

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photographer of the year Prize

The Erotic Review is pleased to announce the launch of their **Photographer of the Year Prize**. Our aim for the competition is that it will be the first major internationally recognised award of its type for Erotic Photography.

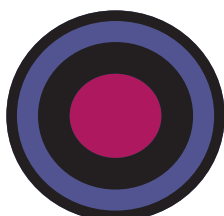
From the dawn of photography to the rise of the Internet, eroticism has played a crucial part in this medium's development.

Over the years photographers have explored one of the most exciting and controversial aspects of the human condition and captured it in literally millions of images.

These days, the moral and legal strictures that apply to erotic photography are less inhibiting. And now that digital photography has made cameramen of us all, the genre has mushroomed into a vast form of private vision and individual expression. A sort of Spencer Tunick in reverse, if you like. The first intimate shot you take of your naked lover is one you will never forget. As a result, there is doubtless undiscovered talent out there. From the bedroom to the gallery is but a short leap...

Despite the seemingly endless supply of erotic or pornographic imagery, the reality is that opportunities for photographers to present their work are more limited than ever before. The Internet has eroded many of the traditional ways for photographers to show their work. 'Glamour' or 'top-shelf' magazines are in freefall. The few surviving magazines have had to cut their picture budgets. Auction sales seem to belie the true demand. It's as if, commercially, the erotic image has become a victim of its own success.

A panel of judges will appraise all images submitted by the entrants, from the gifted amateur to the experienced professional, in order to find the talent that will embody today's spirit of eroticism and to award the £1,000 first prize. A second prize will be awarded by the vote of *The Erotic Review's* readership. This annual competition is as much to discover exceptional new talent as to re-evaluate the work of its more seasoned participants. To reveal one person's beautiful obsession and name *The Erotic Review* Photographer of the Year.



a beautiful obsession

The five judges will be:

Nicky Akehurst is a photographers' agent and curator. Since the 1980s during her time as a gallerist and agent, she has specialised in the Nude and the Erotic. She has also curated exhibitions on the theme, written and presented a documentary and is an advocate of anti censorship in the arts.

Gavin Griffiths is publisher of *Scarlet* magazine; he slipped into the world of erotica at a lunch with Jamie Maclean back in 2001, when he purchased *The Erotic Review*. In turn, he later sold ER to publishing tycoon Felix Dennis. Gavin has continued in magazine publishing and in 2004 he launched *Scarlet*, which is now 'the hottest women's magazine on the planet'.

Ian Jackson is the publisher of *Desire*, the award-winning adult magazine for women and men. Having edited a number of top-shelf magazines, Ian and his partner, Lesley Ann Sharrock (who does the work while he takes the credit) launched *Desire* magazine in the mid-90s, and it has since showcased the work of scores of contemporary erotic photographers.

Grace Lau, photographer, was born London UK 1939. In 1997 *Adults in Wonderland* was published, a retrospective of her work. She has contributed to various journals and books, including *Skin Two* magazine from 1987 and other art & fetish magazines. Exhibitions include: Museum of London, Tom Blau Gallery, National Portrait Gallery, Tate Britain, Photofusion (solo exhibition July-Aug. 2007). The Arts Council Award for project *Hastings Summer 2005*, led to a short residency at National Portrait Gallery. Grace is working on book on Western photographic representations of the Chinese, from 1850-1900, to be published in 2008 in Hong Kong.

Jamie Maclean founded *The Erotic Review* in 1995 and is now once more publisher and editor of the magazine, having bought it back earlier this year. In 1985 he co-curated *Forbidden Images*, the first thematic exhibition of erotic art ever to be held in the UK. He also runs Erotic Review Books (formerly The Erotic Print Society), which over recent years has published and sold around thirty different photography monographs and anthologies. These include work by Pascal Baetens, Günther Blum, Bob Carlos Clarke, China Hamilton, John Dupret, Luis Durante, Petter Hegre, Michaël Moore, Jay Myrdal, Vittoria Perzan, Charlie Roff, Richard Selby, Pete Smith, Vee Speers, Trevor Watson, Ben Westwood, Eric Wilkins and Vania Zouravliov.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The competition is open from **22 October** to **12 December 2007**

Deadline for Entries is **12 December 2007**

Public notification of the winners will be on **14th February 2008**

The competition website for entrants is **www.erphoto.org**

The competition will coincide with *Seduced: Art and Sex from Antiquity to Now* at the Barbican Art Gallery, 12 October 07 – 27 January 08.

NOTE TO EDITORS

The publicity for this Award is being co-ordinated by

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