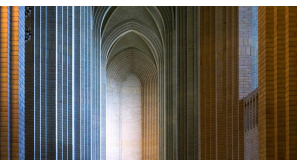
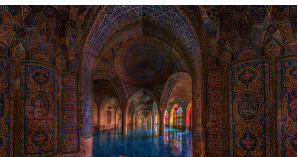
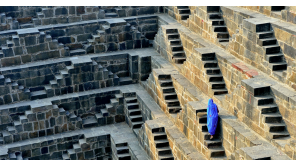


FRH Photo Competition 2023

Winner and finalists





THE FRH PHOTO COMPETITION 2023

The FRH Photo Competition is an annual contest to celebrate religious heritage by recognising the 9 most inspiring photographs on this subject from around the world.

The 2023 edition closed with a record **2,084 photographs** from **114 countries** from Asia, Africa, North America, South America and Europe.

A clear sign that religious heritage is not anchored in the past, but is very much alive and forms an essential part of societies in every corner of the globe.

Every edition of the Photo Competition has received photographs of a very high quality, reflecting not only the mastery of the person behind the lens, but also the powerful messages that religious heritage can convey to the viewer.

And, more importantly, the interest of people of different faiths, backgrounds, social contexts and countries in our religious heritage, our art and our traditions.

Future for Religious Heritage thanks all the participants of in the present edition for their excellent contributions and encourages them to continue to showcase the cultural wealth of our churches, synagogues, mosques, monasteries and other religious sites, as well as the tangible and intangible heritage linked to them thorough their cameras.

More information:
<https://www.frh-europe.org/frh-photo-competition/>

The jury



José Cobo Calderón

José Cobo was born in Santander, Spain (1958). He has lived in Madrid, Chicago, New York and Frankfurt. He studied at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, MFA Sculpture Dept. and Graduate Certificate in Art History, Theory and Criticism. He holds a Master's degree from the Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo UIMP, Santander (Spain) and has been a visiting artist at the several universities in Spain and the United States. He has taught at the Sculpture Department of SAIC, Chicago (USA).



Savina Lambert

Savina Lambert is French, holds a masters in History of Art and Museology from Ecole de Louvre, and has had a career in publishing. An amateur photographer, she has also used her artistic eye working in iconographic and image research for Editions Gallimard, and the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society. Her international life has reinforced her passion for art and architecture, and has exposed her to a wide range of religious heritage. She is pleased to participate to FRH's Photo Competition jury.



Snezana Negovanovic

Snezana Negovanovic graduated from the Belgrade University of Arts, Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Department of Camera. Her final project was titled "Photography of architecture, Balkan style in the architecture of Belgrade." In addition to the "Vladeta Lukic" award – as the best student of the Department of Camera in 1997, she has also won numerous awards for photography, animation and camera in her home country and abroad.

Mabel Cedrón (Spain)

Mabel Cedrón is lucky to live in a fantastic city like Barcelona, especially as an Amateur Architectural Photographer. For her, creating a work of art by photographing another work of art is a great challenge and she finds that very motivating. She declares herself a perfectionist, and as she explains to us, she puts all her effort into controlling everything in the frame. Perhaps that is the key to its success. Winner of the most prestigious International Architecture Photography Contest, and even though she has always been recognized for her work, she explains to us that winning her 1st International Prize in 2020 in the Architecture category marked her work as a 'before and a after'. It was not only rewarding but also a reaffirmation of what she is doing. It inspired her to continue moving forward, learning and challenging himself every day.

“A beautiful photo, geometrical and organic at the same time. This ceiling reminds in a way the fractal shape that is obtained through science when particles are break into smaller particles, forming a unique pattern.”
(José Cobo Calderón)

“Sagrada Familia is a very important church and this photo of the ceiling is just fascinating, with a lot of symmetry and colour, which shows the great technique of the photographer.”
(Snezana Negovanovic)



Religious Buildings

Masterpiece.
Basílica Sagrada Família, Barcelona
(Spain) February 2022.

Mohammad Amin Abedini (Iran)

Mohammad Amin Abedini is a young Canadian-born photographer raised Iran. Having grown up in the city of Shiraz, Mohammad experimented from a young age with different photography genres finally specialising in architecture, landscape and nightscape photography. He has participated in international photography projects and the quality of his photographs has been recognised by many international organisations.

"It is impressive how the reflection of the sun through the stained glass covers the entire tiled floor, producing a realistic illusion of solid water that makes this image truly captivating."

(José Cobo Calderón)



Religious Buildings

Mosque of colours.
Nasir al-Mulk Mosque also known as the
Pink Mosque. Shiraz, Iran.

Francisco Ortega (Spain)

Francisco Ortega is an economist and civil servant specialising in public financing. Enthusiastic amateur of photography and architecture, he values the magic of geometry, light and color. These hobbies lead him to travel around the world to enjoy and photograph the best architecture, especially contemporary one. He is a convinced Europeanist and believes that our common heritage is a bond of union that we must take advantage of and spread. His personal Instagram account @franciscortega has more than 17,000 followers and he is co-founder and editor of @creative_architecture, an architectural photography hub. His photographic work has been awarded in prestigious international photography contests.

"This a haunting image, reminiscent of old gothic architecture, but it's actually a contemporary building. The light is a very compelling element, with warm and cool colours and a beam of light in the background".

(José Cobo Calderón)



Religious Buildings

Getting closer to God.
Grundtvigs kirke, Copenhagen. August 2023.

Ly Hoang Long (Vietnam)

Ly Hoang Long is a freelance photographer based in Dalat – Vietnam. Since his childhood, he was fascinated by colours and images. Then he chose graphic design as his first profession. In 1993, inspired by his friend's pictures, he bought the first SLR camera and started taking pictures. Two years later he built up a darkroom and printed his BW prints there for a decade. Then there were more and more photo assignments from architecture magazines, which transformed him from amateur to professional photographer. He says, the technique and concept of photography might be changed by time, but the only thing that will remain forever is an optimistic vision, because life is always looked much better while being seen via the view finder, so, just press the button and let the images tell the stories.

“I like the the attractive pattern that the walls of the well form in this picture. The right side lies illuminated by the sun, while the left side remains darker. Although no religion is directly identified, the photo alludes to an important element in many religions, water to cleanse oneself before praying.”
(Savina Lambert)



Artefacts

Water Well.
India, November 2017.

Andrés Marín (Spain)

Andrés Marín is a humanist and documentary photographer specialising in popular rituals and traditions. He has been carrying out this activity since 1990, touring the villages and places of the Iberian Peninsula, which covers the lands of Spain and Portugal. The selected photograph corresponds to a detail of the tombs of the Casabermeja Cemetery (Málaga) Andalucía. The cemetery was built in the 18th century and declared an asset of Cultural Interest in 2006. This image is part of the “Crosses and Paths” project, a journey that takes place navigating the Festive calendar that occurs throughout the year: Winter Festivals, Equinoxes and Solstices, Masquerades, Pilgrimage, Prayers, Auctions, Promises, Offerings.

“I like the cleanness and simplicity of this photo and how the photographer has included a surprise element in it. Between the two main geometric architectural elements, we notice a bull, a symbol, which is not visible at first sight, and surprises the observant viewer”

(José Cobo Calderón)



Artefacts

Cemetery.
Casabermeja (Malaga), March 2018.

Natalia Herzen (Russian)

Natalya Herzen is a professional photographer born in the city of Yaroslavl. She currently lives and works in Moscow. She is a member of the Russian Geographical Society and a candidate member of the Eurasian Art Union. The scope of her photographic interests includes artistic photography: portrait, architectural, children's, family and landscape. She is the winner of watercolor competitions in Sremska Mitrovica (Serbia) and Beijing (China). She has participated in thematic photo competitions and has won a diploma from the international competition 35AWARDS. Natalya Herzen takes great pleasure in creating unique, memorable images. She believes that many people feel better when they look at well-taken photos. Let there be more such moments! You can view the works of Natalia Herzen on the website <https://photo-gerz.ru>

"I see the ceiling in this photo not just like a mural painting but like portal, a first level dominated by blue, with gilded areas and the representations of the Bible that are a preview of the upper level above us, Heaven."

(José Cobo Calderón)



Artefacts

This light will last forever.
Russia, 2020.

Stéphane de Rouville (France)

Stéphane de Rouville is a 56-year-old French freelance photoreporter travelling abroad five to six months in a row. He focuses his work on two main subjects. The first one is nomadic life (especially the transhumances, when nomads move from one place to another), and more generally «caravans' world» (some caravans are commercial ones, not necessarily nomadic ones). The second subject is huge log rafts. In places where there are commercial woods and no roads, people use to build huge log rafts, to convey the wood by the rivers up to the place where it will be sold, usually a port, or a sawmill. In a more general manner, he is interested in endangered cultures. For him it's a great chance to live and observe the last shreds of those intangible cultural legacies of humanity.

"This is a very nice photo, capturing a fleeting moment of a dervish dance in Turkey, with the costumes whirling as the dancers perform".

(Savina Lambert)



People and events

Whirling dervishes.
Konya, Turkey. January 2019

Mouneb Taim (Syria)

Mouneb Taim, born in 2001 in Damascus, Syria. He worked on covering news stories with a focus on social issues. He working freelance photojournalism with international agencies began his career in 2014, where he covered life under siege in different areas of Syria until early 2022, and documented massacres, destruction and life with people under caused air strikes and bombing almost daily During the ten years he lived under siege in his city Arrested and tortured by Islamic organizations for his journalistic activism, he won many international awards.

“Because of the time and circumstances, this photo is very powerful and emotional, showing that probably people feel religion even more deeply in such times.”

(Snezana Negovanovic)



People and events

Ramadan meals among the ruins in Idlib,
Syria, 2021.

Soufiane Belhani (Algeria)

Soudiane Belhani is an Algerian photographer with a special talent for portraying people.

“The photographer has brilliantly given individuality to this young woman who is part of the crowd by establishing a connection between her and the viewer through the simple gaze of an eye.”

(José Cobo Calderón)



People and events

Beautiful eyes.
Laghouat, Algeria, 2022.

FRH Photo Competition

Thank you for supporting European religious heritage

More information:

www.frh-europe.org



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