

Michele Di Donato (Italy) commended at the world's largest photography competition - 2017 Sony World Photography Awards

- 2017 awards received over 227,000 images from 183 countries
- Images from across entire shortlist available for publication at worldphoto.org/press

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 GMT ON TUESDAY 28 February 2017: The judges of the 2017 Sony World Photography Awards today honour the work of **italian photographer Michele Di Donato whose image "Octagon" is commended as top 50 in the world** in the awards' Open Architecture category.

Over 227,000 images from 183 countries were submitted to the 2017 Sony World Photography Awards. Michele Di Donato, who is based in Castelbuono (PA), is recognised as a commended photographer alongside the shortlisted photographers of the Professional, Open, Youth and Student Focus competitions, all of which are also announced today.

In the Open competition, judges were looking for the best single images across ten categories, representing the finest contemporary photography today.

Michele Di Donato is an amateur photographer. His work has been exhibited in Italy, Russia, China, Poland, and in many other countries. He was awarded in a lot of international photographic contests. His commended image "Octagon" was taken in Summer 2015 and captures a particular view of Castel del Monte, a 13th-century castle situated in Andria in the Apulia region of southeast Italy. His shot was taken lying on the ground, because from that position it seems to him to have photographed a spaceship.

Di Donato notes: "Being recognised by the Sony World Photography Awards and the judges is amazing for me! I am excited to see what opportunities being commended will present and to see my work being exhibited in Somerset House in London."

As a commended photographer, Michele Di Donato's image will be shown alongside the awards' other winning images at the Sony World Photography Awards & Martin Parr – 2017 Exhibition in London from April 21-May 7. The commended image will also be given a global audience as it is published on the World Photography Organisation website.

Sony World Photography Awards

Produced by the World Photography Organisation, 2017 sees the 10th anniversary of the Sony World Photography Awards and a decade-long partnership with its headline sponsor, Sony.

Each year the awards recognize and reward the very best contemporary photography captured over the last year entered into any of the awards' four competitions - Professional, Open, Youth and Student Focus. With 49 nationalities represented, the 2017 shortlists reinforce the awards' international appeal and unique ability to present the greatest images taken by photographers from all corners of the world on a truly global scale.

Each of the four competitions are judged anonymously by internationally acclaimed industry professionals, carefully selected by the World Photography Organisation. For full list of 2017 judges, please click [here](#).

Commended and shortlisted images from across all competitions are available for publication at www.worldphoto.org/press

For further information please contact:

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About World Photography Organisation

The World Photography Organisation is a global platform for photography initiatives. Working across up to 180 countries, our aim is to raise the level of conversation around photography by celebrating the best imagery and photographers on the planet. We pride ourselves on building lasting relationships with both individual photographers and our industry-leading partners around the world. We host a year-round portfolio of events including: the Sony World Photography Awards (the world's largest photography competition, marking its 10th anniversary in 2017), various local meetups/talks throughout the year, and PHOTOFAIRS, International Art Fairs Dedicated to Photography, with destinations in Shanghai and San Francisco.

About Sony Corporation

Sony Corporation is a leading manufacturer of audio, video, imaging, game, communications, key device and information technology products for the consumer and professional markets. With its music, pictures, computer entertainment and online businesses, Sony is uniquely positioned to be the leading electronics and entertainment company in the world. Sony recorded consolidated annual sales of approximately \$72 billion for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016. Sony Global Web Site: <http://www.sony.net/>