

PARIS
PHOTO

For immediate release
November 13, 2008

**YAO LU WINNER OF THE 2008 BMW – PARIS PHOTO PRIZE FOR
CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY**



© Yao Lu
Yao Lu's New landscape part I – Ancient Spring Time Fey, 2006
Courtesy of 798 Photo Gallery, Beijing

Chinese artist Yao Lu was named winner of the 2008 BMW- Paris Photo Prize for contemporary photography at a gala awards ceremony on 13th of November at Paris Photo. The prize is worth €12,000 (US\$15,000).

Born in 1967 in Beijing, the Chinese artist Yao Lu, represented by 798 Photo Gallery in Beijing, is the fifth winner of this major international award, after Czech artist Jitka Hanzlova in 2007, French artist Mathieu Bernard-Reymond in 2006, American artist Anthony Goicolea in 2005 and the Switzerland's Jules Spinatsch in 2004.

Launched in 2004 in support of contemporary photography, the BMW – Paris Photo Prize celebrates this year its fifth edition. This Prize, open to living art photographers represented by galleries participating in Paris Photo, has become an important landmark in the world of international photography. The theme for 2008 was “Never Stand Still” in relation with the new BMW 7 Series.

Twenty of the 55 artists whose work was submitted by participating galleries were short-listed by a jury of international experts presided by Nicolas Wertans, Chairman of BMW France. The jury then worked to select the winning artist. The short-listed works are exhibited during Paris Photo, enabling visitors to enjoy and appreciate some of the finest examples of contemporary art photography.

Yao Lu is an emerging Chinese artist and teacher at the photography of department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. His work has been shown in numerous festivals and collective exhibitions around China (Lianzhou International Photo Festival 2007, New China Occidentalism – China Contemporary Art in Beijing in 2006, Pingyao International Photography Festival in 2004). But his work has rarely been shown in the West, except at the Fotofest International Houston in 2008, and at the “Space and Transportation” exhibition in Graz, Austria, in 1997.

The winning work “Yao Lu's landscape part I – Ancient Spring Time Fey, 2006” is part of a series of digitally manipulated images of landscapes. The artist photographs mounds of garbage covered in green protective nets which he assembles and reworks by computer to create bucolic images of mountain landscapes shrouded in the mist inspired by traditional Chinese paintings. Lying somewhere between painting and photography, between the past and the present, Yao Lu's work speaks of the radical mutations affecting nature in China as is it subjected to rampant urbanization and the ecological threats that endanger the environment.

The 2008 Jury : Marta Gili, director, Jeu de Paume, Vicki Goldberg, art critic and photography author, Stephen Shore, photographer, Anne Wilkes Tucker, photography curator, Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Michael Wilson, collector, Nicolas Wertans, Chairman of BMW France and Eric de Riedmatten, director of communication, BMW France.

Short-listed artists exhibited at Paris Photo : Jeff Brouws (Robert Klein Gallery), Andrew Bush (Rose Gallery), Clark & Pougnaud (Galerie Baudoin Lebon), Gerardo Custance (Polaris), J.H. Engström (VU' la Galerie), Martine Fougerson (Esther Woerdehoff Galerie), Nobuhiro Fukui (Tomio Koyama Gallery), Jim Goldberg (Magnum Gallery), Dionisio Gonzalez (Max Estrella), Miyako Ishiuchi (Zeit-Foto Salon, Tokyo), Syoin Kajii (Foil Gallery), Atta Kim (Keumsan Gallery), Ken Kitano (MEM Gallery), Janne Lehtinen (Taik Gallery), Yao Lu (798 Photo Gallery), Akira Mitamura (The Third Gallery Aya), Keisuke Shirota (Base Gallery), Yuki Tawada, (Taro Nasu), Nao Tsuda (Hiromi Yoshii), Ofer Wolberger (Michael Hoppen Gallery)

Details

Dates: Thursday, 13 November – Sunday, 16 November, 2008

Opening by invitation only: Wednesday, 12 November, 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Venue: Carrousel du Louvre, 99 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris, France

Opening hours: 13 Nov. from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm, 14 Nov. from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm, 15 Nov. from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm, 16 Nov. from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

General admission: 15 €, 7.50 € for students

Advance purchase admission (no waiting in line) can be booked on Paris Photo online shop at www.parisphoto.fr

Catalogue: 20 €

Information: www.parisphoto.fr

Travel : for travel arrangements and accommodation, please take advantage of our partnership with Turon Travel :T: +1 212 925 54 53 - E-mail: parisphoto@turontravel.com
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