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INTERVIEW:

Cat Jimenez from the Lucie Awards

By Stephanie Nikolopoulos | Additional reporting by Sara Roth | Images courtesy of The Lucie Awards



Susan **Meiselas**



Gianni **Berengo**

The film industry has had the Oscars since 1929, and television has had the Emmys since 1949. Photography, though in existence long before moving pictures, has not had its own prestigious awards show until just six years ago. In 2002, Hossein Farmani started the Lucie Awards to honor achievements in photography. Industry insiders from around the world came out for The Sixth Annual Lucie Awards. The event took place on October 20, 2008, at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall in New York City.

Cat Jimenez, Executive Director of the Lucie Foundation, explained to Resource Magazine that there are three ways to win a Lucie: "One: the Advisory Board nominates master photographers each year to recognize as Honorees during the ceremony and throughout the year. Two: photographers submit their work through the International Photography Awards competition. Or three: your work is either nominated or submitted for consideration in the six Support Category Awards. I think it's hard for one photo to stand alone and win a Lucie: it's most often a series of images that show a consistency in vision and expression." The winners get cash prizes, are featured in the IPA Annual book, and of course go home with the coveted Lucie statuette. Equally important, though, is the support of the community. "There is so clearly a community behind everyone who stood up here tonight," said Sara Terry during her acceptance speech. "I don't think that photography exists without that kind of support." Jimenez acknowledges, "As with any endeavor, the more support you have behind your ideas, vision, commitment, the more you can push on. Community is also important for networking and to help manifest, facilitate, and translate ideas into something tangible. Sara understands that each of the photographers who were celebrated that night looked back on a long

“IT WAS A PICTURE-PERFECT EVENING.” —MARIO CANTONE



Erwin **Olaf**



Patrick **Demarchelier**



Richard **Misrach**

career where individuals helped them achieve what they've done in photography. That's really valuable. Within the infrastructure of a photography shoot alone, there can be a dozen people, in addition to the photographer, who exists to make a picture happen. That's a community, albeit a small one, existing to support the actions of a photographer."

Beyond the importance of the awards to individual recipients within the photography community, the Lucies record the progress of the industry as a whole and how it shapes our culture. Jimenez explains, "The Lucies recognize and acknowledge photographers who have given their lives to the craft of image-making. These masters have paved the way for younger photographers. It's important to celebrate them for their contributions, especially as an entire generation of photographers are aging and passing. We just lost Bill Claxton, who received an inaugural Lucie in 2003. Cornell Capa, and Philip Jones Griffiths. These men documented history and affected change through their photography. We should not only celebrate them but understand how their lives have affected ours. And the Lucies strive to share a snapshot of their lives through the ceremony. Herman Leonard said at the most recent Lucies that this award was the most

important he had ever received. This man has been shooting for over sixty years and has created some of the most compelling portraits, not just in the jazz circles, for which he is most famous, but in other photographic genres too. That's a living legend amongst us. It's important to know how they've participated in the history of photography."

The history of photography, after all, is long and involved, and it would be interesting to follow the development of photography through the lens of the Lucie Awards. Photography arguably began with the invention of the pinhole camera in the tenth century AD by Ibn al-Haytham, the Arab scientist who is known in the West as Alhazen. Today, digital photography is impacting the industry to the point that even Richard Misrach, known for his film photography, announced at the awards show that he is now shooting digitally. Throughout centuries, photographers have adapted to and excelled at using whatever technology was available. Thanks to the Lucie Awards we now have a way to document and celebrate achievements in the photography industry.



Josef Koudelka



John Iacono

THE 2008 LUCIE AWARDS WINNERS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Gianni Berengo Gardin

ACHIEVEMENT IN DOCUMENTARY

Josef Koudelka

ACHIEVEMENT IN PORTRAITURE

Herman Leonard

ACHIEVEMENT IN FASHION

Patrick Demarchelier

ACHIEVEMENT IN FINE ART

Richard Misrach

ACHIEVEMENT IN PHOTOJOURNALISM

Susan Meiselas

ACHIEVEMENT IN SPORTS

John Iacono

ACHIEVEMENT IN ADVERTISING

Erwin Olaf

SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Visa Pour L'image

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Sara Terry / The Aftermath Project

THE 2008 LUCIE AWARDS HONOREES

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Brent Stirton

DISCOVERY OF THE YEAR AWARD

John Delaney

DEEPER PERSPECTIVE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Justin Maxon

PICTURE EDITOR OF THE YEAR

Michele McNally for The New York Times

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PHOTOGRAPHY MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

Eyemazing

Sara Terry

Herman Leonard

