

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01hrs,  
SATURDAY 12TH JULY 2008**

## Press release

### Prix Pictet Shortlist Announced – £50,000 Photography Prize Focusing on Sustainability

- World's finest photographers compete for the first global photographic award focusing on sustainability
- Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General, to be Honorary President
- Judges: Francis Hodgson (Chairman), Régis Durand, Leo Johnson, Abbas Kiarostami, Richard Misrach, Loa Haagen Pictet

London and Geneva, 12 July, 2008. Blood coloured rivers. Floods. Dust storms from man-made deserts. These are just some of the haunting images shortlisted for the Prix Pictet, the world's first international award for photography focusing on sustainability. For 2008, the inaugural year, the theme is water.

The Prix Pictet ([www.prixpictet.com](http://www.prixpictet.com)), presided over by Nobel Laureate and Former Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan, has a unique mandate—to use the power of the photographic medium to bring home crucial sustainability messages to a global audience.

#### **General public invited to vote for winner**

All the shortlisted images will be displayed from Saturday, 12 July 2008 on the Prix Pictet website ([www.prixpictet.com](http://www.prixpictet.com)) and members of the public are invited to cast their votes for the image that in their opinion has the artistic quality and power of expression demanded by the Prix.

These votes will be taken into consideration by the jury when they make their final decision in October 2008.

In the words of Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, United Nations Special Envoy on Climate Change, and keynote speaker at the 29 April 2008 launch of the Prix Pictet in London, *"It is urgent that we help create a broader basis for action. We all need to mobilise public opinion to support the changes we are dependent upon... The Prix Pictet is a unique opportunity for the world's leading photographers to influence change for the good in the field of sustainability."*

Consistent with this mandate, the prize has a clear selection criterion: works that are of outstanding artistic merit that also communicate messages of urgent global significance.

From an exceptional 2008 field of over 200 photographers from 43 countries, 18 photographers (biographies below) have now been shortlisted for Prix Pictet. They are; Benoit Aquin, Edward Burtynsky, Jesus Abad Colorado, Thomas Joshua Cooper, Sebastian Copeland, Christian Cravo, Lynn Davis, Reza Deghati, Susan Derges, Malcolm Hutcheson, Chris Jordan, Carl De Keyzer, David Maisel, Mary Mattingly, Robert Polidori, Roman Signer, Jules Spinatsch, Munem Wasif. The winning artist will receive CHF100,000 (£50,000). At the same time one of the shortlisted artists will be offered a commission worth CHF40,000 (£20,000) to record a water-related project supported by Pictet & Cie.

**An exclusive press preview of the shortlisted work will be held in London on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at which there will be the opportunity to talk to Judges. Please contact Kallaway to reserve your place.**

The Prix Pictet exhibition runs from 29 October – 8 November 2008 at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris. The winner of the first Prix Pictet and the name of the commissioned artist will be announced on 30 October 2008 at a gala dinner at the Palais de Tokyo. Starting in Dubai in November an exhibition of the Prix Pictet 2008 will tour the world, and is expected to attract attention and stimulate debate about the most pressing environmental issues of our time.

**Kofi Annan**, former UN Secretary General, is the Prix Pictet Honorary President.

**Francis Hodgson**, Head of Photographs, Sotheby's, leads the internationally recognised panel of experts who will judge the Prix. The judges include the American artist **Richard Misrach**; the Iranian film director **Abbas Kiarostami**; **Régis Durand**, the distinguished writer and critic, and former Director of the Jeu de Paume; **Loa Haagen Pictet**, Pictet & Cie's art consultant and **Leo Johnson**, Co-Founder, Sustainable Finance.

**Nicolas Pictet, Partner of Pictet & Cie**, comments, *"The calibre of the shortlisted work for this inaugural year of the Prix Pictet clearly illustrates how the issue of sustainability resonates throughout the artistic community. We strongly believe that by bringing these images to the attention of the world, Prix Pictet will further highlight the devastating effect climate change is having on our planet and ensure sustainability remains at the heart of global policy making."*

**Francis Hodgson, Head of Photography, Sotheby's** said: *"The artistic and technical quality of the entries from photographers around the world has been quite exceptional, and the power of the messages the photographers have been able to communicate is extraordinary. So much so that we have put forward a longer shortlist than expected."*

*"The brief - to communicate sustainability issues through photography, with particular reference in this first year to issues concerning water - has been interpreted with tremendous variety and vigour. Whether reporting in detail on development or aiming more broadly to stimulate thought, the photographers have achieved a very high level of impact. The strength of the entries overall has been wonderfully impressive, and I know that I speak for the whole group of judges when I say that I look forward with keen anticipation to being involved in selecting a winner for this exciting and prestigious prize."*

**The Prix Pictet shortlisted artists are:**

**Benoit Aquin** (Canada, 1963): Aquin's series *The Chinese Dust Bowl* shows probably the largest conversion of productive land into sand anywhere in the world. Three hundred million people are affected by dust storms in China and this series of photographs examines scarce water resources, desertification and ecological refugees in the Republic. Benoit is a photojournalist and landscape photographer exploring large-scale environmental issues and their impact on humanity. He has exhibited in major photographic events in Canada, and his work is part of the collection in the Canadian Contemporary Photography Museum. His photographs have been featured in publications worldwide.

**Edward Burtynsky** (Canadian, 1955): Burtynsky has submitted a series showing landscapes such as dams and oil fields transformed by human industry. He aims to inspire change to preserve the planet for future generations. Edward is an award-winning photographer and author of three books of photography. He is the founder and president of Toronto Image Works, a full service photographic lab and education facility. He has exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions and has received awards including the TED prize. Edward's photographs are housed in many private, corporate and public collections such as The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

**Jesús Abad Colorado** (Colombia, 1967): Jesús Abad Colorado's submitted photographs document the impact of war on the environment, and the devastation caused to Colombia's incredible natural habitats. Water is a major issue for the country of Colombia as only 104 out of 1013 counties have suitable drinking water despite the region being abundant with tropical rains and thousands of rivers and lagoons. Jesús Abad Colorado has exhibited throughout Latin America, Europe, Canada, and the United States and has received several national awards including the Simón Bolívar National Journalist Award. He is a co-author of *Tales and Images: Forced Displacement in Colombia* and has contributed to numerous magazines and social research books.

**Thomas Joshua Cooper** (America, 1946): Thomas Joshua Cooper's shortlisted works are part of *The World's Edge – The Atlantic Basin Project*, which began over two decades ago with the aim of creating a photographic 'map' of the extremities of the lands and islands of all five continents surrounding the Atlantic Ocean. Thomas has exhibited worldwide in venues such as Tate, St Ives and the Museum of Modern Art, Oslo. In 1982 he established the Department of Photography at the Glasgow School of Art. He is a Royal Scottish Academician and has received a number of awards in the UK and USA.

**Sebastian Copeland** (UK, 1964): Copeland's shortlisted photographs are from his book *Antarctica*. They examine the accelerated devastation of the Antarctica ice shelf where there is huge evidence of the severe impact of global warming. Temperatures have risen on the western slope of this most southern continent by 2.5C during the last 50 years alone. Sebastian is a photographer and environmental activist. He serves on the Board of Directors of Global Green USA, an affiliate of Mikhail Gorbachev's Green Cross International. His celebrity portrait work has been featured in hundreds of publications worldwide. He is the 2007 winner of two first place International Photography Awards.

**Christian Cravo** (Brazil, 1974): Cravo's shortlisted series *Waters of Hope* explores the sacred aspect of water – an element wasted by many yet revered by others. The underlying theme of these images is that water is the main source of life and not just an infrastructural source. Christian is a self-taught photographer whose work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions internationally. His photographs are included in significant collections worldwide such as the Museum of Modern Art, Salvador and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation in New York. He has published and contributed to several books and catalogues and has received awards and scholarships for his work.

**Lynn Davis** (America, 1945): Davis has submitted works showing the melting of the icebergs cleaved from the Ilulissat glacier, which she photographed from 1986 – 2007. Through her images Lynn aims to bring to focus the impending fate of the sea ice and the greater impact this may have. Lynn has exhibited across the world from Tehran to Cologne. Her works are included in collections such as the J. Paul Getty Museum, California and the Guggenheim, New York. She has been commissioned for a number of projects including *In Response to Place: Photographs from the Nature Conservancy's Last Great Places*.

**Reza Deghati** (Iran, 1952): Deghati has entered images that address the delicate balance between the four elements. He seeks to raise awareness of this universal balance, which is gradually fracturing. Reza is a photojournalist, author and founder of AINA 'the mirror', a non-profit organisation dedicated to the education and empowerment of women and children through the use of media, communication and education. In November 2005 Reza was awarded France's highest civilian honour, the 'Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite', for his philanthropic work.

**Susan Derges** (UK, 1955): Derges presents a range of works from the series *Eden, The Observer and the Observed, Full Circle, River Bovey, Recycling Lucifers Fall* and *River Taw*. In her series *Eden*, a major commission for the Eden Project in Cornwall, she uses the metamorphosis of water, as it is recycled in the environment as a metaphor to explore the wider cycles of life, death and renewal. Derges is an internationally recognised art photographer based in Devon. She has exhibited both throughout the UK and internationally, in venues such as The Photographers Gallery, London, New World Art Center, Houston and Tokyo Design Centre in Tokyo. Her work is held in many collections, including the Metropolitan Museum, New York and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

**Malcolm Hutcheson** (UK, 1966): Hutcheson's series *Lahore's Waste Water Problem* documents the people who have to work with waste water in Lahore – either maintaining the system or making money from using it. Though the long-term health risks are unclear, it is never through choice that these people chose to work in these conditions. Hutcheson works in Pakistan with a traditional handmade wooden camera from which he develops negatives at the time of exposure. He is Assistant Professor of Photographic Arts and the School of Visual Arts, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore and has exhibited in various galleries in Lahore, The Photographers' Gallery, London and the Nordlicht, Kiel.

**Chris Jordan** (America, 1963): Jordan's series *In Katrina's Wake: Portraits of Loss from an Unnatural Disaster* and *Intolerable Beauty: Portraits of American Mass Consumption* tackle the impact of American consumerism and the issues of personal accountability. *In Katrina's Wake* makes links between the hurricane season's extraordinary severity and global warming, which America contributes to in disproportionate measure through its extravagant consumer and industrial practices. Almost 300,000 people lost everything they owned in the disaster and Jordan forces us to question whether we are all in some way responsible. Jordan is a corporate lawyer turned award-winning photographer. His images tackle the impact of American consumerism and the issues of accountability. From 2003 – 08 he has had 16 solo exhibits worldwide and in 2007 was part of the *Envisioning Change* exhibition at the Nobel Peace Center, Norway where he also won a Green Leaf Award.

**Carl De Keyzer:** (Belgium, 1958): Carl De Keyzer's series *Moments Before the Flood*, capture images of landscapes and water from the coastlines of England, Iceland, Poland and Scandinavia. If some predictions come true, the world's water level could rise 3-5 meters, which would have devastating effects on the European coastline. These photographs contain a certain uneasiness that points towards this upcoming catastrophe while also attempting to preserve the beauty of the coastline for the last time. De Keyzer is a freelance photographer. He is the co-founder of XYZ-Photography Gallery and is a member of Magnum Photo Agency. De Keyzer has exhibited his work regularly in European galleries and is the recipient of a large number of awards including the Book Award from the Arles Festival, the W. Eugene Smith Award (1990) and the Kodak Award (1992). He has lectured in numerous universities and arts schools worldwide.

**David Maisel** (America, 1961): Maisel entered two chapters from his series *Black Maps*, which comprises aerial photographs of environmentally impacted landscapes. *The Lake Project* and *Terminal Mirage* document the environmental damage inflicted by human activities on the previously lush waterways of Owens Lake, California and the Great Salt Lake in Utah. The exposed Owens lakebed has become the highest source of particulate matter pollution in the US, emitting 300,000 tonnes of cadmium, chromium, arsenic and other materials annually. Maisel has exhibited his works internationally, and many are included in permanent collections, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. His work has been the subject of two monographs: *The Lake Project* (Nazraeli Press, 2004), and *Oblivion* (Nazraeli Press, 2006). Chronicle Books will publish a third monograph, *Library of Dust*, in Fall 2008.

**Mary Mattingly** (America, 1978): Mattingly's series *Nomadographies*, *Time Has Fallen Asleep* and *Second Nature* present narrative illustrations of future conditions that large populations can and may face. For these series, she travelled to places in danger of drought or experiencing an excess of water due to melting glaciers or storms to experience and document the hardships imposed and the subsequent relief efforts. Mattingly has exhibited her work in solo and group shows around the world at numerous venues including Galerie Adler, Germany and White Box, New York. Her photographs have been featured in a range of publications such as ARTnews, Artforum and Time Out New York. She has co-curated interventions called Waterways alongside the Venice Biennial and the Istanbul Biennial.

**Robert Polidori** (Canada 1951): Polidori's series *After the Flood* documents the impact of Hurricane Katrina and the devastating levels of destruction. Originally planning to record the rebuilding of New Orleans, he realised that this would never happen 'as the city's economy vanished with the resident evacuation'. What is shown is therefore only 180° of the recovery cycle, rather than the 360° that the artist had imagined. Polidori has exhibited extensively in Europe and America and has published a number of books including *After the Flood* (2006) and *Fotografie: Portfolio* (2006). His works are included in important collections including the Museum of Modern Art, New York. He has twice received the Alfred Eisenstadt Award for Magazine Photography and won the World Press Award for his coverage of the Getty Museum's construction in 1998.

**Roman Signer** (Switzerland 1938): Signer is a visual artist who works in sculpture, photography, and video. Signer's "action sculptures" involve setting up, carrying out, and recording "experiments" or events that bear aesthetic results. His work has been shown at numerous galleries and museums in Europe, North America and Asia over the last thirty years.

**Jules Spinatsch** (Switzerland, 1964): Spinatsch presents his series *Snow Management*, which documents the extraordinary measures that resorts are taking to combat the effects of global warming to maintain the winter sports industry. It demonstrates for example, the heavy use of technology and huge energy consumption required to turn water into snow – night after night. Spinatsch has exhibited worldwide in venues such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York and Centre de la Photographie, Geneva. He has won numerous prizes including Prix du Livre, Rencontre d'Arles-F, Best Photography Book Worldwide in 2005 and the first International BMW Photography Prize at Paris Photo in 2004 for the series *Snow Management*. He also teaches at Geneva University of Art and Design.

**Munem Wasif** (Bangladesh, 1983): Wasif's series *Climate Refugee of Bangladesh* documents the climate refugees of Bangladesh who have to relocate as a result of too much or too little water as caused by global warming. Wasif has worked as a photojournalist for the Daily Star, a leading English daily in Bangladesh, DrikNEWS and Agency VU. His photographs have been published in numerous national and international publications including Le Monde and Forum. He won an "Honorable Mention" in the 2007 All Roads Photography Program by the National Geographic Society. His global exhibitions portfolio includes the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography in Japan and Getty Image Gallery in England.

### **Judging process and judging panel**

Prize entrants have been recommended by 49 nominators around the world. For the past month the judging panel has been reviewing the nominated work to produce the shortlist looking specifically for photographs that best contribute to public awareness of issues involving sustainability. The subject matter is not tightly defined, nor is the technique used by the photographer. The judges shortlisted original contributions that, in their opinion, best used the resources of photography to communicate issues concerning the topic of water. No distinction was made between artistic merit and success in communicating the message.

### **Prix Pictet Timeline**

For further details of the Prix Pictet visit [www.prixpictet.com](http://www.prixpictet.com)

- **12 July 2008**, Shortlist announced
- **29 October – 8 November 2008**, Exhibition, Palais de Tokyo, Paris
- **30 October 2008**, Award Ceremony & Gala Dinner, Palais de Tokyo, Paris
- **November 2008**, Exhibition of work shortlisted for Prix Pictet begins a global tour in Dubai
- **Spring 2009**, Launch of Prix Pictet 2009 and the exhibition of commissioned work

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### **Note to Editors**

The Prix Pictet has been created as a contribution to the sustainability debate by Swiss private bank, Pictet & Cie. Pictet & Cie believes that sustainability issues are of fundamental environmental, social and financial consequence. Through its private banking, institutional asset management and funds distribution businesses, Pictet has for a number of years played a leadership role around sustainability issues. Pictet Asset Management currently manages a number of specialist funds that focus on, or relate to the issue of sustainability. Pictet's sector funds include the €3.2billion PF(Lux)–Water Fund, launched in January 2000, the €628 million PF(Lux)-Clean Energy Fund, launched in May 2007, both the largest funds of their type, and Pictet Water Opportunities Fund Limited, launched in March 2008. Pictet manages a further €1.5billion in sustainable portfolios, including the PF(Lux)-European Sustainable Equities Fund. (Fund sizes as reported at 31 March 2008).

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