

THE MICHAEL P. SMITH FUND FOR DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY

2017 GRANT GUIDELINES



"End of Parade" photograph by Michael P. Smith, 1989; © The Historic New Orleans Collection

The Michael P. Smith Fund for Documentary Photography was created by the New Orleans Photo Alliance (NOPA) to honor the life and work of the legendary documentary photographer, Michael P. Smith.

In Smith's honor, the MPS Fund awards cash prizes and exhibition opportunities to Gulf Coast photographers whose work combines artistic excellence and a sustained commitment to a long-term cultural documentary project.

NEW ORLEANS PHOTO ALLIANCE





"Self Portrait" © Annie Flanagan, winner MPS Fund 2016

AWARD DETAILS

FIRST PLACE

\$3,000 cash award

Summer 2018 exhibition in the NOPA Gallery | online exhibition

SECOND PLACE

\$1,500 cash award | online exhibition

THIRD PLACE

\$500 cash award | online exhibition

ELIGIBILITY

Emerging and established photographers residing in the Gulf Coast states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas are eligible to apply for the MPS Fund 2017 grant awards. The subject matter for the proposed project is not limited to the Gulf Coast geographic region.

APPLICATION AND FEE

Application submissions for the MPS Fund 2017 are made through Entry Thingy. You will need to create a free account to submit your work for consideration. Application fee is \$25 (or \$55 for the application fee and NOPA membership). All fees support NOPA's mission to encourage the understanding and appreciation of photography through exhibitions, opportunities, and educational programs.

March 10

online submissions
open

April 30

submission deadline

May 31

winners announced



2017 JUROR: OLIVIER LAURENT

Olivier C. Laurent is Editor of LightBox, TIME's photography website, which provides a window into the process of how great photographs are made, and draws attention to inspiring projects and groundbreaking work by established masters and new pioneers.

Previously, he was the Associate Editor for British Journal of Photography, the world's longest running photography magazine established in 1854, and the Editor of FLTR, the world's first weekly magazine on smartphone photography. Born in France in 1980, he graduated from the American University of Paris in 2005 and immediately moved to London to pursue a career in journalism, starting in the financial

sector on publications such as Dealing With Technology and Post Magazine, before joining British Journal of Photography in 2008.

He has sat on the juries of the Visa pour l'Image Web Documentary Award, the Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Prize, the FotoEvidence First Photobook Award, the Getty Images Grants for Editorial, the Visa d'Or News and Features, Photoreporter Festival, LensCulture Emerging Talent Awards and World Press Photo's Joop Swart Masterclass.

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JUDGING CRITERIA

The primary criteria for selection is the strength of the applicant's portfolio and a written project statement (max 530 words). The portfolio and statement should demonstrate the applicant's commitment to a cultural documentary project.

SELECTION & NOTIFICATION

If more than 100 applications are submitted, a committee of independent curators and photographers will prescreen all submissions and select 100 portfolios to present to the juror. The juror will select a first, second, and third prize winner. The MPS Fund 2017 grant recipients will be announced on May 31, 2017.

CONTACT & QUESTIONS

If you have questions or need additional information, contact NOPA's executive director, Amy Dailey Williams, at adwilliams@neworleansphotoalliance.org

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. A portfolio of 20-25 images. These images can originate in any format but must be submitted digitally via NOPA's Entry Thingy online application process. Each image file must be submitted as follows:

- Formatted as a jpeg at 150 dpi / 1200 pixels on the long side.
- Saved at the highest resolution setting available (usually 10 or 12).
- Image files must be named using the following naming convention:

Smith_Jane_My_Image_Title.jpg. If your images are untitled, use the following convention:

Smith_Jane_Untitled01, Smith_Jane_Untitled02.

d. Each image must include a short caption, date created, and medium.

e. Image files and accompanying information are loaded individually but you may review and arrange the image sequence before submitting the proposal.

2. A concise description of your work, limited to 260 characters (2-3 sentences). This description will serve as the summary of your project and will be visible to the juror alongside your portfolio. The description is not the project statement.

3. A written project statement of no more than 530 words. The project statement should explain the scope and significance of your portfolio. Please include your plans on how you would use the grant award and how you would benefit from the exhibition and online gallery exposure. Many applicants find it helpful to copy and paste the statement from a word processor into the statement field.

4. A biography or resume/CV of not more than 530 words describing awards, publications, and other career highlights. Applicants must include their city of residence in the biography or resume/CV.

5. A \$25 application fee will be directed through PayPal immediately after you have uploaded your application. Your submission supports the mission of the New Orleans Photo Alliance to encourage the understanding and appreciation of photography through exhibitions, opportunities, and educational programs.

RULES

By applying for a grant from the Michael P. Smith Fund for Documentary Photography, you agree to accept the following rules:

1. The New Orleans Photo Alliance (NOPA) reserves the right to reject incomplete or improperly submitted applications.
2. Staff or Board Members of NOPA are not eligible to submit applications.
3. You acknowledge that you are the sole owner and author of the photographs and accompanying information submitted with your application.
4. You allow NOPA to feature your work without charge in print, on the web, and on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter in conjunction with promotion of the MPS Fund and its grant program. NOPA recognizes your copyright for each of the images that you submitted with your application and agrees to provide proper copyright notice with each image usage. Upon request, the grant recipient agrees to supply a high-resolution image suitable for publication.
5. You permit NOPA to add your email and physical mailing address to the NOPA mailing list. NOPA does not share or sell its mailing list to third parties.
6. The winner is asked to donate 2 prints to NOPA, selecting from work submitted for the award and/or work created after received the award. NOPA will archive these prints in its permanent collection and may exhibit them in the future.
7. The MPS Fund 2017 winners agree to submit a final written report by May 15, 2018 detailing the work completed during the grant period.

Detail from "All the Place You've Got" © Cate Sampson, winner, MPS Fund 2015