ACADEMIE DES BEAUX-ARTS

Raghu Rai laureate of the first edition of the Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award - William Klein

The Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award - William Klein was created in 2019 by the Académie des beaux-arts with the support of the Chengdu Contemporary Image Museum in tribute to the work of William Klein, photographer, painter, visual artist, graphic designer, director of documentary, advertising and fiction films.

As a consecration award, this prize is intended to reward a photographer for his/her entire career and commitment to photography. It rewards one photographer of all nationalities and ages. **Endowed with the sum of 120,000 euros**, it is awarded every two years, alternating with the Photography Prize Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière.

The jury of the 2019 edition named the photographer Raghu Rai, laureate of the first edition of the Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award - William Klein.

The Prize will be presented to Raghu Rai in the Palais de l'Institut de France on October 30, 2019 at 5 pm.

An exhibition retracing the career of the photographer will be held in November, 2019 in the exhibition space of the Academy, at the Palais de l'Institut de France.

The jury of the 2019 edition :

• Laurent Petitgirard, Perpetual Secretary of the Académie des beaux-arts, co-chair
• Zhong Weixing, founder of the Chengdu Contemporary image museum, co-chair
• William Klein, Honorary Member
• Yann Arthus-Bertrand, Bruno Barbey, Jean Gaumy, Sebastião Salgado, members of the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts
• Jean-Luc Monterosso, director of the Chengdu Contemporary Image Museum
• Bernard Perrine, correspondent of the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts
• Alessandra Mauro, curator
• Alberto Anaut, president of *PhotoEspaña* and director of *La Fábrica*.

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Raghu Rai (1942) started photography by chance in 1965. In 1966 he began to work for *The Statesman* as their chief photographer. In 1969 he completed a Thomson fellowship in England and worked for *The Times* for four weeks. After three half pages of his picture essays were published week after week, he was offered a job at *The Times* by Norman Hall. He returned to India to continue his unfinished creative explorations in the lanes and by lanes of his country.

In 1972, impressed with Rai's exhibition at Gallery Delpire, Paris, Henri- Cartier Bresson nominated him to Magnum photos. Also in 1972, Rai was awarded a *Padma Shree*, for his work on the Bangladesh War, a first for any photographer by the Indian Government. He could only begin his association with Magnum Photos in 1977, which continues presently. Rai was picture editor for *India Today* from 1982 to 1991. His work on special issues, their design and his trailblazing photo essays on social, political and cultural themes such as Masters of *Indian Classical Music*, *Satyajit Ray,* and *Mother Teresa* touched the hearts of many people.

In 1992 Rai was awarded "Photographer of the Year" in America for his story *Human Management of Wildlife in India* for National Geographic. In 2009 he was conferred *Officer des Arts et des Letters* by the French Government. He received a *Lifetime Achievement Award* by the Indian Government in 2016. In 2018 he was awarded a *Master of Photojournalism* by the Lucie Foundation.

His photo essays have appeared in *Time*, *Life*, *Natianol Geographic*, *Le Figaro*, *Le Monde*, *Die Welt*, *The New York Times*, *The Sunday Times London*, *Newsweek*, *Vogue*, *GQ*, *Marie Claire*, *The Independent*, and *The New Yorker*. He has been an adjudicator for the *World Press Photo Contest* and UNESCO's *International Photo Contest* many times.

Under special assignment from *Greenpeace International*, his coverage of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy was compiled into a book with three sets of exhibitions that travelled throughout the world. It helped raise awareness and brought relief for many victims. In 2002 Rai participated in a special exhibition and picture book on India and Mexico with Sebastião Salgado and Graciela Iturbide.

The Académie des beaux-arts

The Académie des beaux-arts is one of the five academies composing the Institut de France. **It encourages artistic creation in every means of expression** with the organisation of competitions, the awarding of prizes, the financing of artists' residencies and the granting of subsidies, and it watches over the defence of French cultural heritage. **A consultative body for the public authorities**, it also considers artistic issues. To carry out these missions, the Academy of Fine Arts **manages its heritage consisting of gifts and legacies, but also important cultural foundations** such as the Fondation Paul Marmottan Monet (Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris and Bibliothèque Marmottan in Boulogne-Billancourt), the Fondation Claude Monet in Giverny, the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, the Fondation Jean et Simone Lurçat in Paris and the Villa des Pinsons in Chars. Today the Academy comprises statutorily 63 members in 9 artistic sections.

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