

**ADG Photo Contest 2019 | 2<sup>a</sup> edition | Theme "CONFINE | BORDER"**  
**CONTEMPORARY ART PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE | AD GALLERY**

The theme "Confine | Border" is an incitement to encourage authors developing cultural expressions that reflect the social / cultural facets of their world.

Contemporary Photography Contest 2nd edition 2019, open to the participation of photographic works, published and not published by artists residing in Italy and abroad.

Photography is the ideal tool for expressing oneself creatively on issues concerning personal, social and present issues.

**THEME / CONFINE | BORDER**

The border is a dividing line between two realities, at the same time keeping them in touch. It holds and protects, limits the movements and urges to go further.

**/con·fi·ne/ border-line**

During their life, human beings find themselves crossing material and immaterial borderlines; the first is the moment of birth, then some other important borderlines are the transition from childhood to adolescence and to adulthood, marriage, becoming a parent, to the final: death.

Since ancient times these border crossings have been transformed into ritual functions and over time, despite having lost much of the religious significance, they have maintained a great social value and give us an idea of how important it was for man follow a path and overcome certain boundaries, in the order established by the common rules.

Even daily life is bordered by boundaries and articulated by simple rituals such as, for example, what separates the personal sphere from the working one. Often this step is preceded in a practical sense by a change of clothing or the marking of a badge that also attests legally the presence in the workplace, or all those situations in which we are forced to follow lines of behavior dictated by rules that make us facing forced passages or choices of profound change. In modern times, these boundaries are often experienced as a price to be paid to society, obligations that limit personal freedom.

Let's think about the boundaries between states that once defined the territory "known" from the "unknown" and gave a sense of belonging and security, today they have been opened to allow faster movements, exchanges of all kinds, freedom of movement.

Even the boundaries between periods of life have been changed and thinned so much that now it is difficult to identify the delicate passages from childhood to adolescence and to adulthood, but if this process had an excellent result in terms of consumerism, on the other hand it had an unfavorable consequence because it has caused an imbalance, a state of social statelessness that claims an anticipated will and often shuns the responsibility and duties.

The border is also understood as a threshold, a concept seen in the dynamic perspective of crossing, which at that moment becomes the place of creativity, of imagination. Only what we can not imagine has no borders nor, consequently, the possibility of crossing.

The thresholds we encounter in our life are passages that allow us to experience the middle ground, they are the place and the space where the meeting, the contact, the contamination are made easier, where art has its living space. They are places of interior research, which do not deny the boundaries but on the contrary they value diversities, the knowledge of them and the mutual respect.

Is it possible to live in a world without borders? Is it desirable? Is not our uniqueness dictated precisely by the presence of a boundary between "I am me" and "you are the other"? Is it not precisely in this borderland that the process of knowledge of the self and of the other takes place? Which force manages to thin the boundary line until it becomes crossable? Love? Determination? Curiosity? Life itself? What happens to the human soul when it crosses the boundary of reason, of decency, of endurance, of everything that we considered impossible? What is the boundary between imagination and image?

Is art a border to be overcome or a goal to reach?

These are just some of the questions we ask to the artists who decide to join ADG Photo Contest 2019, to ideally place them in front of a large map on which they can represent their concept of boundary: natural ones such as seas, large rivers, mountains or political ones that tell the story of peoples. They can represent the borders seen by those people forced to leave their country torn by war, driven by the dream of a better life or the actuality of those who live these migratory flows as a real invasion, producing fear, worry, hostility.

More than anything else we would like artists try to draw the most hidden, invisible boundaries that everyone has within themselves, those outdated, moved forward or transformed into a framework that protects and makes individuals unique.

**NOTE:**

L'artista è invitato a esprimersi sul tema "confine" considerando che la stessa arte fotografica è di per sé un esempio di ciò che il tema vuole approfondire, in quanto riesce con uno scatto a rendere forte l'emozione di un attimo pur mantenendo la sua delicata e soggettiva sembianza. Astratto dal suo contesto l'attimo catturato continua a dare un'immagine di sé, ad entrare in sintonia con i nostri momenti presenti e a creare un punto di contatto tra le nostre visioni e quelle degli altri.

**"IN&OUT" informal dialogue with the artists**

The aim of this project of Contemporary Photography is to create a meeting, during the opening night of the exhibition, between the artists and the public to give them the opportunity to talk about their photographic projects.

It is not intended as a technical or schematic explanation of their photographs and of the artistic project, but a moment of slowing down of time, of tasting.

In this way, the third dimension of words and emotions is going to be added to the two dimensions of the image.

In this way, their explanation becomes an element of further evaluation of the work and a direct involvement of the visitor in the Gallery.

**AWARD PHILOSOPHY:**

ADG Photo Contest is a photographic award, founded in 2017 by AD Gallery to support photographers, Italian and foreign artists, who work creatively on themes concerning personal, social and current stories.

The curators representing the jury are looking for photos which may offer:

- Original visions
- Affinity to the proposed theme
- Contemporary approaches to the realization of images
- Technical / compositional ability and personal style

**Award Curator:**

Alberto Desirò (Artistic director AD Gallery, Italy)

**Scientific Committee:**

Vittorio D'Onofri

Giulia Pettena

**President of the Jury:**

Alberto Desirò (Artistic director AD Gallery, Italy)

**Jury:**

Enrico Bisenzi: "Media Educator" Instructor, Carrara and Bologna Fina Arts Academies

Vittorio D'Onofri: Artistic director Fotoax, Festival of Contemporary Photography Oaxaca (Mexico)

Robert Pettena: Professor in Photography (Florence Fine Arts Academy), Artist

Alberto Desirò: Artistic director of the AD Gallery contemporary photography gallery

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AD Gallery

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