



WORLD PRESS PHOTO

MATTHEW ABBOTT FOR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/PANOS PICTURES

Media Release



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NEW SOUTH WALES

World Press Photo Exhibition opening at NSW State Library

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An extraordinary photo essay by Australia's Matthew Abbott, of Warddeken rangers undertaking ancient fire management practices in West Arnhem Land, has won Photo Story of the Year in the annual World Press Photo Contest and will go on public display for the first time in Australia at the State Library, from Saturday 21 May.

Abbott's 'Saving Forests with Fire' series will be featured alongside more than 100 powerful and evocative images as part of the popular World Press Photo Exhibition.

Canadian photographer Amber Bracken won the coveted Photo of the Year for her poignant image of red dresses and orange shirts hanging on crosses along a roadside as a visual response to the suffering and deaths of residents at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in Canada, an institution created to assimilate Indigenous children.

World Press Photo Contest jury member Rena Effendi said Bracken's photo is the "kind of image that sears itself into your memory", and captures "a quiet moment of global reckoning for the history of colonization, not only in Canada but around the world."

The World Press Photo Contest recognises the best photojournalism and documentary photography of the previous year. For the first time, the 2022 Photo Contest applied a new regional strategy, changing the set-up of the annual contest and the judging to increase the level of international representation. The winners were chosen out of 64,823 photographs and open format entries, by 4,066 photographers from 130 countries.

Exhibition visitors will be able to use their own mobile devices to listen to a selection of photographers talking about their award-winning work.

According to State Librarian John Vallance: "World Press is always one of our most popular shows. With good reason. As we crawl out of Covid, it's particularly good for us to have the windows on the world that only great press photography can provide."

In good news for local photography enthusiasts, a major new gallery covering the history of image-making in Australia will open at the State Library in December this year. The Photography Gallery will present the Library's first ever comprehensive survey of its extraordinary photographic collection, with every format and decade represented from 1845 to 2022.

"Featuring everything from artistic photography to documentary photojournalism, we expect the new gallery to be a major attraction for local and increasingly international visitors", said Dr Vallance.

Come and see World Press Photo Exhibition 2022 at the State Library of NSW, 1 Shakespeare Place Sydney, from 21 May to 19 June 2022. Entry is free. sl.nsw.gov.au

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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