

Media Release



World Press Photo returns to NSW State Library

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The prestigious World Press Photo exhibition returns to the State Library of NSW on 23 May 2015 for the 15th year with a showcase of over 200 moving and evocative images from photographers around the globe, including one Australian.

An arresting portrait by Australian photographer Raphaela Rosella is among the winners in the 58th World Press Photo Contest, selected from 97,912 images entered by 5,692 press photographers, photojournalists and documentary photographers from 131 countries.

The coveted World Press Photo of the Year 2014 was awarded to Danish photographer Mads Nissen for his evocative picture that shows Jon and Alex, a gay couple, during an intimate moment in St Petersburg, Russia. The winning picture belongs to a larger project by Nissen called "Homophobia in Russia". The photo also won 1st Prize in the Contemporary Issues category.

The World Press Photo jury praised the winning image for being "aesthetically powerful" and for sending out "a strong message to the world, not just about homosexuality, but about equality, about gender, about being black or white, about all of the issues related to minorities."

According to Alex Byrne, NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive: "World Press Photo provides a remarkable snapshot of the extraordinary events, contemporary challenges and personal triumphs and adversities experienced across the globe over the previous year."

"Collecting, preserving and providing access to the records that document the stories of our state and nation is at the heart of what we do, and without contests like World Press Photo, documentary photography from around the world may otherwise remain unseen by the general public," said Dr Byrne.

Visitors to the State Library's Galleries from 23 May to 21 June 2015 will also once again experience extraordinary Australian stories captured in everyday moments by talented local photographers in *Sydney Morning Herald* Photos1440 – some of whom have also won World Press Photo awards in previous years.

Featuring the best published and unpublished work by Fairfax photographers from the past year, Photos1440 captures people across Sydney and in suburban and regional areas at work and at play, as well as our distinct Australian landscape.

World Press Photo 2014 and *Sydney Morning Herald* Photos1440 are free exhibitions at the State Library of NSW from 23 May to 21 June 2015. Galleries open until 5 pm everyday – 8 pm on Thursdays.

For interviews, images and more information please contact:

Vanessa Bond, Manager, Media & Communications Branch, State Library of NSW
(02) 9273 1566, 0411 259 898 vanessa.bond@sl.nsw.gov.au



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