

Press Release

GPP Photo Week 2017 announces main exhibit and theme of the festival, *Take the Shot*

Two special shows will also be exhibited simultaneously - a showcase of the world's largest photography award, the Sony World Photography Awards' winning, shortlisted and commended images as well as world-renowned photographer, Angélica Dass' exhibit, Humanæ.



Stacey Baker, from the "New York Legs" photo book which will be exhibited at the Take the Shot exhibition

Dubai, United Arab Emirates – 14 December, 2016. The title of the main exhibition and theme of GPP Photo Week 2017 has been announced by the organiser, Gulf Photo Plus, as *Take the Shot*. Two major exhibits will be taking place simultaneously during the week - a showcase of the Sony World Photography Awards' winning, shortlisted and commended images as well as a special show by Brazilian photographer Angélica Dass. Now in its 13th year, the festival – the first and longest-running of its kind in the region – will run from **February 10 – 17, 2017** and will take place at **Alserkal Avenue in Al Quoz, Dubai**.



The collective exhibition by regional and international photographers, *Take the Shot*, explores the possibilities of photography through different genres. Each contributing photographer speaks to the exhibit's theme through a unique visual language, whether mobile photography, augmented reality, Instagram, or web documentaries. These disparate specialisations find unity in the shared evolution of how a photographer's vision evolves and spreads through the different mediums that enable them to photograph their surroundings. The exhibition offers a proactive exploration and documentation of the world around us whilst constructing the vocabulary of modern image-making. For example, participating photographer Natalie Nacacche combines photography, writing and film to tell a heartbreaking story of women longing for Syria, their home country. Franco Pagetti, who has earned his international fame as a war photographer, implements his reportage skills to shoot a campaign for the fashion giant, Dolce & Gabbana. Stacey Baker transforms her Instagram documentation of New-York city into a vivid photo book. Other participating photographers include Anastasia Taylor-Lind, Thomas Dworzack, Ammar Al Attar and Davide Monteleone.

Co-Director of Gulf Photo Plus, Mohamed Somji, commented, "Photography has evolved tremendously over the past decade, especially in the Middle East. *Take the Shot* is an opportunity to showcase how photography, in this day and age, is processed and distributed. The theme is befitting for GPP Photo Week, where we aim to impart the knowledge and skill of this ever-growing art form. We are very excited to also be collaborating with the Sony World Photography Awards, Angélica Dass and several of the neighbouring galleries at Alserkal Avenue who will take part in creating a photography festival atmosphere."

A decade-long partnership between Sony and the World Photography Organisation (WPO) brought the world's largest photography competition, the Sony World Photography Awards. On the occasion of the Awards' 10-year anniversary, GPP Photo Week 2017 will host a stunning exhibition featuring a selection of winning, shortlisted and commended images from the Awards' 2017 contestants.

Scott Gray, CEO of World Photography Organisation, comments: "We are extremely proud to reach our 10th anniversary. Since launching in 2007 the Sony World Photography Awards has grown consistently in both size and credibility. Across the years the Awards have discovered and celebrated a huge variety of photography. I am honored that emerging photographers across the world have been able to use the awards to launch their careers, and established photographers



can use us to extend their networks. We are committed to challenging photographers to push their creative boundaries in the years to come."

Brazilian photographer Angélica Dass, will also be exhibiting her work-in-progress exhibition, entitled *Humanæ*, at GPP Photo Week 2017. Daas' intention with the project is to deploy a chromatic range of human skin colors by photographing volunteers of different nationalities, genders, age, race, social class and religion and matching the background of each portrait to the skin color of the subject. There is no end date to this ongoing project - it is open in all senses and will include all those who wish to become part of this global mosaic.

Neighboring galleries and creative spaces will also participate with a variety of photography-related activations in the Avenue throughout GPP Photo Week. Some of the exhibitions that will be showcased include: *Inherit the Dust* by Nick Brandt at Custot Gallery; and *Silver Cloud* by Michael Sailstorfer at Carbon 12.

Every year, GPP Photo Week creates an accessible entry point into the world of photography for people from all backgrounds. The festival provides attendees with a holistic photography experience, giving photographers - professionals, amateurs, and enthusiasts alike - an opportunity to engage with photography as an art form while immersing themselves in Dubai's burgeoning art scene and forging new connections with fellow photographers from around the world.

In addition to the exhibits, GPP Photo Week will also host workshops which are now available to book online. For the Early Bird 10% discount, book by 20 December, 2016.

For more information on GPP Photo Week 2017, please visit our website on: www.gulfphotoplus.com/gpp

To join the conversation, please follow us, @gulfphotoplus, on our social media channels listed below:

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Notes to editors:

About GPP Photo Week

Organised by Gulf Photo Plus (GPP), GPP Photo Week was launched in 2004 as the region's first-ever international photography festival. Coming to its 13th edition, GPP Photo Week 2017 will run from February 10 – 17, 2017 and will take place at Alserkal Avenue in Al Quoz. The festival is a week-long event that unites internationally renowned photographers across a range of disciplines with professional and amateur photographers looking to develop their photography knowledge and skills.

For more information, please visit <http://www.gulfphotoplus.com/gpp>

About Gulf Photo Plus (GPP)

Gulf Photo Plus is Dubai's only dedicated photography centre. It aims to nurture and develop the photography community both within the UAE and the region. With a primary focus on running workshops, seminars, and events that encourage learning and skill development, Gulf Photo Plus has also garnered a reputation as a leader in photography events both in the Gulf region and internationally. With the annual GPP Photo Week festival each spring, regular workshops and community events throughout the year, and PopUp GPP events highlighting the annual calendar, GPP continues to expand its programming to foster personal and community growth in the larger photography world.

GPP's central programme is complemented with several additional events including photography exhibitions, movie nights, inspirational talks, and SlideFest evenings where photographers can share projects and find further inspiration.

For more information about these events and other Gulf Photo Plus activities, please visit www.gulfphotoplus.com or telephone +971 4 380 8545.

Gulf Photo Plus is open from 10am to 7pm from Sunday – Wednesday and from 10am to 6pm on Thursdays and Saturdays.

About Alserkal Avenue

Located in Al Quoz, Dubai, Alserkal Avenue is the region's foremost arts and culture neighbourhood. Since it was established in 2007, Alserkal Avenue has grown to become an essential platform for the development of homegrown artistic and cultural initiatives, supporting a vibrant community of contemporary art galleries and alternative art spaces, together with design, media and industrial studios. In 2015, in addition to its commitment to the community, Alserkal Avenue affirmed its position as an arts organisation with the launch of Alserkal Avenue Programming. The programming arm produces an annual



homegrown programme for local, regional, and international audiences, working primarily with artists living and working in the MENASA region. An Artists' Residency is scheduled to launch in 2017, further enhancing the organisation's breadth and scope.

www.alserkalavenue.ae

About World Photography Organisation (WPO)

The World Photography Organisation is a center point for global photography initiatives. They are a platform on which individual photographers are given worldwide exposure, and forge links across the photographic industry. Their aim is to raise the level of conversation around photography. In doing this we increase awareness and appreciation of the art form and celebrate the art of the photographer.

The World Photography Organisation hosts a year-round portfolio of events including the Sony World Photography Awards, the world's largest photography competition, and international art fairs dedicated to photography, PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai and PHOTOFAIRS | San Francisco. For more details, see www.worldphoto.org.

About Angélica Dass

Angelica Dass is a Brazilian artist living and working in Madrid. She has been internationally acclaimed through her pivotal project, *Humanæ*, which is a collection of portrait photos of people revealing the true beauty of human color. The project has been showcased in numerous exhibitions and talks across the continents, and through the TED Global in Vancouver in 2016, her issues and philosophies of the project have reached to the extended numbers of audiences around the world. Dass holds BA in Fine Arts at UFRJ, Brazil and MA in Photography at EFTI, Spain. In 2014 she was selected for Time Magazine as one of the Nine Brazilian Photographers You Need to Follow.