

The Spider Awards

Celebrating its 5th year, Black and White Spider Awards is the leading international competition honouring excellence in black and white photography. Because the Spider Awards is an online competition, the name is a play on the letters of WWW which stands for World Wide Web, affectionately called the web, or a spider's web! This celebrated event shines a spotlight on the best professional and amateur photographers worldwide and honours the finest images with the highest achievements in black and white photography. The Awards are juried by the world's most prestigious curators, auctioneers, editors, and dealers of black and white photography, including captains of industry from SOTHEBY'S, ARMORY SHOW, VII, TATE GALLERY, COMMUNICATION ARTS, PDN, FRATELLI ALINARI, HEFFEL FINE ARTS; these are just some of the jurors on the award judging panel. The images are exhibited anonymously in the voting galleries and judging criteria is based on artistic merit, originality, subject and style. When it comes time to tally the votes, the best works rise to the top and it's startling to discover jury members usually gravitate to the finest images and in doing so ultimately decide the winners.

Nominees vie for 132 title awards representing the best work of the year. Receiving a Black and White Spider Award is an endorsement of distinction from the most trusted names in the business. There are no cash prizes and no product prizes of a financial nature. Winning a title and gaining recognition through publicity is the primary goal of entering. Winners receive an award title, publication in a book and magazines [like ours], exhibited at an International exhibition and the online showcase called Winners gallery on the spider awards website.

Chinese photographer Maleonn Ma won last year's top honour, "Photograph of The Year" with the stunningly haunting fine art image 'Chinese Story'. The image shows a woman standing close to the rivers edge contemplating life with arrows in her back. "It describes a sense of pain that Chinese culture is losing its life force, with the historic revolution. Winning this award is a symbol that I have truly started my professional photography career," said Maleonn Ma.

The Black and White Spider Awards was founded in 2004 by Basil O'Brien and Michelle Hill, who are both based in Los Angeles. With just two laptops and a passion for artistic black & white photography, this creative team had the vision of a photography event that would bring together the best new photographers and the industry's biggest players in an exciting new online awards show dedicated to black & white photography. Basil O'Brien, Creative Director of the awards understands the importance and role of photography in communications and media. He is responsible for unearthing the astounding images and talented photographers from all corners of the globe. "We have had the great opportunity to see the careers of many photographers flourish after receiving a Spider Award," said Basil. The categories at the awards have changed very little since the first annual show, apart from adding nude and silhouette and dropping vintage. The most popular categories are people and fine art demonstrating that people still love to photograph people and that black and white photography is considered to be art based and also more suitable for social documentation. Basil said that they receive many emails from photographers who are thrilled and humbled to be recognized.

Photographers cite the endorsement as final confirmation of their artistic endeavours. The professionals are usually successful commercial photographers expressing a side they

don't get to exercise on their daily shoots and the amateurs gain confidence and encouragement to make the leap and become a professional photographer.

Film versus digital

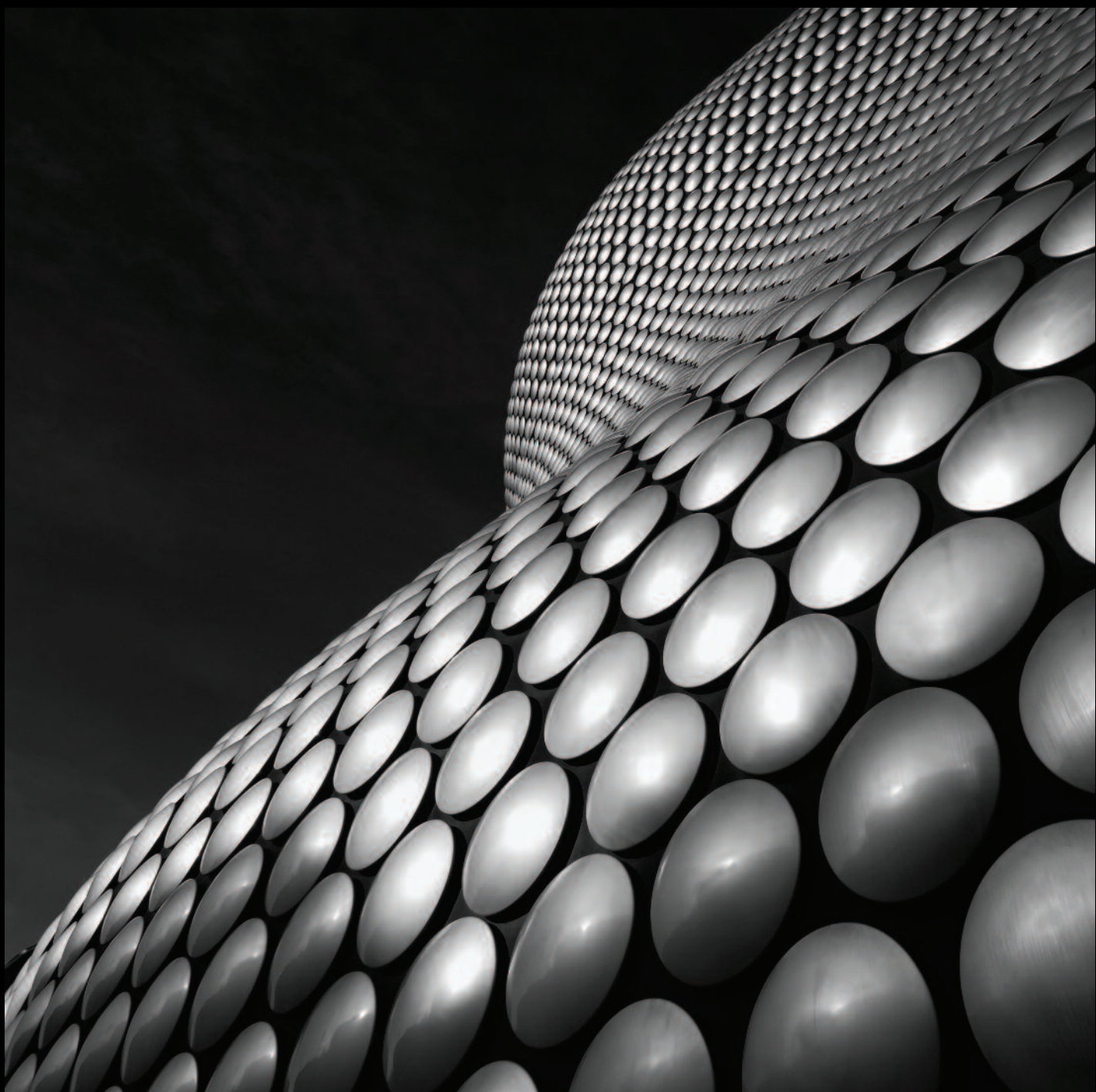
Although Basil and Michelle don't track film versus digital, they have culled some feedback from photographers on the controversial subject of film versus digital. They find that many Spider Fellows have many years experience using film and developing their own prints which is still a big part of the creative process for them. Opinions vary, with the old school pushing for film and the new school pushing boundaries with the whole Photoshop revolution! Ultimately there is always respect for all winning and nominated works regardless of the capture device. The Charity exhibition held in Brazil was a great example of photography's ability to communicate, whether captured on film or digital the prints on display were simply stunning and proved that the winning images connect with people and always shine through no matter what format was used to create them.

The company was reorganized in 2006 to be part of World Photographic Arts Corporation, one of the world's largest photographic contest organizers. With key offices in the UK and the USA, WPA has three divisions; Black and White Spider Awards, International Colour Awards and BASIL book publishing,

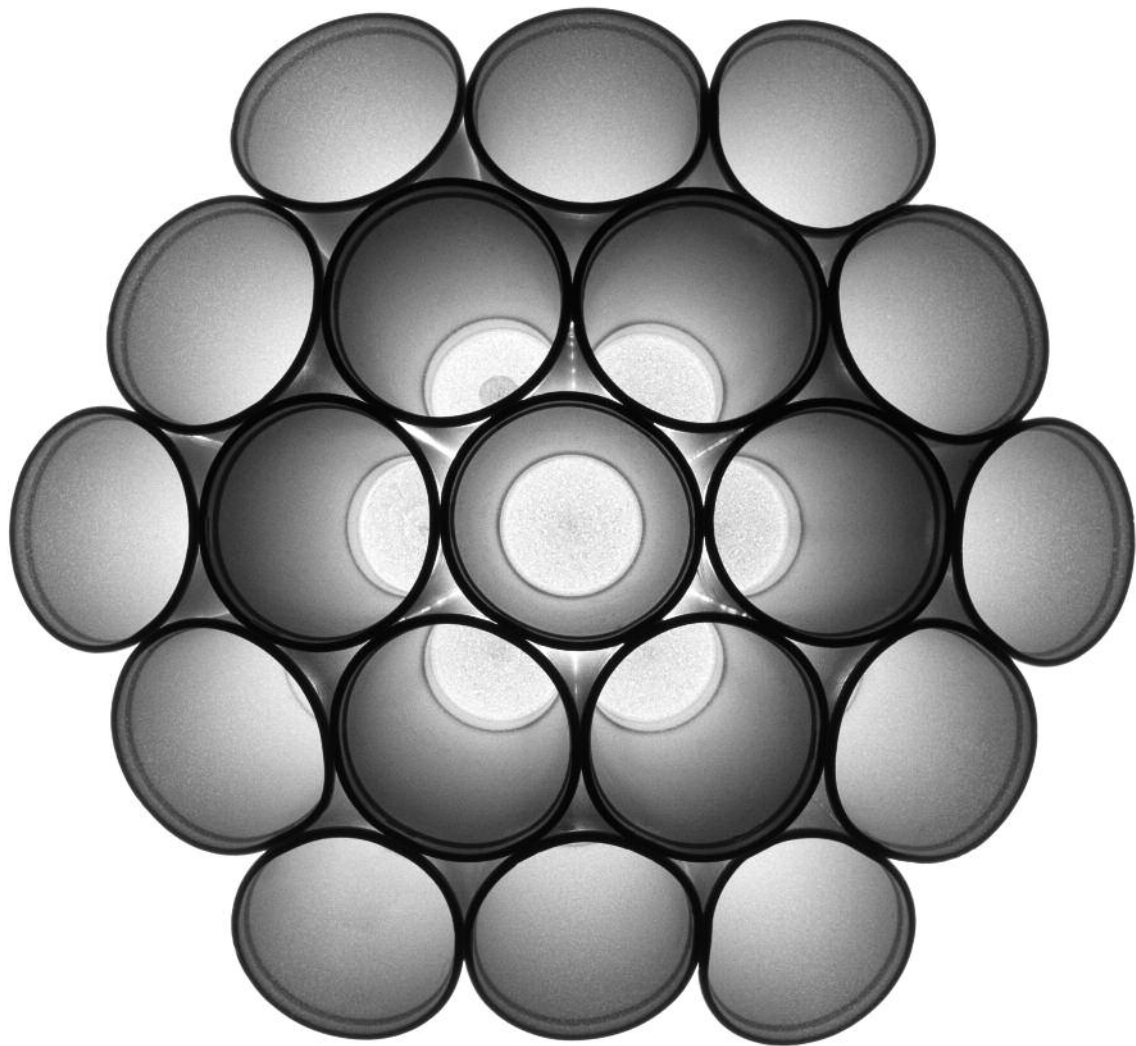


Advertising Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Jimmy Williams - USA
John Dee Holeman

Abstract Amateur
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Tony Hunter - United Kingdom
Birmingham (4)



Abstract Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Andy Stewart - United Kingdom
Cups





Top: Architectural - Amateur
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Jared Dastrup - USA
Below Manhattan Pier

Bottom: Architectural - Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Barry Brukoff - USA
Capp Street 3



Fashion - Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Dennis Mecham - USA
Parasols 9



Top: Fine Art - Professional
1st Place & Photograph of the Year
Maleonn MA - China (PRC)
Chinese Story, No.2

Bottom: Fine Art - Amateur
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Ivan Bajic - Hungary
Alone 2



Top: Nature - Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Ruud Peters - Netherlands
Sweet dreams

Bottom: Nature - Amateur
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Yuri Matte - Belarus
Three Hours Over Mt Fuji



Top: Nude - Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Pierre Lautier - France
effeuillee

Bottom: Nude - Amateur
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Crescenzo Giacomo Notarile - USA
Untitled Nude 02



Top: People - Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Marc Asnin - USA
Big A: Winter Horseracing

Below: Amateur - Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Monika Manowska - Sweden
Freckles



Top: Photojournalism - Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Natan Dvir - Israel
Amona

Below: Photojournalism - Amateur
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Anne Holmes - France
Mine Victim, Afghanistan



Top: Silhouette - Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Milos Bicanski - Serbia and Montenegro
Belgrade

Below: Silhouette - Amateur
1st Place & Photograph of the Year
Salih Guler - Turkey
Family Go to Work...



Sport Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Giles Angel - United Kingdom
Bulb

HOW TO ENTER

Black and White Spider Awards is open to professional and amateur photographers shooting in all forms of black and white photography using traditional or digital methods. We encourage classic styles, new creative ideas and photographers who are driven by their artistic eye and a desire to excel in this classic art form. The deadline for entries is May 31st, 2009. Entry fees are \$35 for Professional entries and \$30 for Amateur entries.

To enter visit www.thespiderawards.com and upload your images online or download the entry form and send your images by mail to your nearest Black & White Spider Awards office.

Winners will be announced at an exclusive invitation only online Nomination and Winners Presentation October 2009.

Right Top: Still Life - Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Giles Angel - United Kingdom
Bulb

Right Bottom: Still Life - Amateur
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
Jason Nichols - USA
Three Daisies



Dear Clive,

I've just read the article Film vs Digital in the current Silvershotz. I can't believe you've chosen someone with such extreme views and lack of real knowledge of the subject to put the case for film. I'm sure Andy Cross will have no problem in hooting down Mr Mester when he presents his response. As a film photographer myself, I feel this is a missed opportunity to put a real case for film.

To be fair to Mr Mester, you really need to read his full article on his Web site to really understand his arguments, but as this wasn't presented in the magazine, the article, as printed, is a joke. This is April I suppose...
Peter Robinson, UK

The Spider Awards
Sport Professional
1st Place - Outstanding Achievement
© Mel Lindstrom

Dear Peter,

Freedom of opinion is very valuable and in this case we wanted a lively discussion, and got one. I accept your comment that we should have reproduced the full version, but space is always limited. Readers can visit www.geocities.com/filmanddigitalinfo/ARTICLE_PHOTO.html and read the full version to make up their own mind. In the meantime I trust that you find Andy Cross has put together a balanced response.

Editor

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This magazine uses the internationally recognized nomenclature from the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

The words, expressions, grammar and spelling used in this publication conform to the standards of the Oxford English Dictionary.

