

FUTURE NOW HEADLINE SPEAKERS: MAGNUM PHOTOS AND GETTY IMAGES



Images (left to right): 1. A woman walks past the New York Stock Exchange, near Wall Street. Photograph: Spencer Platt/Getty Images. 2. Slim Aarons, Beverly Hills Hotel, 1957. Courtesy of Getty Images Gallery. 3. Alex Majoli, Congo, Republic of the Congo, 2013. © Alex Majoli / Magnum Photos.

The Aesthetica Future Now Symposium welcomes Alex Majoli, Magnum Photos, and Shawn Waldron, Getty Images Gallery, as the headline speakers for the 2019 edition.

Through panel discussions, lectures and portfolio reviews, **The Future Now Symposium (7-8 March)** is an exploration of 21st century culture through art, design and new technologies. The two-day event brings together key institutions, galleries and publications for discussion surrounding the most pressing issues from today's creative industries. Alongside imaginative debates, career advice and cultural engagement, the Symposium welcomes **Alex Majoli (Magnum Photos) and Shawn Waldron (Curator, Getty Images Gallery, New York) as headline speakers for the 2019 edition.**

Since joining Magnum Photos in 1996, Majoli's work has been published in the likes of *National Geographic*, *NY Times* and CNN. He has documented major conflict zones and humanitarian crises, including the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the invasion of Iraq. **On 7 March, Majoli discusses how art can help to establish dialogues** through his insightful talk ***The Human Impact: How Can Art Help Us?*** He notes: "Photography is – in this way – on a level playing field with other forms of expression or interpretation such as writing, painting or music. an honest image is able to convey information about historical and cultural contexts as well as the feelings of people involved. Photographs bear responsibility towards their audience: an intellectual honesty for that which they communicate."

On 8 March, Aesthetica welcomes **Getty Images Gallery Curator, Shawn Waldron**, in a session entitled ***The Role of the Curator: Making Sense of Today***. Through this presentation, Waldron will discuss his role in distinguishing between that which is data and that which is fine art, focusing on creating empathy in the viewer. He notes: "There is no doubt that images, both still and moving, are an ever-present and inescapable feature of modern life. In terms of photographs as artworks to be consumed, selection and presentation at the museum and gallery level are key for both expanding the canon and defining the market. Curators provide context, didacticism and pedagogical guidance outside the realm of data-driven algorithms."

Future Now also hosts a number of panel discussions on diverse topics including:

- **The Politics of Representation**
- **How are Exhibitions Programmed: Do Curators Take Risks?**
- **The Business of Art: How the Art Market Influences All**
- **Ways of Living: Responsible Architecture**
- **Modes of Consumption: Arts Journalism in the Digital Age**
- **Evolution of Code: VR & Data-Influenced Artwork**

Aesthetica Future Now 2019: Magnum Photos | Getty Images Gallery

Representatives in attendance include: RIBA, Dazed, Frieze, Design Museum, Foam Amsterdam, V&A, BALTIC, Michael Hoppen, Giles Huxley-Parlor, HOME, London Art Fair, The Art Newspaper, Artnet and Yorkshire Sculpture International.

-ENDS-

Notes for Editors:

For PRESS images [download here](#) or for more information please contact:

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- **The Aesthetica Future Now Symposium runs Thursday 7 March and Friday 8 March at York St John University.** Attendees can either purchase a One-Day or Two-Day Pass. A One-Day pass entitles visitors to attend three sessions on either the Thursday or the Friday, whilst a Two-Day Pass permits access to three sessions each day. A complimentary lunch is included with all passes. Thursday or Two Day passes also include a free ticket to the Aesthetica Art Prize Private View. <http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/future-now-symposium-2019/>
- **The Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition runs 8 March – 14 July at York Art Gallery.** It is a celebration of emerging and established artists from across the world, inviting audiences to be inspired by a wealth of ideas and perspectives. **Entries are open for the 2020 edition until 31 August.** <http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/exhibition-2019/>
- **The 2019 Aesthetica Art Prize Judging Panel includes:** Cherie Federico, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Aesthetica; Alessandro Vincentelli, Curator of Exhibitions & Research at BALTIC; Dr. Beatrice Bertram, Senior Curator at York Art Gallery; En Liang Khong, News and Comment Editor, *Frieze Magazine*; Dr. Itandehui Jansen, Filmmaker & Research, Edinburgh College of Art; Mariana Pestana, Curator, V&A; Michelle Williams Gamaker, Fine Art Lecturer, Goldsmiths University; Mike Stubbs, Creative Producer Doncaster 20-22; Dr. Samantha Broadhead, Head of Research, Leeds Arts University; Thomas Dukes, Curator, Open Eye Gallery; Edmund Clark; David Birkin.
- **The 2019 Shortlisted Artists include:** Alec Von Bargaen (Italy); Nicolas Bernier (Canada); Ludivine Large-Besette (France); Mark Bloomfield (UK); Sebastian Kite (UK); Yunhan Liu (China); Daniel Mullen (UK); Jenn Nkiru (UK); May Parlar (USA); María Molina Peiró (Netherlands); Rebecca Reeve (USA); Giulio Di Sturco (UK); Noriyuki Suzuki (Germany); Maryam Tafakory (UK); Jane and Louise Wilson (UK); Teppei Yamada (Japan); Sim Chi Yin (Singapore); Christiane Zschlommer (UK).
- **Press images** can be [downloaded here](#).
- **Art Prize and Future Now** are hosted by *Aesthetica Magazine*: www.aestheticamagazine.com

