

Embargoed until 7.00pm – 6 September 2012

Media Release

The Royal Photographic Society Awards 2012 announced

- **Progress Medal goes to Steve Sasson inventor of the digital camera**
- **Centenary Medal awarded to New York photographer Joel Meyerowitz**
- **Honours for Brian May CBE, photographers, photo curators and educators**

Bath, UK, 6 September 2012 – The Royal Photographic Society has announced the recipients of its annual awards at a ceremony held this evening at the Royal Society, London. The awards, which are supported by The Macallan, recognise individuals who have made significant contributions to the art and science of photography. They have been given since 1878.

Steve J Sasson, widely acknowledged as the inventor of the digital camera, which he developed while working for the Eastman Kodak Company in 1975, received the **Progress Medal** which recognises any invention, research, publication or other contribution which has resulted in an important advance in the scientific or technological development of photography or imaging.

New York photographer **Joel Meyerowitz**, who was an early exponent of colour photography from 1962 and documented the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 World Trade Centre attack, received the **Centenary Medal**.

Kathy Ryan a New York photo editor advancing visual boundaries at *The New York Times Magazine*, and as an author, teacher, mentor and exhibition curator, received the award for **Outstanding Service to Photography**. Rock guitarist **Dr Brian H May CBE** received the **Saxby Award** for achievement in the field of three-dimensional imaging for his work in communicating the history of 3D to a public audience. Young photographer **Laura Pannack** received the **Vic Odden Award** given for a notable achievement in the art of photography by a British photographer aged 35 or under.

Also announced were the recipients of The Society's **educational bursaries** given to promising photographers starting their careers and the **Combined Royal Colleges Medal** awarded for an outstanding contribution to photography and/or its application in the service of medicine and surgery.

The full list of winners is given on the attached sheet.

Roy Robertson HonFRPS, President of The Royal Photographic Society commented: *"The Society, with the support of The Macallan, is pleased to recognise the contribution of some of the most*

important names in both the art and science of photography. Alongside these are up-and-coming photographers who will be making important images in the future and who continue to be an important focus of The Society's activities. The Awards are very international in character this year and honour a diverse group of people from across the UK, United States and Asia, reflecting the international importance attached to them by the global photography community."

Ken Grier, Director of Malts at The Edrington Group said: "Now in its third year, our *Masters of Photography Series* has enabled The Macallan to forge a strong commitment to the world of photography and bring these two crafts together in a unique way. In supporting The Royal Photographic Society, we're delighted to be further cementing our passion for this exciting medium."

The call for nominations for the 2013 Awards will be open from 30 September 2012 see: <http://www.rps.org/annual-awards/Annual-Awards-2013>

Notes to Editors

The Royal Photographic Society was founded in 1853, to promote the art and science of photography, a mission it continues to this day. Membership of The Society is open to everyone interested in photography, amateur or professional, artist or scientist. The Royal Photographic Society is an educational charity with Royal Charter.

The Macallan is one of the world's leading single malt whiskies. Since its founding in 1824, The Macallan has built a reputation across the world for a single malt whisky of outstanding quality and distinctive character. The Society is very grateful for its continuing sponsorship of The Macallan Royal Photographic Society Awards Ceremony.

Images

Images from selected Award winners are available for download, click below. Other are available on request. Images are to be used only in connection with the Awards, they should not be cropped and must be credited to the photographer:

Joel Meyerowitz, [Ballston Beach, Truro, 1976.](#)

Sally Mann, [Virginia at 6, 1991](#)

Steve Kelly, [Steve Sasson with the world's first digital camera.](#)

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The Royal Photographic Society is an educational charity. It was founded in 1853 'to promote the Art and Science of photography' and was granted the use of the title 'Royal' in 1894 and its Royal Charter in 2004. With a membership open to everyone The Society is the UK's largest organisation representing photographers with over 10,000 members in the UK and abroad. The Society publishes the Photographic Journal and Imaging Science Journal and it holds over 300 events around the UK and abroad. Its world-class Collection of historic photographs, equipment and library is housed for nation at the National Media Museum, Bradford. For more information see: www.rps.org

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The 2012 Awards recipients

Steven J Sasson. Progress Medal and Honorary Fellowship

American, inventor of the digital camera at Eastman Kodak Company, 1975

Awarded in recognition of any invention, research, publication or other contribution which has resulted in an important advance in the scientific or technological development of photography or imaging in the widest sense.

Joel Meyerowitz HonFRPS. Centenary Medal

American, photographer, documented the immediate aftermath of 9/11

Awarded in recognition of a sustained, significant contribution to the art of photography.

Kathy Ryan. Outstanding Service to Photography and Honorary Fellowship

American, advancing visual boundaries, at *The New York Times Magazine*, author and curator

Recognises major sustained, outstanding and influential contributions to the advancement of Photography and/or Imaging

Honorary Fellowship

Awarded to persons having, from their position or attainments, an intimate connection with the science, fine art or application of photography. No more than 8 awarded in one year.

Douglas Allan. Wildlife and documentary cameraman, awarding winning stills photographer.

Ian Beesley. British documentary photographer and MA course leader at the University of Bolton.

Rineka Dijkstra. Dutch photographer and video artist

Rinko Kawauchi. Japanese photographer, shortlisted for the 2012 Deutsche Börse Photography Prize

Sally Mann. American photographer, best known for her portraits of her young children.

Tim Walker. British fashion photographer.

Stephen Perloff. Colin Ford Award

American, editor of *The Photograph Collector*, curator and teacher

Given each year to honour an individual who has contributed in a major way to curatorship.

Micrima and the University of Bristol Microwave Imaging Group. Combined Royal Colleges Award

United Kingdom, developed innovative imaging techniques to detect breast cancer

Awarded for an outstanding contribution to photography and/or its application in the service of medicine and surgery.

Dr Sophie Triantaphillidou. Davies Medal

Awarded for a significant contribution in the digital field of imaging science.

Anne Williams. Education Award

For outstanding achievement or sustained contribution in photographic education.

Fenton Medal

Made to a member or non-member who has made an outstanding contribution to the work of The Royal Photographic Society. No more than four are awarded in one year.

Philip Ellis FRPS

Mike Hallett FRPS

Jack Jackson FRPS

Ray Spence FRPS

Marcus Bleasdale. Hood Medal

British, one of the world's leading photo-journalists

For meritorious performance in some branch of photography, with particular emphasis on any exhibit which revealed the most outstanding advance in photography for public service.

Dr Anthony Bannon. J. Dudley Johnston Award

American, Director of George Eastman House 1996-2012, curator and writer

For major achievement in the field of photographic criticism or the history of photography.

Barry Ackroyd. Lumière Award

British cinematographer, closely associated with the film director, Ken Loach.

For major achievement in British cinematography, video or animation.

Mick Medley LRPS. Member's Award

Given to an ordinary member who, in the opinion of Council, has shown extraordinary support for The Society over a sustained period.

Dr Brian H May CBE. Saxby Award

Rock musician, astro-physicist and historian of 3D photography

For achievement in the field of three-dimensional imaging.

Anna Fricker. Selwyn Award

For those under the age of 35 years who have conducted successful science based research connected with imaging.

Laura Pannack. Vic Odden Award

For a notable achievement in the art of photography by a British photographer aged 35 or under

Dawn McKeown FRPS. The Bill Wisden Fellowship of the Year

Northern Ireland, professional studio photographer

Educational Bursary winners

Oliver Woods. The Joan Wakelin Bursary, The Royal Photographic Society in association with The Guardian newspaper

Ciril Jazbec (under 25). Environmental Awareness Bursary, in association with The Photographic Angle.

Mandy Barker (over 25). Environmental Awareness Bursary, in association with The Photographic Angle.

Shuo (Jason) Jia. The Royal Photographic Society Postgraduate Bursary.