

PRESS RELEASE

Vienna, 1 August 2009

World Press Photo 09

WestLicht. Schauplatz für Fotografie will be hosting the annual show of the world's best press pictures

30 Oct. to 29 Nov. 2009



World Press Photo of the Year 2008: Anthony Suau, USA, for Time 1. Prize Nature, photo series, Steve Winter, USA, National Geographic Magazine

From the 30th of October to the 31st November 2009 **WestLicht. Schauplatz für Fotografie** will be presenting the exhibition **World Press Photo 09**. Around 200 of the best press photos of 2008 which received awards and mentions during the largest and most prestigious competition for photo journalism in the world will be on show. This year the exhibition, designed as a travelling show, will be presented in well-known galleries and museums all over the world and is expected to be seen by over two million people. It is not only an impressive show of the achievements in international photo journalism, it is also a unique retrospective of world events and contemporary happenings of past year.

The prizes for photo series and individual photos in ten categories were announced on the 13th of February 2009. The international jury of the 52nd World Press Photo Competition chose a black and white photograph by American photographer **Anthony Suau as the best press photo of the year 2008**: a policeman, with drawn pistol, enforces the eviction of an owner who is unable to pay the instalments on his own home. A symbolic picture of the US mortgage crisis, the jury judged. "The strength of the photograph lies in its contradictions. It appears to be a classic war photograph when in fact it is only an eviction following a compulsory sale. War, in the classic sense of the world, is penetrating peoples' houses simply because



they can no longer meet their mortgage payments”, said the president of the jury, **MaryAnne Golon**, stating the jury’s grounds for the decision.

Over **18,000** interested visitors saw the exhibition in 2008 in **WestLicht**. This year the exhibition will be taking place in WestLicht for the eighth year in succession. This presentation of individual photographs and series make it possible to look back on the past year through icons of contemporary history and it shows a vivid parade of events from the areas of politics, sport, culture, environment and science.

Since 1955 the board of the *World Press Photo Foundation*, an independent platform for photo journalism with its head office in Amsterdam, has been inviting press photographers and photo journalists from all over the world to take part in the *World Press Photo Competition*. A 13-person international jury which changes each year judges the submissions made by photographers, agencies, newspapers and magazines from all over the world.

5,508 professional photographers from **124** countries competed for the coveted awards this year. 96,268 photographs were adjudicated. The jury made awards to 64 photographers from 27 countries in ten different subject categories: **reports, hard facts, nature, sport feature, sport action, art and culture, portraits, everyday life, current topics and people in the headlines**. The prize-winners of this year’s 52nd World Press Photo Award come from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Columbia, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Holland, Poland, Russia, El Salvador, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the USA.

World Press Photo is supported by the Netherlands Postal Code Lottery and sponsored worldwide by Canon and TNT. Further information at: www.worldpressphoto.nl.

INFORMATION ABOUT PICTURE USE AND CREDITS

Permission is given for the picture material to be used for a single publication in print media or temporary on-line publication. It may only be used in direct connection with reports about the exhibition *World Press Photo 09*. No other use is permitted and any other proposed use must be clarified directly with the photographer or agency in question. World Press Photo will be happy to provide further information by writing to: office@worldpressphoto.nl. Pictures may not be cropped or otherwise altered. Picture files must be removed from archives after they have been used. Picture credits should include: name of photographer, agency or original publication (picture title)

PRESS CONTACT & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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PRESS PREVIEW:

Thursday, 29th October 2009 at 5 p.m.

We are looking forward to your reservation. Please call: +43-1-522 66 36/65 or mail to: kaiser@westlicht.com

FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Location: WestLicht. Schauplatz für Fotografie, Westbahnstr. 40, 1070 Vienna

Duration: 30th October till 31st November 2009

Opening hours: Tues, Wed, Fri from 2-7 p.m., Thurs 2-9 p.m.,
Sat, Sun, Holidays 11 a.m.- 7 p.m., Closed Mondays

Tickets: Adults €6,50
Many reductions!