

**Press Release**  
August 29, 2024



Emerging Photographer Award 2024. Foto © Daruna

## **EMERGING PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD 2024** **Mika Sperling is the very first award winner**

**The German Photographic Association (DGPh) is presenting the EMERGING PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD for the first time this year. The sponsorship prize of the DGPhs Art, Market & Law section is supported by the WhiteWall photo lab. The winner of the first EMERGING PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD is the artist Mika Sperling, nominated by Jule Schaffer. The award ceremony will take place at Paris Photo in November 2024 at the Leica Gallery Paris.**

Honorable mentions go to Elliott Kreyenberg, nominated by Candice M. Hamelin, and Marco Dirr, nominated by Prof. Tamara Grcic. The aim of the EMERGING PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD is to promote up-and-coming photographic artists.

In total, the jury received over 70 nominations from representatives of the international art market. Photography specialist and consultant Simone Klein: "With the DGPh Emerging

Geschäftsführender Vorstand:  
Michael Biedowicz, Dr. Martina Mettner (Vorsitzende)  
Hanns-Peter Frenz – Anna Gripp – Dr. Adelheid Komenda  
Daniel Oschatz – Rainer Schlautmann

Amtsgericht Köln, VR 5800

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Photographer Award, presented for the first time this year, the Art, Market and Law section honors a photographic series by an up-and-coming photographer and supports them on their way into the art market. It is a prize for promoting talent and also offers assistance with such important aspects of career planning as international networking and cultivating contacts.”

The jury for the first EMERGING PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD 2024, moderated by Thomas Gerwers (Chairman of the Art, Market and Law Section of the DGPh), included Celina Lunsford (Artistic Director, Fotografie Forum Frankfurt), Ute Noll (gallery owner and curator), Sophie-Charlotte Opitz (curator, Bucerius Kunstforum Hamburg), Michael Biedowicz (DGPh Chairman, gallery owner, curator, lecturer) and Sebastian Lux (curator, F. C. Gundlach Foundation). C. Gundlach Foundation) as well as numerous other representatives of the German photographic art scene.

### **The award winner**

“The jury's decision to award Mika Sperling's series “I Have Done Nothing Wrong” honors a strong, personal, unique work that is able to depict the individual, traumatic experience of child abuse in a visually complex and sophisticated way and involves the viewer emotionally and intellectually. The special nature of the topic and the multi-layered material-visual realisation is very touching and convinced this year's jury,” says Simone Klein.

### **Honorable mentions**

The jury of the first DGPH Emerging Photographer Award also honored Elliott Kreyenberg and Marco Dirr with honorable mentions.

DGPh Chairman Michael Biedowicz: “Marco Dirr's award-winning work entitled Aporia is an intellectual and emotional challenge and magically involves the viewer in the process of thinking and reflecting. Marco Dirr's paintings question the way we see and interpret the world around us. Just as there are no simple or clear-cut solutions if we want to do justice to the complexity of our world and our time. Aporia reminds us of this.”

Juror Ute Noll: “In his series ‘Something was missing within’, Elliott Kreyenberg deals with the stereotype of ‘man’ in his own generation. Instead of heroically presenting them as torn, insecure and oppressed, he combines these portraits with associative and enigmatic images to create a tableau. Kreyenberg's pictures are artistically documentary, complex in terms of content and aesthetically multi-layered. They raise questions - also against the backdrop of current crises and wars.”

### **Award ceremony**

The award ceremony will take place on November 8, 2024, in the exclusive setting of the renowned Leica Gallery Paris. Paris Photo offers a unique environment for encounters and discussions and is the most important platform for photographic art worldwide.

### **The DGPh Section Art, Market and Law**

The Art, Market and Law Section is the newest, but with around 400 members also the second largest section of the renowned DGPh, which was co-founded in 1951 by photo collector L.

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Fritz Gruber. It is home to the DGPh's concentrated expertise in the art market. Members of the section include gallery owners, curators, exhibition organizers, representatives of auction houses and many other art market experts such as publicists and art consultants.

Press release and press photos for download on the DGPh website: [Aktuelles/Presse](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

German Photographic Society

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