

News Release
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V&A Parasol Foundation Prize for Women in Photography Winners Announcement

In partnership with Peckham 24
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Today the V&A announces the winners of the V&A Parasol Foundation Prize for Women in Photography. Back for its second year, the Prize was established to identify, support, and champion women artists. It is an important part of the wider V&A Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project. The four recipients of the Prize will have their work displayed at Peckham 24 – south London’s vibrant week-long contemporary photography festival – which opens Friday 17 May 2024.

Produced in partnership with Peckham 24, the Prize amplifies the voices of women, celebrates diversity, and promotes equality in the arts. It has been made possible by the generous support of Ms. Ruth Monicka Parasol and The Parasol Foundation Trust. The Foundation actively supports women to achieve their potential in science, health, heritage and the arts.

The Prize attracted over 1400 submissions from artists all over the world, from both established and emerging international artists, representing an exciting cross-section of approaches to contemporary photography. Applications demonstrated an innovative response to this year’s theme, ‘Histories’, inviting artists to consider the relationship between history and photography, explore the use of historical techniques and archives, and create reimagined or speculative futures.

The four artists were chosen by the V&A’s external Prize selection committee, co-chaired by Fiona Rogers, the inaugural Parasol Foundation Curator of Women in Photography at the V&A, and Vivienne Gamble, co-Founder of Peckham 24. They were joined by Bruno Ceschel, Founder and Director of Self Publish, Be Happy (SPBH), Dr. Zoé Whitley, Director of Chisenhale Gallery, London and Deborah Willis, University Professor at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University.

Of the winners, the selection committee said: *‘These four artists brilliantly demonstrate a nuanced understanding of the theme ‘Histories’, capturing the concept with diverse and sophisticated visual approaches. Drawing on performative self-portraiture and studio techniques, each artist interrogates personal and social narratives, including the history of photography itself. Through their work, they offer*

compelling insights into the complexities of the past and its enduring influence on the present.'

About the winners:

Aisha Seriki, *Untitled*, from the series *Ori Inu*, 2023



Aisha Olamide Seriki is a Nigerian, London-based multimedia artist pursuing an MFA in Arts and Humanities at the Royal College of Art. Grounded by the principles of *Ìṣẹ̀ṣe* (Yorùbá Spiritual Tradition), her work uses photo-manipulation techniques to explore the relationships between photography and the self. Influenced by the concept of *Orí* (a Yorùbá reference to one's spiritual destiny) Seriki's series *Orí Inú* investigates the history of photographic 'keepsakes', drawing on the metaphor of the calabash and the comb as cultural symbols of African diasporan histories, empowerment, ritual and self-care.

Nancy Floyd, *Nieces Dijon and Donna 1982/2012*, from the series *Weathering Time*, 1982/2012



Nancy Floyd is an American artist raised in Texas and based in Oregon. *Weathering Time* is an ongoing series of environmental self-portraits which began in 1982 when Floyd was just 25 years old. 40 years later, this 'visual calendar' now comprises 2500 photographs which reflect the artist's personal experience of aging whilst also reflecting on the cultural, technological, and physical changes that have occurred over the past forty years.

Silvia Rosi, *ABC VLISCO 14/0017*, 2022. Work produced with the support of the MAXXI Foundation - National Museum of XXI century arts, Rome and BVLGARI



Silvia Rosi works with photography, text and moving image to explore ideas of memory, migration and diaspora. Born in Italy and living and working between the UK and Togo, Rosi's practice is inspired by West African studio photography and the artist's Togolese heritage. Her series *Teacher Don't Teach Me Nonsense* combines photography and video to explore the artist's connection to Mina, a Togolese language regulated by colonial rule.

Mia Weiner, *the bathers*, Rome, 2023. Handwoven cotton, acrylic, and silk © Image courtesy of the artist and T293



Responding to historical textiles, Los Angeles-based artist Mia Weiner creates hand woven tapestries which explore mythology, identity, gender, and queerness, reflecting on personal relationships, memory and the body. In *Sirens*, Weiner interrogates how the human figure has been represented in art history and in particular how female subjects have often been depicted as objects. Working with her own body along with other female, non-binary, and intersex models, Weiner explores how figurative representation can hold power and agency.

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For further PRESS information about the V&A Parasol Foundation Prize for Women in Photography please contact Shannon Nash on s.nash@vam.ac.uk / 020 7942 2502 (not for publication). A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from pressimages.vam.ac.uk.

More information on the V&A Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project can be found at: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/women-in-photography>

About The Parasol Foundation Trust

The Parasol Foundation Trust is the philanthropic division of Parasol International and Ruth Parasol and family, helping to create opportunities for women to pursue their dreams and inspiring the next generation to follow in their footsteps. The Trust was established in Gibraltar in 2004 and since then it has awarded over £40,000,000 for health, heritage and education grants in Gibraltar, UK, Israel, India, US, Spain and elsewhere. The V&A Parasol Foundation Women in Photography Project is a major new programme celebrating the achievements of women in photography, spanning a curatorial position, acquisitions, research, education and public displays.

Ruth Parasol is its Principal Benefactress giving much of her time as one of the Trustee Directors, guiding grant making, continuing to fund the Trust with her additional money and her private family office providing administrative and investment support.

<https://parasolfoundation.org/>

About Peckham 24

Peckham 24 is a not-for-profit festival established in 2016 by curator Vivienne Gamble and artist Jo Dennis. With a focus on supporting new talent and experimental artists working with photography, the festival creates a vibrant takeover of a number of warehouse and gallery spaces across Copeland Park and Bussey Building in the heart of Peckham's artistic scene.

About the co-chairs of the selection committee

Fiona Rogers is the inaugural Parasol Foundation Curator of Women in Photography at the V&A. She was previously Director of Photography & Operations for Webber, a photographic agency and gallery with offices in London, New York, and Los Angeles. Prior to Webber she worked for Magnum Photos in a variety of roles, rising to Chief Operations Officer where she was responsible for running the agency and designing and implementing strategies in collaboration with the CEO. She is the Founder of Firecracker, an online platform and annual grant supporting women and artists.

Vivienne Gamble is an independent curator of contemporary photography. She is the Founder and Director of Seen Fifteen gallery in Peckham where she has been running a dynamic programme of exhibitions since 2015. She is the Artistic Director of Peckham 24 festival which she co-founded with the artist Jo Dennis in 2016. Over the course of five editions, she has grown the festival from a grass-roots idea into a highly anticipated date in the UK photography calendar. She is also currently an Associate Lecturer on the MA and BA Photography programmes at London College of Communication (UAL).

About the selection committee

Bruno Ceschel – Founder and Director of Self Publish, Be Happy (SPBH)

Bruno Ceschel is the Founder and Director of Self Publish, Be Happy (SPBH) and a visiting lecturer at École cantonale d'art de Lausanne (ECAL) and Cornell University's Image Text MFA programme. He established SPBH in 2010, curating events at

prestigious arts institutions such as Tate Modern (Britain), Kunsthal Charlottenborg (Denmark), MoMA PS1 (United States), and the National Gallery of Victoria (Australia). Under SPBH Editions, he has published books by various artists and writers, including Carmen Winant, Nicholas Muellner, and Lorenzo Vitturi. In 2023, he founded SPBH Space Milan—an innovative hub that combines a laboratory, gallery, and community center, fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration and experimentation within art, fashion, and technology. In 2022, Ceschel was appointed Programme Director at The Racial Imaginary Institute (TRII), an organisation dedicated to challenging prevailing racial narratives and advancing inclusivity through exhibitions, workshops, and publications.

Dr. Zoé Whitley – Director of Chisenhale Gallery, London

Dr. Zoé Whitley is Director of the non-profit Chisenhale Gallery in London. She co-curated the acclaimed Tate Modern exhibition *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power* and its subsequent international tour (2017 – 20). Whitley has distinguished herself working in UK institutions on exhibitions, research and collections (as curator of the British Council's 2019 British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale; 2014 – 19 Tate Modern; 2013 – 15 Tate Britain; 2003 – 13 V&A). Alongside exhibition catalogues and artist monographs, she writes for all reading ages including children's titles *Meet the Artist: Frank Bowling*; *Meet the Artist: Sophie Taeuber-Arp*; and serving as consultant for the award-winning *Black Artists Shaping the World* (Thames & Hudson). She is a Trustee of the Teiger Foundation and is a member of the London Mayor's Commission on Diversity in the Public Realm.

Deborah Willis – University Professor

Deborah Willis, Ph.D. is University Professor and Chair of the Department of Photography & Imaging at Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. She has affiliated appointments with the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Social & Cultural Analysis and the Institute of Fine Arts, where she teaches courses on Photography & Imaging, iconicity, and cultural histories visualising the black body, women, and gender. She is the Director of NYU's Center for Black Visual Culture/Institute of African American Affairs. Her research examines photography's multifaceted histories, visual culture, the photographic history of Slavery and Emancipation, contemporary women photographers, and beauty. She is the author of *The Black Civil War Soldier: A Visual History of Conflict and Citizenship and Posing Beauty: African American Images from the 1890s to the Present*, among others. Dr. Willis' curated exhibitions include *Framing Moments* in the KIA, Kalamazoo Institute of the Arts; *Home: Reimagining Interiority*, YoungArts Gallery; and *Free as they want to be: Artists Committed to Memory*, FotoFocus.

Dr. Willis was awarded the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship and was a Richard D. Cohen Fellow in African and African American Art, Hutchins Center, Harvard University; a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, and an Alphonse Fletcher, Jr. Fellow. She was the Robert Mapplethorpe Photographer in Residence of the American Academy in Rome and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is a recipient of the Don Tyson Prize for the Advancement of American Art by the Crystal Bridges Museum in 2022 and was named the Mary Lucille Dauray Artist-in-Residence by the Norton Museum of Art in 2023.

