



**GLOBAL
PHOTOGRAPHIC
UNION
MAGAZINE**



**6TH GPU PHOTO
FESTIVAL KYRGYZSTAN**

**NEW GPU EXHIBITION
CENTER**

**3RD GPU VIRTUAL
PHOTO FESTIVAL**

MISSION PLANET EARTH
by Luca Bracali

PHOTO BEIJING 2023

ISSUE 14 WINTER 2023/24



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,



2023 has been a very successful year for our photographic association! During this year, we in GPU worked hard with new activities, taking back whatever the COVID period had deprived us of! During 2023 we have successfully organized and executed the following events and activities:

The 3rd GPU Under 25 exhibition, which was exclusively for young photographers under 25 years of age. The event received a warm response from young artists, and it attracted a large number of participants. This exhibition was organized with the aim of inspiring young people to stay creative despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, and we are proud to say that our mission and vision was fulfilled.

The 3rd GPU Virtual Photo Festival, following the success of the Festivals in 2021 and 2022. We found that the initiative was well-received by members and many visitors accessed the online galleries, hopefully encouraging their creativity. In China, we had the privilege of co-organizing the prestigious **Photo Beijing 2023** event, one of the largest photographic events in the world. As part of this event, we are presenting two photo exhibitions, one showcasing the works of our members, and the other featuring photographs from 10 presidents of Arabic countries. This event has helped us establish a long-term partnership with Photo Beijing.

Inauguration of **the second GPU photographic center** in Europe in Suceava, Romania, with parallel events, an exhibition with 50 photographs of GPU members, and a portrait workshop.

We licensed **more than 250 photo salons** all over the world, as well as a large number of photo titles, both of which outnumbered those of previous years. Our licenses and distinctions, Crowns, Titles, and VIP distinctions have been established, and more and more photographers apply for them every year. Introduction of a new title, **Grand Master**, which is the highest a GPU member can apply for, and we are thrilled to notice that some distinguished photographers have accomplished acquiring this challenging title.

The donation exhibition of photographs to an health institution in North Macedonia, the organization of exhibitions and workshops around the world, the publication of our established Magazine, and most importantly for GPU activity, the **6th Photo Festival 2023 in Kyrgyzstan**. More than 80 members have participated! The nine days of our photo festival were conducted with the ingredients of love and passion for photography. That's why GPU has always been selecting places of remarkable beauty. In addition, joining a GPU Photo Festival offers the opportunity to photograph the uniqueness of a landscape or a culture and the chance to create friendships or strengthen existing ones.

The launch of the new GPU website. It has been carried out with a new modern design, is user-friendly and has all the information for our members and our visitors. I call you all to visit it at www.gpuphoto.com

Although 2024 is an election year for GPU, we have already planned several activities such as the opening of new centers, donations to foundations, exhibitions, and workshops in many countries, the publication of the **photo book from the photo festival in Kyrgyzstan**, the publication of our magazine and the **biannual photo book** with photos of our members. Also, an important activity will be the co-organization of exhibitions and speeches in Photo Beijing 2024, as well as the 4th virtual photo festival. As a closure, I wish you a happy, healthy 2024 with good light and beautiful photographic experiences.

Metzakis Manolis
GPU ZEUS, GPU CRS, EFIAP/p, ESFIAP, PSA
GPU President

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Marija Milovanović Maksimović
GPU Secretary General

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN
Dejan Vukelić
comma.rs

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July 15th—23rd 2023

6TH GPU PHOTO FESTIVAL



KIRGYZSTAN

by Eleftheria Konsolaki

Kyrgyzstan, nestled in the heart of Central Asia, is a country of remarkable natural beauty and cultural diversity. Apart from its astonishing landscapes, culturally, Kyrgyzstan is a melting pot with a history marked by the legacy of the Silk Road, nomadic traditions, and a period of Soviet influence.

What truly sets Kyrgyzstan apart is the harmonious coexistence of its stunning natural landscapes and its vibrant culture. This blend is particularly unique because Kyrgyzstan is not among the major tourist destinations in the world. As a result, it remains an exceptional choice for travelers in search of both adventure and an authentic cultural experience.

GPU recognized this hidden gem and the wealth of photographic opportunities one year ago and the GPU Governing Board chose it as the destination of the 6th GPU Photo Festival 2023. For 1 year GPU diligently prepared for its biannual Photo Festival in this particular country. As in any other GPU Photo Festivals, GPU wished to provide its members and friends unique opportunities for capturing authentic and culturally rich moments.

So, on July 15th 2023, GPU members and friends from different countries around

the world gathered in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan for a 9 days Photo Festival, in order to capture the amazing beauties of the country, foster new connections, and strengthen existing relationships.

Our expedition took us to a multitude of breathtaking locations, including Bishkek, Suusamyр Valley, Chunkurchak Valley, and the stunning Issyk Kul Lake. Each of these places revealed its own unique charm and photographic opportunities.

Bishkek, the capital city, juxtaposed modern cityscapes with remnants of its Soviet past, creating an intriguing fusion of architecture, appealing for urban shots. Moreover, Bishkek's traditional markets, with their vibrant stalls and lively atmosphere, proved to be a haven for street and portrait photographers. Here, the bustling energy of daily life and the rich character of the city's residents

came to life in every frame, making it an ideal setting for candid street shots and engaging portrait photography.

Suusamyр and Chunkurchak Valley, on the other hand, was an oasis of natural beauty. These places with their gentle hills and wide open meadows, created a fantastic backdrop for landscape photography. The rolling land, covered in lush greenery, made for a stunning setting that inspired photographers to capture breathtaking landscape shots. Furthermore, the Kyrgyz nomads and their horses provided fantastic opportunities for cultural photography. Nomadic yurts, traditional clothing, and ancient customs became intriguing subjects for documentary and portrait photographers.

In addition, the Kyrgyzstan Nomad Games stood out as an exciting event



© Majdi Al Naser



© Marija MM



© Aggeliki Laina



© Daniel De Cort

for capturing action-packed shots. Those spirited competitions became a dynamic canvas for event and action photographers, adding another layer of diversity to our photographic experience.



© Tony Davies



© Gloria Boscaini

As we delved into the heart of Kyrgyz culture, we uncovered stories of the kind and authentic spirit of Kyrgyz people. These moments translated beautifully into compelling images, each one a glimpse into the soul of this remarkable nation.



© Georgios Kazazis



© Ilpo Pohjonen

Overall, Kyrgyzstan's combination of natural beauty and rich cultural heritage made it a captivating destination for us as photographers who were seeking diverse and unspoiled subject matter. We are grateful for all the opportunities this amazing trip offered us and certainly will stay in our hearts forever!



© Sergeant Anne



© Maria Vogiatzaki



© Kleindienst Valerie



© Allouz Ola



© Scubli Mariana



© Boscaini Gloria



© Avgoustinaki Pavlina



© Evans Stephen



© Mosses-Dubois Michèle



© Malek Nasser



© Kok Leong Jack Goh



© Konsolaki Eleftheria



© Pataki Hajnal



© Nagy Lajos



© Lambropoulou Eva



© AlZaabi Muna



© Sargeant Anne



© Vrzić Ljiljana



© Vogiatzaki Maria

3RD GPU VIRTUAL PHOTO FESTIVAL

By Eleftheria Konsolaki

From 3rd November 2023 to 30th November 2023, GPU hosted for a third consecutive year its annual GPU Virtual Photo Festival. This event served as a dynamic platform, allowing GPU members not only to showcase their artworks but also extending a warm invitation to visitors, both from within and beyond the GPU community. The festival was designed to be an immersive experience, providing insights into GPU, presenting stunning photographs, offering valuable information on a spectrum of photographic topics, introducing individual photographers and photographic clubs, and acting as a wellspring of inspiration.

Just as the two preceding Virtual Photo Festivals, this edition garnered enthusiastic participation from GPU members. The unique and interactive aspect of the festival involved participants sharing their carefully curated portfolios on social media platforms. This interactive feature allowed visitors to engage more deeply with the exhibited photos, offering them a chance to evaluate them from their unique perspectives.

We thank you all for embracing this effort!



© Lie Robert- Eyes of Sadhu

The most successful participants of
the Festival, by the popular votes:

SIDDHARTHA DAS
PATAKI HAJNAL
HADJIPAVLOU THANASIS
MARIA VOGIATZAKI
FLLZ KOPRULU
KIAKOTOS CHARALAMPOS
GEORGE BALADAKIS
ANITHA MYSORE
SARY KAHELA
SK BALACHANDDER
NAVIN AGARWAL
MAINAK DEY
NILANJAN SAHA
BANDU GUNARATNE
MAURO GUERRINI



© Sitanath Paul - Nisha



© Gunaratne Bandu - The horologist



© Plano Marian — Ballerina



© Anitha Mysore — Shadows in the alley



© Mrinal Sen — Vibrant dawn



© Maria Vogiatzaki



© Hadjipavlou Thanasis — Three in a row



© Das Siddharta — Jeans Gall



© Maria Adriani — Nam Dam people



© Roald Synnevåg — Angel



© Yang Guome -- Expansion

GPU ROMANIAN PHOTO WEEK

WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW GPU EXHIBITION CENTER

by *Marija Milovanović Maksimović*
GPU Secretary General

GPU, with the help of their Romanian friends, in October 2023, organized a week-long event in which the main event was the opening of the new GPU exhibition center in The National Museum of Bucovina in the city of Suceava. The gallery space will feature the photography works of GPU members and was inaugurated with a photo exhibition showcasing 50 photographs from the members. The collection displayed the diverse genres and styles of the members and was well-received by the public.

The opening ceremony began with welcoming words from Constantin-Emil Ursu, the director of the Bucovina Museum, who greeted the GPU governing board members and Romanian photographers from different parts of Romania. The GPU president, Manolis Metzakis, presented the GPU plaque to Mr. Ursu as a sign of appreciation and acknowledgment of future successful cooperation. The event was complemented by beautiful music played by a Ciprian Porumbescu Art College student in Suceava in a guitar recital. The exhibition was open for visitors for the whole month of November.

Throughout the week, GPU, with its hosts, organized various activities for its members and guests. On the second day, the GPU president, Manolis Metzakis, held a workshop on portrait photography in a studio environment, attended by the members of the Suceveni Photographers Club, led by Codrin Anton, the club president. An evening event was a video presentation of the photographic works of Lajos Nagy,



a long-time GPU member and Romanian photographer. On the third day, the governing board held a semi-annual meeting to discuss and work on all the GPU activities and future event plans.

The week was rounded with photo excursions and activities with local photographers, allowing members to explore the country's natural beauty and cultural heritage.

Overall, it was a successful and eventful week for GPU, bringing photographers closer together and allowing them to learn from each other and share their knowledge and experiences. The GPU looks forward to continuing to promote the art of photography through its exhibitions and events.

- Agnesoni-Mauro - Chinese Jumper
- Alameer Amal-Blue mask
- Albu Mircea - The Aristocrat
- Baleanu Razvan-Winter evening
- Bartha_Erika- Physy cat
- Bhattacharya Subhra
- Bikfalvi Zsolt-Landscape in Szatmar
- Boddi Simone- Val d orcia 27
- Calosi Claudio- Federica's ballet
- Cathie Brian - Gatsby Girl
- Causse Eric - Caméléon
- Chen Guoping-Fun of the family
- Chen Weiping-Sentiment
- Chong Kit Han-Hardship At Work
- Cioni Mario-Oregon
- Davies Tony--St Pauls Ceiling
- De Cort Daniel - Fun at the coast
- Dubois_Steeve - Red and Black
- Fanos Nestor - Summer time 1
- Ficarelli Daniele-Toledo 1
- Guo Jing-Attentive potter
- Hein Htet-Morning mood
- Huotari_Tapani -Alone on the beach
- Jovanovski Vladimir-Prague 03-20
- Kapadia Abbas-Death in Valley
- Kiakotos Charalampos-Agios Isidoros Church
- Konsolaki Eleftheria - Dreamland
- Koprulu Filiz - Sentetik.jpeg
- Korpela Antti-Piece of Mind
- Liu Houyu-Ship of the desert
- Metzakis Manolis - Amazing Dubai A
- Milovanovic Maksimovic Marija-Andriya
- Moreno Cendrós - María Núria -Sol sota la Pluja
- Mosses Dubois Michèle -Drops on Asparagus Plumosis
- Nagy Lajos-Blue symphony
- Paraskevopoulou Georgia-Her soul mirror
- Pataki Hajnal - Kyrgyz Meadow
- Plaino Marian - The ivy
- Raunio Risto-Thinking about
- Saha Subho-Green Beauty
- Sanguinetti Hajime -Human mask
- Sarb Vasile - In the morning in Dumesti
- Savescu Flavian-Equilibrium
- Scubli Mariana - Waiting
- Sokolskaya Valentina-Curtain of Snow Geese
- Widodo Sugiarto-Morning at Cukul Pangalengan
- Xu Ping-Dream land
- Yuan Yongjie-Spectacle



NEW EXHIBITION CENTER OPENING CEREMONY



Lajos Nagy's photography presentation ▶

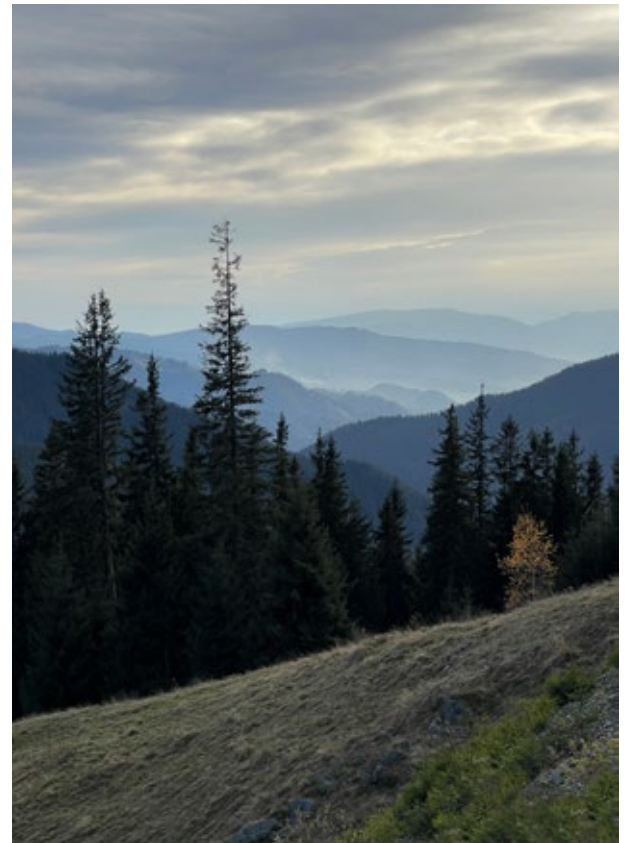
PORTRAIT WORKSHOP



▲ Governing board meeting



◀ Group excursion



▲ Bucovina landscape



◀ Humor monastery



MISSION PLANET EARTH

by Luca Bracali

I believe that my work represents a sort of mission, yes, that's right, I consider myself more of a missionary than a photographer. I'm writing this because I've been traveling the world for 33 years, combining an immense passion with a great profession. I certainly consider myself privileged because I have no doubts in thinking that being supported to travel around, discover and describe the world, its wonders, its diversity but also its fragilities, can simply be defined as the most beautiful job in the world. But treasuring every day what I discover, what I learn and keeping this immense treasure just for myself would certainly be an act of pure selfishness and here comes my missionary being, that is, through the evocative power of photography and the universal language of images, I manage to bring this small but immense world into everyone's homes through articles, interviews, conferences, books, exhibitions and documentaries, especially in the eyes of those who want to know it and in the hearts of those who know how to

appreciate it. And in the digital age this is also called sharing.

But behind such a beautiful activity there are always a thousand difficulties to face, the first is to make sense of what we have to do, that is, to create an idea, a project that can support a journey which will then be transformed into a reportage or a television documentary. Digital has helped the development of photography on many fronts but at the same time it has also killed a profession by putting everyone on the same level. Today it is not those who manage to take a nice shot with a “wow” and “tear-like” effect that get ahead, that photo will lead to nothing other than a mere, futile, personal satisfaction, what matters instead is to create a story, the more original and interesting, to be developed and to be able to tell it through images.

There are photographers who love nature photography and if you ask them to photograph a Laotian temple they cry scandal. There are photographers who dedicate their lives to capturing

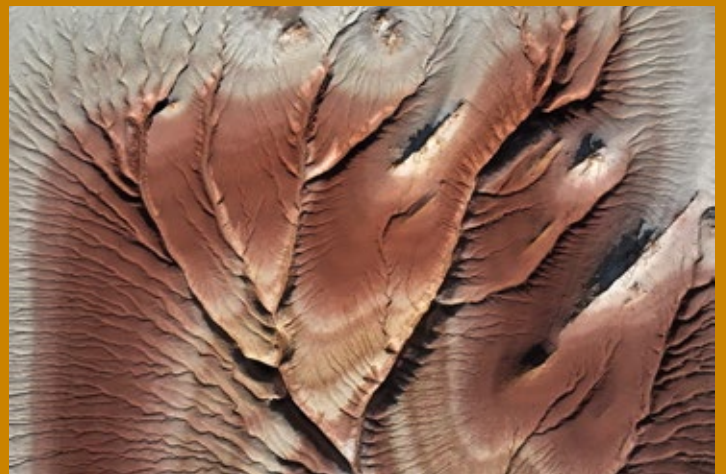
faces, but don't ask them to portray a landscape because they don't even know where to start. Even though I am already a grandfather, I am a bit like a curious child, curious about everything, about discovering the world, about documenting its immense landscapes, about capturing the stories of the last great ethnic groups, about stopping the gaze of a feline while you stare straight in the eye. This is what being a photographer really means to me. And then I never stopped at anything, in the 156 countries I visited I documented everything I could: from the geographical North Pole which I reached on foot to the Antarctica, passing through mountains, canyons, volcanoes, geysir, lakes, rivers, oceans, waterfalls, deserts, savannas, steppes, forests, tundra, taiga and glaciers. And every time it was a new challenge, personal, from a psycho-physical and technical point of view, therefore from a photographic point of view. Bringing a story home means having a series of images that you will only discover when you find yourself in front of them,



that's where the real challenge of the photographer begins, studying the light, the best shot, the composition, choosing the exact moment which often, making a mistake only second, it will never be the same again. And then, being among the very few who photographs the world on every level, therefore landscape, ethnographic and wildlife in all environments including the polar regions where I have been 50 times, the reasoning to develop on a shot is different each time. For example, photographing mountains is very difficult given how large they are and finding a strong point to capture in a shot is anything but trivial. But it is also difficult to capture the ephemeral

and dancing light of the Northern Lights which you never know when it starts, how long it lasts and what intensity it has. Portraying a polar bear cub at 53 below zero is a double challenge: for your fingers and for your camera batteries. Descending to 20 meters in the Indian Ocean and photographing a group of sharks requires calm and concentration. Photographing the Milky Way in the Atacama Desert, next to the largest telescopic observatories in the world, gives you the certainty of not being able to miss the shot. Filming an iceberg breaking away from Jakobshavn, the largest Arctic glacier in Greenland, floods you with that sense of profound sadness but at the same time

you have to be very quick to seize the moment. And if flying in a hot air balloon over the expanse of the Australian outback gives you that sense of infinity, lowering yourself with a drone into the cavity of an active volcano in Vanuatu and Iceland and waiting for the moment of the explosion to catch the lapilli of incandescent lava that touch your video camera is pure adrenaline. To do this job you certainly need to have passion, perseverance, patience, determination and that pinch of recklessness. In more than 30 years of travel around the world I have twice escaped from elephant charges, once a polar bear chased me, another time I was left without oxygen at 20 meters while chasing five grey



sharks, yet another, in the jungle of Belize while we were looking for the jaguar, I was stung by an insect whose neurotoxic venom progressively took away the strength in my arms and legs. I went to bed crossing myself and praying to God. That time I was really afraid.

But today's photographer, if he wants to define himself as such, must grow and progress hand in hand with technology. So from the photo we will have to move on to the video which has a completely different narrative although the language is the same but to do so, alongside the usual camera used for photos, we will have to use action cams such as GoPro for different shooting fields and

above all a flying cam, the drone. In this particular moment of my life the drone is everything. I could give up a breath of fresh air, but not my drone, one of my three drones. It's the dream I've been chasing for 30 years, when I flew over Angmassalik in eastern Greenland with a helicopter for the first time and from there I immediately understood what aerial photography could reveal. With the drone you discover the world a second time, you discover it from a different and unusual perspective, you enter where no man or mechanical means can do it, you capture unique scenes, never revealed before.

And for me, who love the world, who love it infinitely because it is the greatest gift we have received from God, it is that inheritance that we have borrowed from our children but which we will not be able to return in the same conditions in which we have been given, being able to document it in its entirety with over 12 trips a year, most of them travel photo workshop with people, is an absolute privilege. Because this planet made of rock and matter, surrounded by a beauty as sublime as it is ethereal, is showing us its profound signs of weakness, its many fragilities, its ever-widening wounds. And we, the inhabitants of our own planet, are responsible.



Luca Bracali



Travelled to 145 countries, is author of 13 books and winner of 14 prizes in International photographic competitions. Since 2008 he is a member of Apecc (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists) and since 2015 he cooperates with IASC (International Arctic Science Committee) for his contributions about environment published in the media. In 2009 he was the only reporter to reach the geographic North Pole on skis. In 2010 Bracali debuted in the world of fine-art photography and his pictures have been on show, as solo exhibitions, in museums and galleries in Rome, Sofia, Kiev, Odessa, Copenhagen, Yangon, Montreal and New York, but also in Bruxelles, in

the headquarter of European Parliament. He signed 210 services as tv director for RAI 1, lately became documentary filmmaker for RAI 2 and RAI 3 and was a guest on 50 programs and TG news aired on Rai networks as an explorer and a story-teller. Eighteen of his last reportages have been published on National Geographic and his pictures has been also featured on New York Post, USA Today Post, Fox News, Lens Culture, PetaPixel, Daily Express, Daily Star, Daily Telegraph and The Sun. From 2017 he became ambassador of the non-profit organization "Save the Planet". The Minor Planet Center in Cambridge dedicated to his name the 198.616th asteroid discovered.



By Umberto D'Eramo

SCANNO: A DRESS, A FAITH, AN IDENTITY





SCANNO IS A TOWN OF ABOUT 1,800 INHABITANTS, AND IT IS LOCATED AT AN ALTITUDE OF 1,050 METERS IN THE CENTER OF ABRUZZO – ITALY. ALREADY INHABITED IN ITALIC AND ROMAN TIMES, IT RETAINS TRADITIONS DATING BACK TO THE 1200S INFLUENCED BY ORIENTAL-OTTOMAN MIGRATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN WOMEN'S CLOTHING.

Every day, the women cover their heads with a simple square-shaped woolen cloth of various colors called maccaturo (from the French mouchoir). On holidays, Ju Cappellitte resembles a turban; in fact, it recalls a Greek “polos” (πόλος) or an Arab turban.



The skirt is ankle-length: it is made up of 6 to 12 very dark green cloths, and each fabric is 60 centimeters wide and sewn vertically until it reaches a length that varies between 11 and 15 meters. Its weight is about 10 Kg.

The skirt is covered by the mantera, over 2 meters wide, which was made of woolen cloth for daily use.

The jacket, called cummudène, was divided from the skirt: black or





blue-black, and it rested above the waist. The buttoning *buttenera* consists of 12 silver buttons: in the upper part, six buttons are arranged vertically, and another six in the middle are arranged in two orders on a rectangular piece of cloth called *pettija*. The buttons have decorations of religious or magical-apotropaic subjects. In the wedding costumes, they are strictly in gold. For the ears, they used more or less large pendants (*cerceglie*), and for the fingers, rings with very large bezels, real goldsmith masterpieces.

Scanno has been photographed by great artists such as Cartier Bresson, Berengo Gardin, Mario Giacomelli and especially Hilde Lotz-Bauer.



PHOTO BEIJING 2023

by Guo Jing

GPU OPENS MEMBERS' EXHIBITION AT PHOTO BEIJING AND ESTABLISH LONG-TERM COOPERATION WITH PHOTO BEIJING

From October 21 to 29, 2023, the exhibitions of Presidents of Photography Societies from Ten Countries and the GPU Members Photo Exhibition was on display at the China Millennium Monument in Beijing, with the GPU as the international organizer. The exhibition was curated by Ms. Guo Jing, GPU Vice President, and was co-organized by the Photo Beijing Organizing Committee, the China Artistic Photography Society, and the Global Photographic Union (GPU).

As an international partner of Photo Beijing and one of the organizers of "View & Appreciate: Exhibitions of Presidents of Photography Societies from Ten Countries," GPU assembles a gallery of 50 photographs by its members from 20 countries, including Greece, Italy, UK, etc.,

Among the fine works of GPU members, there are classic monochrome masterpieces that tell the story of the past as well as life of people, landscape, nature, humanities, creativity, etc. These fascinating photographs cover a variety of subjects, offering a fresh perspective and a rich visual vocabulary that touches the hearts of viewers. It is worth mentioning that all GPU Board members' work also joined this exhibition, which was visited by a large number of visitors.

In addition, GPU also held a presentation, during which Manolis Metzakis, President of GPU, introduce the organization and activities GPU to the audience, and Guo Jing, curator and Vice President of GPU, acted as the moderator and shared the duties and activities of GPU-China.

Meanwhile, Manolis Metzakis also attended as a representative of the international organizers of exhibitions of Presidents of Photography Societies from Ten Countries to share the exhibition and participate together in the discussion on the characteristics and future trends of photography development in the Arab countries.



GPU vice president Guo Jing holding a GPU presentation



Photo Sharing Session of Exhibitions of Presidents of Photography Societies from Ten Countries



GPU Members' Exhibition Gallery



Manolis Metzakis, GPU President, is launching the Photo Beijing 2023 with other honored guests



GPU Members' Exhibition Gallery



GPU Members' Exhibition Gallery



© Marija Milovanović Maksimović— Study

At the same time, GPU and Photo Beijing signed a memorandum in which the two parties will establish a close partnership in the next five years and work together to promote the art of photography. In addition, GPU President Manolis Metzakis was invited to join the Expert Advisory Committee of Photo Beijing.

At the opening ceremony of Photo Beijing, Manolis Metzakis delivered a speech to congratulate on the success of the event by Photo Beijing. He also mentioned that over the years, in the spirit of openness and inclusiveness, GPU has been committed to the development of international photographic art and the promotion of cultural exchange among photographers. As photography is playing an increasingly important role in the cross-culture exchange, GPU will take the “Exhibitions of Presidents of Photography Societies from Ten Countries” as a starting point to further carry out comprehensive and in-depth cooperation in cross-boundary fusion and exchanges among countries, and we believe that the Photo Beijing will become a platform for international photographic culture and exchange activities that is inclusive and integrative, and that fuses mutual understanding among the international photographic festivals.



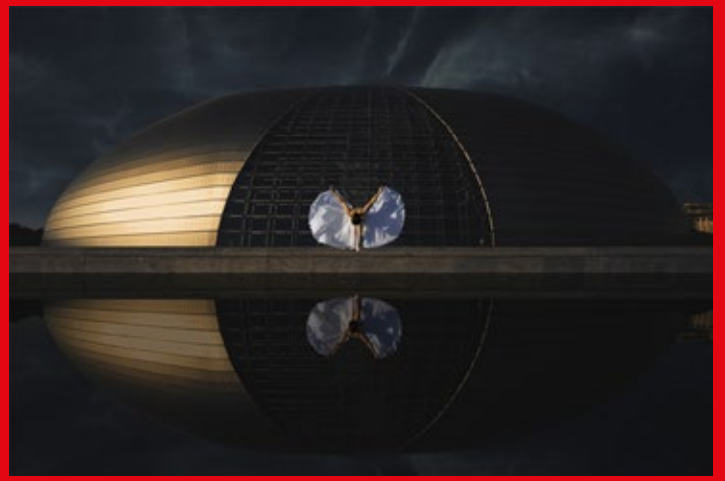
© Yu Ningtai — Wrestling



© Yang Guomei — Sweet home



© Mirza Shehabi — Life in Iraq



© Zhong Tian — Grand National Theatre



© Isa Ebrahim — Tsemay



© Kostas Chalkiadakis — Flamingo



© Liu Houyu — Meet the Light



© Claudio Calosi — Beach view



© Saeed Al Shamsi — Relationship between Time and Space



© Mao Xiaoping — Prelude of Construction Site

GPU REPRESENTATION AT TAIZHOU PHOTO WEEK 2023

The China-Taizhou International Photo Week 2023 was opened on 7th December 2023, at the Taizhou Contemporary Art Museum. GPU President Manolis Metzakis and GPU Vice President Saeed Al Shamsi are exhibiting at this photography event. Guo Jing, curator, and GPU Vice President, has been invited to be the chief curator of the exhibitions at this event.

In this exhibition, Manolis presented six photographs from a series on the life of the great Greek painter El Greco, taken during production of the movie El Greco. The exhibition was part of the International Exhibition of Masters of Photography and was installed on the first floor of the Museum. For Manolis, he is delighted to have captured the El Greco, and the shooting of the film was a great experience and an unexpected change for him. This photo series is about a movie and represents the innovation and power in Greece, which he wants to convey to the viewers through this work.

Saeed Al Shamsi exhibited his photo series Public Phone Booth which documents the gradual disappearance of the phone booth in every country. It is also a way of preserving the phenomenon that was once indispensable to people's lives and its disappearance from the stage of history. This exhibition was displayed in the "Belt and Road Countries Photography Exhibition" section on the third floor of the Museum.

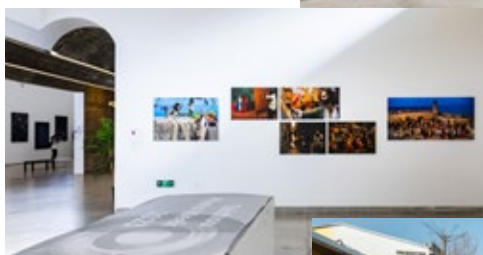
During the exhibition, there was an endless stream of visitors who expressed that seeing the works of international photographers in Taizhou enriches their horizons and further enhances the cultural exchanges between the Chinese and the international community.

"In the World of Photography, We Gather in Taizhou" is the theme of this photo week, and the exhibition is divided into six sections, namely International Photography Masters Exhibition, The Golden Statue Award for China Photography Exhibition, Belt and Road Countries Photo Exhibition, Chasing the Sunlight to Taizhou, Thirty Years of Jiaojiang, exhibiting a total of about 1000 pieces of art.

The China-Taizhou International Photo Week 2023 was jointly hosted by the Zhejiang Federation of Literary and Art Circles, The People's Government of Taizhou Municipality, organized by the Publicity Department of Taizhou Committee of the Communist Party of China, Zhejiang Photographers Association, Taizhou Bureau of Culture, Radio, Television, Tourism and Sports, Taizhou Federation of Literary and Art Circles, Jiaojiang District Committee of the Communist Party of China, The People's Government of Jiaojiang Municipality, and carried out by the Publicity Department of Jiaojiang Committee of the Communist Party of China, Taizhou Photographers Association, Jiaojiang Bureau of Culture, Radio, Television, Tourism and Sports, Jiaojiang Federation of Literary and Art Circles. The Taizhou Photo Week lasted ten days, during which lectures and photo-sharing sessions were held to diversify the event.



GPU Vice president Guo Jing with the students



Public phone booth series by GPU vice president Saeed Al Shamsi

El Greco series by GPU president Manolis Metzakis



Li Ge, Vice Chairman of Federation of Literary and Art Circles and Chairman of China Photographers Association, and Xian Yunqiang, Vice Chairman of China Photographers Association visit the exhibition



TOP TEN GPU CHINA

PHOTOGRAPHERS 2022

by Guo Jing

GPU-China initiated its annual ranking of the top ten photographers in early 2022 based on their achievements in various aspects, results of participation in photo GPU-licensed competitions, titles and distinctions granted by GPU, and participation in photography events and exhibitions organised by GPU and GPU-China.

On May 21, 2023, Top Ten GPU-China Photographers 2022 winners were announced at the online awards ceremony. The event was hosted by Guo Jing, GPU Vice President and President of GPU China, and remotely attended by special guests, Manolis Metzakis, GPU President, Vice-Presidents Saeed Al Shamsi, and Claudio Calosi, Secretary General Marija Milovanović Maksimović, and other guests, as well as the winners.

The most successful members were

MA YAPING
LI JIANPING
ZHANG JIE
TONG JIANGCHUAN
MAO XIAOPING
ZHONG TIAN
CHEN WEIPING
LIU HOUYU
LI HANXIN
YANG GUOMEI

The creation of this list is to encourage GPU-China members to participate in various events organised or recognised by GPU and to strengthen the cohesion, loyalty, and sense of belonging to GPU. Meanwhile, it recognises outstanding members who have achieved exceptional results in photography and promotes their works to the international photography community.



© Tong Jiangchuan — Kingfishers



© Ma Yaping — Elfin in dim night



Award ceremony



© Li Hanxin — Countless fruits



© Yang Guomei — The expansion



© Chen Weiping — Curious



© Liu Houyu - Universe



© Li Jianping — Hanging flags



© Zhong Tian — Desire



© Zhang Jie — Monochrome world



© Mao Xiaoping — Perform sincerely

GPU CROWNS

by Crowns & VIP Officer
Claudio Calosi

CROWN 5

Catania Gottfried, Malta
Ledgard Ian, UK
Molero Gutierrez Florentino, Spain

CROWN 4

Di Candia Lorenzo, Italy
Doblender Roman, Austria
Dutta Amar Nath, India
Tomassi Antonella, Italy

CROWN 3

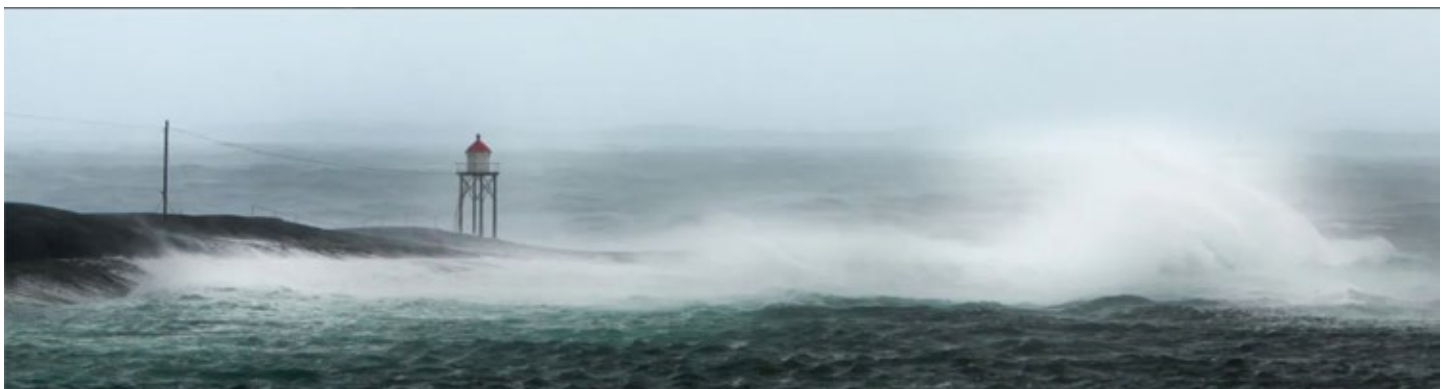
Lindqvist Leena Majja, Finland
Mao Xiaoping, China
Plaino Marian, Romania
Sanders Tim, UK
Wang Yichi, China

CROWN 2

Carrieri Luigi, Italy
De Leonardis Roberto, Italy
Duke Michael, UK
Font Vila Daniel, Spain
Fikriye Er, Turkey
Hadjipavlou Thanasis, Cyprus
Hristev Dimo, Bulgaria
Kolbeinsen Terje, Norway
Lee Chun Woo, South Korea
McLean Kenny, UK
Mooney Gail, Australia
Muhtasib Mohammed, Saudi Arabia
Paraskevopoulou Georgia, Greece
Pourkhan Alireza, UAE
Prasad Somdutt, India
Stavri Steven, Cyprus
Topalismailoglu Nevra, Turkey

CROWN 1

Dasgupta Soham, India
Hajizada Ruslan, Azerbaijan
Liu Zixu, China
Martin Kylie-Ann, UK
Mihai Victor Eugen, Romania
Natunen Salla, Finland
Sarkar Mahua, India



Storm © KOLBEINSEN TERJE

GPU VIPs

by Crowns & VIP Officer
Claudio Calosi

VIP 5

Ryu Shin Woo, South Korea
Stuppnig Stefan, Austria

VIP 4

Baladakis George, Greece
Clement Romain, Luxembourg
D'Eramo Umberto, Italy

VIP 3

Kim Youngjun, South Korea
Li Chen-You, Taiwan
Pettazzi Claudio, Italy
Prenton Jones Robert, UK

VIP 2

De Leonardis Roberto, Italy
Hadjipavlou Thanasis, Cyprus
Mantykangas Jarmo, Finland
Muhtasib Mohammed, Saudi Arabia
Prasad Somdutt, India
Ylinen Pertti, Finland

VIP 1

Carrieri Luigi, Italy
Hornbostel Haans-Peter, Germany
Kim Min Cheol, South Korea
Simonen Pia, Finland



Highs © D'ERAMO UMBERTO

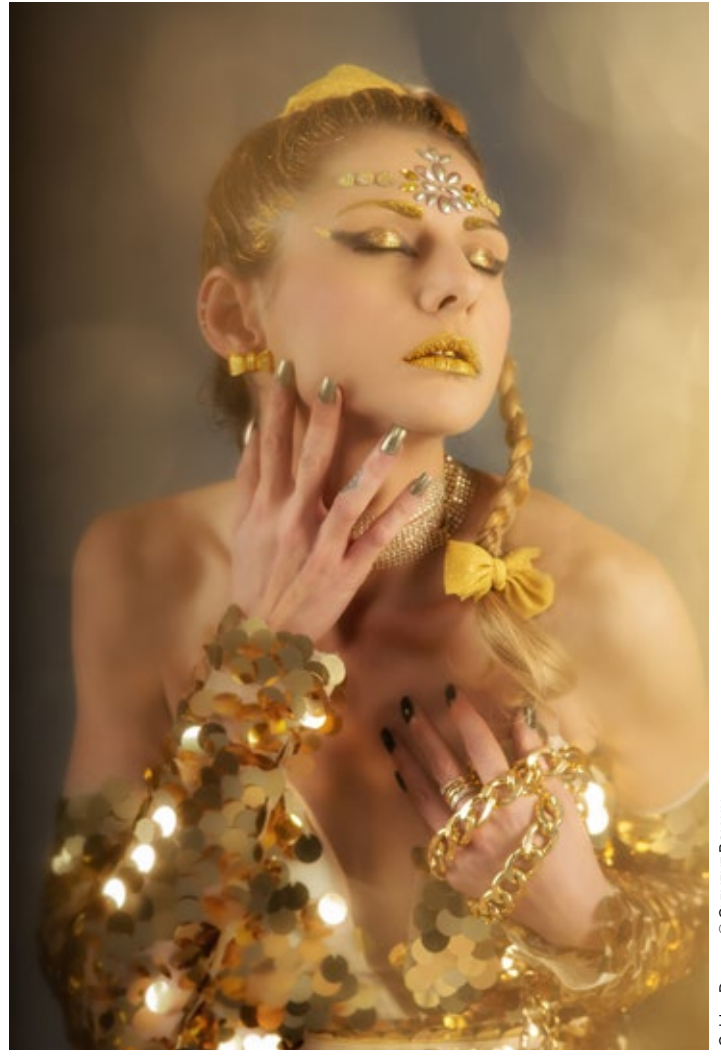
Hellas 234 © Baniadakis George



Chess © PRASAD SOMDUTT



Golden gala © HORNBOSTEL HANS-PETER



Golden Dreams © CLEMENT ROMAIN



Flock of sheep 02 © Kim YOUNGJUN

The Last Supper © PRENTON JONES ROBERT



Stellaria graminea © SIMONEN PIA



Emotional Tango 3b © YLINEN PERTTI



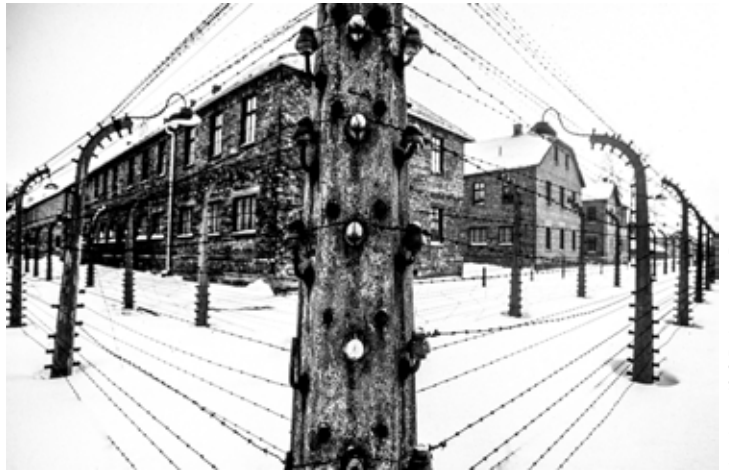
I am right © MANTYKANGAS JARMO



Jokulsarlon 2 © PETTAZZI CLAUDIO



Turning © KIM MIN CHEOL



Auschwitz 42 © DE LEONARDIS ROBERTO



Incense Industry Village © MUHTASIB MOHAMMED



Mother love © LI CHEN YOU



Terraced Field 14 © RYU SHIN WOO



Schukurenev Samuelsson 3115 © STUPPNIG STEFAN



Gym 48 HR © CARRIERI LUIGI

GPU TIT LES

by Titles Officer
Saeed Al Shamsi

GRAND MASTER

Pandula Bandara

HERMES

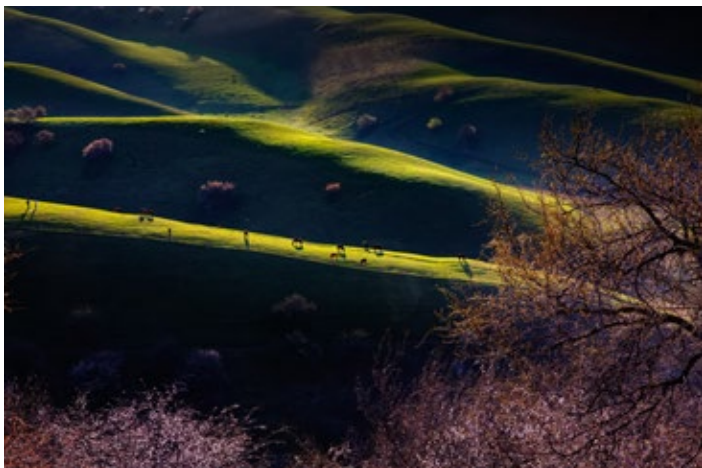
Al Hajeri Nuwair
Clement Romain
Jiongxin Peng
Lang Jiancheng
Salisbury Margaret

APHRODITE

Amar Nath Dutta
Balachandder S K
Carol Andonie
Chen Guanrong
Chen Guoping
Chen Junjie
Chen Qiyao
Ding Qinyuan
Duan Fangming
Elisardo Minks
Iordanis Kousis
Jiang Aizhen
Lin Guojun
Muhtasib Mohammed
Ouyang Liewen
Sary Kahela
Scubli Mariana
Si Ming
Tang Gaoyi
Xie Caibao
Yuan Yongjie
Zhang Li
Zhang Qing
Zhao Jinli
Zhao Xinhua



Mingati 686 © AMAR NATH DUTTE



Alpine spring © CHEN QIYAO



Tras el nectar ww © ELISARDO MINKS



Surf en rojo © CAROL ANDONIE



Autumn scenery under snow mountain © YUAN YONGJIE



Moshi park © LIN GUOJUN



The cloud of hometown © SI MING



Flamingo paradise © CHEN JUNJIE



Mutual Dependence © DUAN FANGMING



The Zitting cisticola © ZHANG QING



Sun of Happiness © NUWAI AL HAJERI



Enjoy together © CHEN GUANRONG



Out of the mist © LANG JIANCHENG



Angry Bird © ROMAIN CLEMENT



Enjoy the cool under colonnades © ZHAO XINHUA



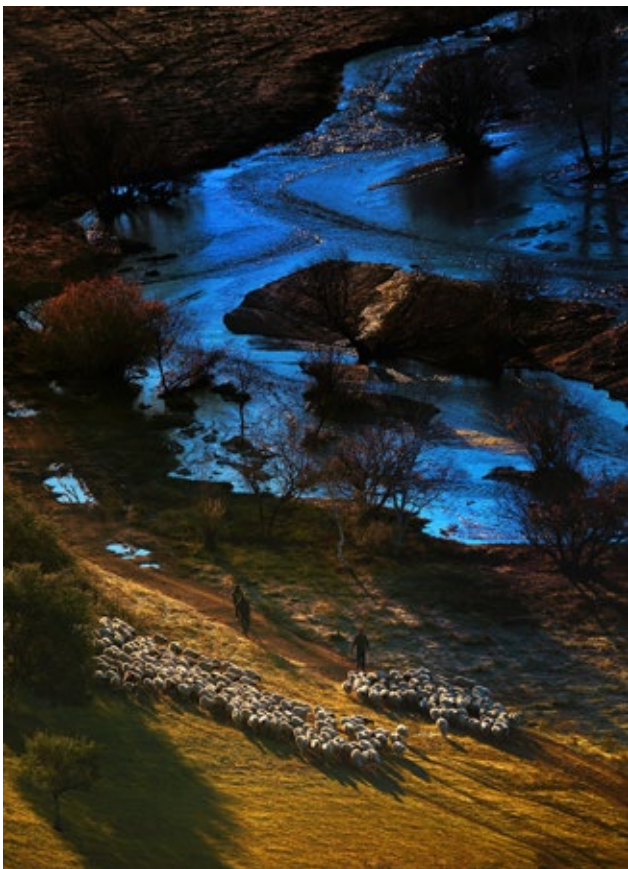
The Heart of the Elderly © OUYANG LIEWEN



From couple to companions © XIE CAIBAO



The little one © SCUBLI MARIANA



Shepherding and herding © TANG GAOYI



Shepherding at Bashang © CHEN QIYAO



The Godfather © SARY KAHELA



Spider web with dew © BALACHANDDER S K



Pure © JIANG AIZHEN



Stare © ZHAO JINLI



Fatherhood © IORDANIS KOUSIS



From the Mountain © JIONGXIN PENG



Close call © ZHANG LI

GRAND MASTER

PANDULA BANDARA / series ART OF CULTURES

Face painting is a complex decorative art form, practiced showcasing identities. form, practiced showcasing identities. unique to a geographic region, evoking emotional responses by the viewers, during different festival.

My portfolio portrays such different cultures, drawn from several regions/ states in India, which I found emotionally. cultures, drawn from several regions/ states in India, which I found emotionally. intriguing and artistically stimulating.

The captures for my Masters Portfolio presentation was done at the International Scouting Jamboree organised by Alwa's Foundation, Mangalore, Karnataka state in

December 2022. Almost all 28 States of India participated, with the respective cultural teams and some without, at the event, which took the style of a cohesive and orderly procession.

Different face paint colors, designs and costumes worn by the cultural artists, are unique to each state and were captured during the pre-procession, preparatory phase.

I took the liberty to enhance some images to create a balance in the set, while bringing out the artistic elements and principles of design, in the overall layout.







**СДАЕТСЯ
ЮРТА**
0700 47 57 57
0705 77 25 95.