

Earth Photo 2026 Shortlist Announced

**From Melting Arctic Coastlines to ICE Detention Centres
33 Artists Across 18 Countries Bear Witness to a Changing Planet**



Image: Natalya Saprunova, Most Rapidly Changing Island in the World, 2023 Pelly Island, Canada.

Scientist Dustin Whalen monitors a coastline shrinking at 46 metres per year as permafrost thaw accelerates along Canada's Arctic Ocean coast, releasing carbon, mercury and ancient organic matter into waters Inuvialuit communities have depended on for generations

Earth Photo announces its 2026 shortlist, featuring 160 powerful photographs and films by 33 outstanding photographers and filmmakers around the world.

Selected from 1,400 submissions by 200+ lens-based artists, this year's shortlist is among the most diverse in the programme's history, spanning documentary and fine art, drone photography and handmade printmaking, short film and long-exposure landscape: united by a commitment to stories capturing life on a changing planet.

The shortlisted images speak to the defining environmental and political stories of our time, from landscapes haunted by ICE detention centres, to salmon farms at ecological breaking point. Photographs span hidden geographies of industrial food production in Spain to melting Arctic coastlines in Northern Canada.

Now in its eighth year, Earth Photo is an international photography and film open call from the Royal Geographical Society, Parker Harris and Photoworks. It celebrates innovative visual storytelling that encourages conversations about our world and the challenges it faces.

The shortlisted works will be presented in the Earth Photo 2026 exhibition, at the Royal Geographical Society in London, and then touring the UK, as well as available to view online.

The winners will be announced at a private view at the **Royal Geographical Society on 2 July 2026** at an event hosted by naturalist **Chris Packham**. You can find out more info here:

<https://www.rgs.org/events/upcoming-events/earth-photo-award-ceremony-2026>



Image: Marni Shindelman, Restore the Night Sky, Cibola County Correctional Center, 2024, New Mexico, USA.

A long-exposure photograph reveals the glow of an immigration detention centre holding 1,129 detainees spreading across the night landscape of a town whose entire population is 3,660.

The Earth Photo 2026 shortlist includes:

Photographers:

Salman Fahad Alanazi (Saudi Arabia) \ K M Asad (Bangladesh) \ Antonio Avelar (Portugal) \ Anne-Marie Briscombe (United Kingdom) \ Marco Di Marco (Iceland) \ David Fleetham (Guam) \ Gonçalo Fonseca (Portugal) \ Marco Garro (Peru) \ Neal Haddaway (United Kingdom) \ Catherine Holmes (United Kingdom) \ Muhammad Hossain (Bangladesh) \ Ian Dawson (United Kingdom) \ Britta Jaschinski (United Kingdom) \ Seok Lee (South Korea) \ Garry Lotulung (Indonesia) \ Filbert Minja (Tanzania) \ Giacomo d'Orlando (Italy) \ Natalya Saprunova (France) \ Miguel Serrano Ruiz (Spain) \ Marni Shindelman (United States) \ Gina Soden (United Kingdom) \ Matteo Trevisan (Italy) \ Rebecca Wickham (Australia) \ Takeshi Yamamoto (Japan) \ Umberto Ferrero (Italy)

Filmmakers:

Zillah Bowes (United Kingdom) \ Lalith Ekanayake (Sri Lanka) \ Mohammad Rakibul Hasan (Bangladesh) \ Payal Kakkar (India) \ Janet Lees (United Kingdom) \ Gideon Mendel (United Kingdom) \ Camilo Parra (United Kingdom) \ Klaus Thymann (United Kingdom)

Note: Gideon Mendel, Mohammad Rakibul Hasan, Klaus Thymann, Lalith Ekanayake and Payal Kakkar are represented across both still and moving images.

All shortlisted artists can be viewed online at www.earthphoto.world

The photographs and films were selected by a jury of experts from across the worlds of photography, curation, geography and ecology:

- **Peggy Sue Amison**, Artistic Director and Curator, East Wing gallery (Qatar/UAE and Berlin)
- **Shahidul Alam**, Photographer, Curator, Activist & Director of the Chobi Mela Festival of Photography
- **Emma Bowkett**, Director of Photography, FT Weekend Magazine
- **Serubiri Moses**, Curator, Writer and Educator; Faculty, Hunter College and Bard College
- **Yining He**, Researcher and Curator of Visual Arts, China; Co-curator, 8th Singapore International Photography Festival
- Jury chaired and exhibitions curated by **Louise Fedotov-Clements**, Director of Photoworks; Co-Founder and Patron of FORMAT International Photography Festival

For more information and to view the full shortlist, please visit: <https://www.earthphoto.world/>



Image: Neal Haddaway, *Dense Waters*, 2024 Scotland.

Farmed Atlantic salmon are held at high densities in open sea pens off the Scottish coast. A single farm typically holds two to three times the entire wild population of Atlantic salmon.

Exhibition Tour 2026

The Earth Photo 2026 exhibition will be held at the **Royal Geographical Society, London**, from **26 June to 22 July 2026**, before touring to partner venues across the UK:

- National Trust Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire (**27 June – 31 July 2026**)
- Sidney Nolan Trust (**4 July – 6 October 2026**)
- Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire (**20 July – 25 August 2026**)
- Canwood Gallery, Hertfordshire (**7 August – 20 September 2026**)
- Chester Zoo, Chester (**21 August – 27 September 2026**)
- Mount Ephraim Gardens, Kent (**26 August – 4 October 2026**)

- Erddig Hall, Wales (5 September – 4 October 2026)
- Coleton Fishacre, Devon (12 September – 21 October 2026)
- National Trust Tyntesfield, North Somerset (3 October – 29 November 2026)
- Heligan Gardens, Cornwall (1 Feb 2027 – 28 Feb 2027)



Image: Marco Di Marco, A Volcanic Siege, 2025 Grindavik, Iceland.

Lava fountains rise behind protective berms as a new fissure opens just 500 metres from the evacuated fishing town of Grindavik, showing the reality facing communities living alongside Iceland's volcanic systems.

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For press enquiries, please contact Rupert McMinn at Parker Harris: rupert@parkerharris.co.uk

For all other enquiries, please contact Parker Harris: info@parkerharris.co.uk

To keep up to date with the latest news and announcements, please follow us on social media and use the hashtag #EarthPhoto:

Royal Geographical Society

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Notes to Editors:

Earth Photo:

Earth Photo is an international platform for photographers and filmmakers whose work deepens our understanding of the natural world and the social and environmental issues shaping it. Originally established in 2018, by Forestry England, Parker Harris and the Royal Geographical Society, Earth Photo celebrates the power of visual storytelling to inspire reflection, conversation and change.

www.earthphoto.world

Royal Geographical Society:

The Royal Geographical Society is a learned society, professional body and registered charity with over 14,000 members that has been dedicated to the advancement of geography and geographical science since its formation in 1830. Today, we deliver this mission by developing, supporting, and promoting geographical education, research, expeditions and fieldwork, and professional practice, as well as by advocating on behalf of the discipline. Our broad public and cultural engagement programme, alongside our historical Collections of over two million items spanning 500 years of geography, travel and exploration, support our aim to foster an understanding and informed enjoyment of the world we live in. Everyone with an enthusiasm for geography, travel and exploration is welcome to join us. Find out more about the Society at www.rgs.org.

Parker Harris:

Parker Harris is one of the UK's leading visual arts consultancies, founded in 1990 by Emma Parker and Penny Harris. The team manages and delivers a wide range of visual arts projects for trusts, foundations, multinationals, charities and individual artists.

www.parkerharris.co.uk

Photoworks

Photoworks champions photography for everyone. We are an international platform, global in reach, and have provided opportunities for artists and audiences since 1995. Through our partnerships and programmes, we bring new experiences to audiences and open up new ways to encounter photography. Photoworks is a registered charity and the only organisation with a national remit for photography in England. Our work is supported by public funding through Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

www.photoworks.org.uk