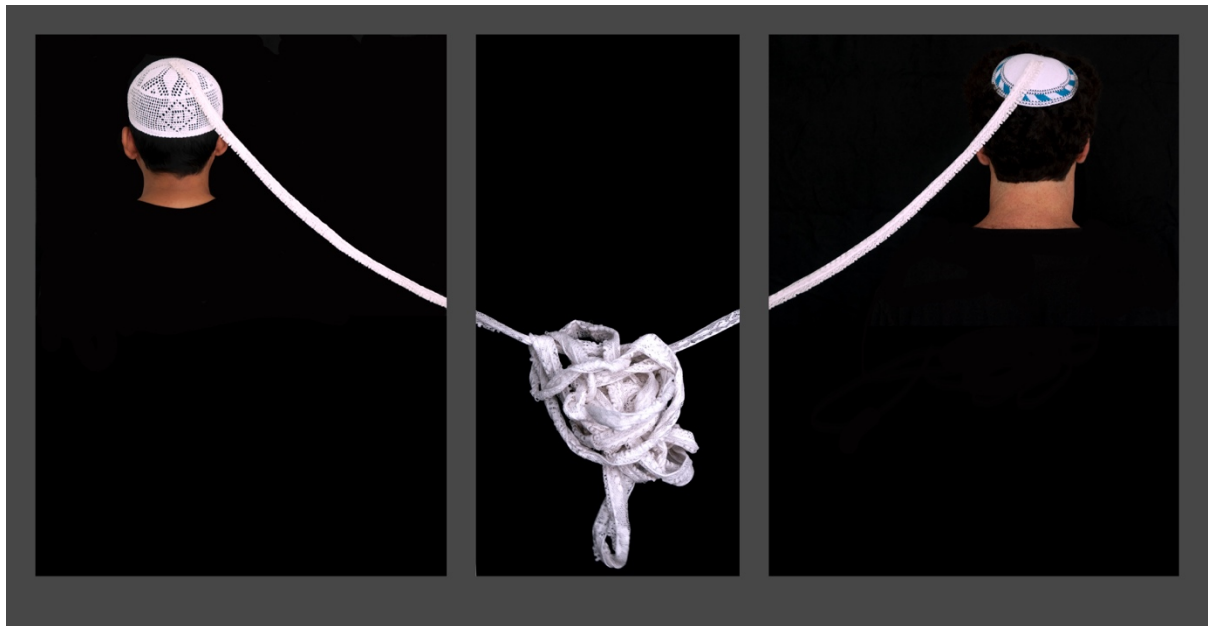


BARTUR PHOTO AWARD

AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS, ABDULLAH M.I. SYED AND BEN RAK, ANNOUNCED THE WINNERS OF BAR TUR PHOTO AWARD FOR HUMANITY

London, Thursday 22nd October 2020: The winners of the BarTur Photo Award for Humanity were announced at the annual award ceremony that took place yesterday morning. It is with great pleasure that we announce Australian artists Abdullah M.I. Syed and Ben Rak as the recipients of the Bart Tur Photo Award for Humanity.

Stemming from their ongoing conversation about identity, faith, politics and activism, Syed and Rak's work *Suspension of (dis)belief* began as an exploration of poetic mediums of art as a way to articulate ideas of respect, bonding and brotherhood. They focused on wearable objects such as the *Kippah* (Jewish cap also called in Yiddish as a *Yarmulke* – Kippah literally means a Dome) and the *Taqiyah* (Muslim skull cap, also *Topi* in Urdu) and explored how these two similar looking objects connect the past history of their two religions with the present political narrative, in the process, demystifying many myths about Islam and Judaism as well as common stereotypes of Muslim and Jewish men.



Suspension of (dis)belief
Abdullah M.I. Syed and Ben Rak
UV Inkjet print, 48 x 110 cm

The selection of winners have been chosen from the two themed categories of this year's competition, [Unity in Diversity](#) and [Climate Change](#) - both extremely pertinent topics within today's society - with both professional photographers and student's entering from all over the world. All 23 shortlisted winners will have their work exhibited at photography exhibitions in London, Paris in France, Berlin in Germany, Łódź in Poland and Copenhagen in Denmark.

The BarTur Photo Award, is a not for profit organisation, conceived in 2011 by entrepreneur, Amnon BarTur, after considering the positive impact that tutors and lecturers had on him when he was studying photography at the London College of Communication (UAL). The award was also established in memory of Amnon's late wife - and mother to his son's Armon and Gil - Ann Lesley

BarTur, who was a talented British artist and who he met at an event whilst studying at the Chelsea College of Art (UAL).

The award aims to find, support and recognise the best contemporary photographic talent and encourages diversity of photographic approaches that reflect vibrant and continuing photographic traditions. The winners are chosen by a distinguished judging panel of photographers, picture editors, art directors, gallerists, museum directors and other industry leaders.

Sponsors of the award also include BaseCamp Student, Erasmus Student Network International, CASE, EUROPTIMA and Miller Canfield PLUS LIST

About the BarTur Photo Award

Celebrating photographers who challenge how we view the world.

In its sixth edition, the BarTur Photo Award aims to transform the lives and careers of those who participate, like it has done for the previous winners. The BarTur Photo Award (2011 and 2012) in collaboration with the University of the Arts London, and the BarTur Photobook Award (2014, 2015 and 2016) in collaboration with the Photographers Gallery, London, have all supported, developed, and promoted professionals and students and recent graduates to help them realize their potential.

A key focus of the BarTur Photo Award has always been the immense power photography has in influencing the way that we understand and engage with the world around us. Using photography as a means to express ideas and values, the BarTur Photo Award 2019 will cross boundaries and help bring communities together.

The BarTur Award is open to those working in the fine arts, documentary, fashion, advertising, journalism and all other fields of photographic image making. You can echo the achievements of those who came before us. Or you can “push the envelope” with innovation. Whether you are inspired by your personal experience or by the urgent issues of our time, you are invited to share your vision.

The award calls on all professionals and students to submit their work in two different categories with a cash prize of \$10,000 for professional photographers and \$3,000 for students and a place to exhibit your work at one of the exhibitions created for the winners each year in different territories.

This year the BarTur Award is eager to support photographers whose work illuminates one of these two themes: UNITY IN DIVERSITY or CLIMATE CHANGE. With the return of an ultra-nationalism unequalled since the 1930s, the conflict in Syria that resulted in millions of refugees, conflicts in Africa, the Middle East, Far East and North and South America and the continuing threat to humans life on earth posed by global warming, we believe these themes are timely and important.

To find out more about the award, the criteria of the competition, past winners or to submit your application visit: www.barturphotoaward.org