
World Press Photo 15

Photography Exhibit from August 31 to October 2, 2015



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**Disclaimer — Pictures from this article have been photographed and edited by the contributing authors.

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Executive Summary

Context

Founded in 1955, World Press Photo is an independent, non-profit organization based in Amsterdam. This year, from August 31 to October 2, at Marché Bonsecours (325, rue de la Commune Est, Montréal), the exhibit displayed 150 photos from the 2015 edition of the biggest international photography contest in the world, plus three additional exhibits, such as *Deadline* by the American photographer Will Steacy, *Regards* by Oxfam-Québec, and *Quand le cinéma crée des ponts* by Wapikoni mobile. The World Press Photo exhibit is committed to developing and advancing high standards in photojournalism and documentary worldwide. According to World Press Photo their aim is to **“inspire understanding of the world through quality photojournalism.”** Every year, World Press Photo is supported by the [Dutch Postcode Lottery](#) and is sponsored worldwide by [Canon Global](#).

Main Content

- Overview of the event, including key observations and impressions.
- The 2015 World Press Photo Winner capturing the stigma the LGBT community faces today in Russia.
- Photography Subjects of the exhibition, including: General News and Contemporary Issues.
- Rules of photojournalism in order to stress the importance of authenticity and honesty.
- A newly designed iPhone/Android App to gather more information.

Recommendations

Based on these observations, this event report makes the following recommendations:

- More light fixtures strategically placed in the venue.
- Guiding arrows on the floor to create flow and emphasize certain photographs.
- English translation on the second floor for the Oxfam-Québec exhibition to better understand the organization’s mission.

General Information

Location: Marché Bonsecours (325, rue de la Commune Est, Montréal)

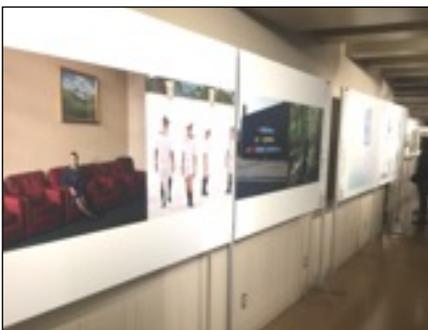
Time: Monday to Wednesday from 10AM-10PM, and Thursday to Saturday open till midnight.

Prices: General Admission \$13, Students (25 & under + Seniors) \$10, 12 & under FREE.

Contact: 514-581-0281 | info@arkar.ca

Main Content

Overview of the event, including key observations and impressions — The World Press Photo exhibition is housed in the great Marché Bonsecours, one of Canada's ten finest heritage buildings. Once you have purchased your tickets at the door, you enter to see an array of photographs. Despite the fact that there is no clear distinction to the beginning, the landscape positioning creates a runway of photographs to follow. Although, some of the images appeared with a shadow having them printed by Canon's Océ Arizona printers they illustrated outstanding details. On a Monday night, the room was moderately filled by intuitive millennials glancing at images separated by colour palettes and not categories. With not a single sound speaker in sight, the only noise was caused by the whispers from the viewers of the shockingly graphic images. **The focus here is to portray reality at its most bare.** The goal, according to much of the information included in the exhibit, is to truly captivate the state of the world, making the viewer part of the event itself. Along the side of each image was a brief description of the event and a QR code in order to provide you with more information.



***Above is a quick glance at the event, including the runaway of photographs, the lighting and the audience.*



The 2015 World Press Photo Winner:

- Jon and Alex (Contemporary Issues), photography by Mads Nissen (Denmark).

Jon and Alex, a gay couple, share an intimate moment at Alex's home, a small apartment in St Petersburg, Russia. Life for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people is becoming increasingly difficult in Russia. Sexual minorities face legal and social discrimination, harassment, and even violent hate-crime attacks from conservative religious and nationalistic groups. As the 2015 World Press Grand Prize Winner, **the image truly captures the essence of the exhibition, which portrays current issues around the world.**

Photography Subjects:

- Spot news
- General news
- Long-term projects
- Contemporary issues
- Daily Life
- Portraits
- Nature
- Sports

Download the App:

- Scan the QR code
- Search by image location in an interactive map
- Swipe through all the winning images in high resolution and click to save
- Receive additional photo information such as: captions, biographies and camera information
- Features the winning images of the 2015 contest
- Plus interviews with the winners



Rules of Photojournalism:

The ethical code of behaviour for journalists is written in the Code of Bordeaux, agreed upon by The International Federation of Journalist in 1954. These are five of the nine principles in assuring the authenticity and honesty of photographs:

1. Respect for truth and for the right of the public to truth is the first duty of the journalist.
2. The journalist shall use only fair methods to obtain news, photographs and documents.
3. The journalist shall observe professional secrecy regarding the source of information obtained in confidence.
4. The journalist shall be aware of the danger of discrimination being furthered by the media, and shall do the utmost to avoid facilitating such (...).
5. The journalist shall report only in accordance with facts of which he/she knows the origin. The journalist shall not suppress essential information or falsify documents.

Oxfam-Québec — For the third year, Oxfam-Québec partnered with World Press Photo Montreal to present the *Regards* exhibition that addresses both social and economic inequalities worldwide. For the occasion, Oxfam-Québec, with texts in French, portrayed the works of photographers Valerian Mazataud, Tamy Emma Pépin, Marie-Ève Rompré, Pascal Rousseau, and Nicolas Montibert. *Regards* also highlighted the work of volunteers working to fight against these extreme inequalities around the world.



*2nd prize winner, category General News, Castaways are rescued on a frigate of the Italian Navy at 32 kilometres north of Libya.
Photo by Massimo Sestini, Italie.*

Conclusion

Based on the Main Content, this event report makes the following conclusions — The World Press Photo exhibition was able to showcase 150 photographs from around the world portraying shocking realities taken by photojournalists that comply with the journalistic codes. The exhibition touches upon topics such as extremely difficult circumstances, like war zones or areas in the world where famine or natural disasters occur. It's important to showcase these realities in order to show the world what is happening. If it's not about a recent or remarkable event, then it's often about a subject or story that very few people know about. As a woman walked by she said to her friend: "C'est bien fait." Overall, the exhibition does a great job of portraying current issues in an aesthetically pleasing manner.

Recommendations

Based on these observations, this event report makes the following recommendations:

1. **More lights:** When standing directly in front of certain photographs, more specifically those in the deeper corners or areas with lower ceilings, the images appeared with a shadow. I suggest increasing the amount of light fixtures or possibly choosing a venue with higher ceilings in order to properly display the shocking images.
2. **Guiding arrows:** As mentioned earlier in the report, there was no clear start to the exhibition. Although this might have a tactic, in order to share the importance of every picture, I suggest that the floor plan include guiding arrows on the floor to emphasize images such as the 'Grand Prize Winner' and create a flow for the attendees.
3. **English translation:** Given the wide demographics of a world exhibition, an English translation of the Oxfam-Québec exhibition on the second floor could be a great tool to encourage more people to truly understand the organization.



For more information, please visit: www.worldpressphotomontreal.ca