries in the awards' eight year history.

He will now compete to win the category and the coveted L'Iris D'Or/ Sony World Photography Awards Photographer of the Year title plus a \$25,000 (USD) cash prize and latest Sony digital imaging equipment. The winners will be announced on Thursday 23 April.

Olaf Schuelke is an independent German documentary photographer and writer currently based in Singapore.

He specializes in Documentary Photography, Street Photography, Reportage, Photojournalism and Commercial projects with a documentary approach.

He has travelled extensively over the past 24 years and has always been fascinated with capturing the different facets of human life through the lens. He doesn't concentrate on current political events and affairs. Instead he focuses on self-driven projects in Asia documenting its people, cultures and their daily lives.

I am very happy to be on the shortlist and to be able to show a small fraction of my work to a wider audience.

Parallel to the official start of the Burmese New Year Water Festival ("Thingyan") an underground punk rock concert took place in the former Burmese capital city of Yangon (Rangoon) on April 12, 2014. The punk counterculture of Myanmar was mainly influenced by the British and U.S. American punk music scene of the 1970's and 80's and exists on the fringes of the once closed-off country. The local punks revolt against any political injustice as well as against religious intolerance and express that through their music. I have been aware of the existence of Burmese punks but never came across any of them during my 12 months in Yangon. It was a matter of luck that one day I happened to meet a local guy on the streets who told me about the planned concert to two days before the gig.

Each year the Sony World Photography Awards uncovers the best contemporary photography in the world and rewards and recognises both professional photographers and enthusiasts. The Professional competition was judged anonymously by a panel of experts from the World Photographic Academy and photographers were judged on a series of between 3 and 10 images. See full list of judges and bios [here](#).

Schuelke's images, along with the other shortlisted photographers, will be shown at London's iconic Somerset House from 24 April – 10 May as part of the 2015 Sony World Photography Awards Exhibition. Tickets are now available at [www.worldphoto.org/2015exhibition](http://www.worldphoto.org/2015exhibition)

Talking about all the photographers shortlisted in the Professional competition Astrid Merget Motsenigos, Creative Director of the World Photography Organisation and organiser of the awards said:

*"The sole purpose of the Sony World Photography Awards is to celebrate and appreciate the talented artists working in the photographic industry. Once again, the shortlist demonstrates the vibrancy, diversity and skill of both today's established photographers and, as importantly, the growing army of citizen photographers for whom the awards offer unprecedented exposure and opportunity.*

*"The record number of entries gave our expert panel of judges a monumental task but we are incredibly proud to present to you a shortlist which truly showcases some of the world's best photography."*

**For more information about Olaf Schuelke please visit [www.olafschuelke.com](http://www.olafschuelke.com)**

For further information about the Sony World Photography Awards please contact:  
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- Images from the shortlist are available to download at [press.worldphoto.org](http://press.worldphoto.org) or via [Image.net](http://Image.net)
- Please note, images cannot be used on social media platforms without the permission of the photographer
- If using on Twitter please #SWPA and tag @WorldPhotoOrg

Notes to editors:

- 177,444 images were entered in total to the 2015 Sony World Photography Awards: 87,505 Professional entries; 79,264 Open entries and 6,675 Youth entries images
- **About World Photography Organisation (WPO)**  
WPO is a home where photography is celebrated and the art of the photographer is recognised. Working with professional, enthusiast and student photographers alike, the World Photography Organisation provides a global network across the photographic industry to not only raise the level of conversation around the subject, but to increase awareness and appreciation of this artform. WPO hosts a year-round portfolio of industry and public events including: **Sony World Photography Awards**, the world's largest photography competition and accompanying global exhibition; the **World Photography Student Focus Programme**, inspiring and working with the next generation of photographers, and **Photo Shanghai**, Asia Pacific's premier art fair dedicated to photography. In addition, WPO has a thriving online presence via its website, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and addresses the industry's latest issues in its monthly online publication, **The Magazine**. For more information please visit [www.worldphoto.org](http://www.worldphoto.org)
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