



# FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

The International Federation of Photographic Art

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## FIAP 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

By Teleconference, December 19, 2020

### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr. President, members of the Board, dear Liaison Officers, dear Delegates

This is a unique and quite unusual Assembly. It is the first time we organize such an event by teleconference, due to the pandemic. Last year we were happy to organize it in America, hoping to see it also in the near future somewhere in Oceania, this way completing all continents. On the contrary we see it this year to be organised somehow “globally” or better above all continents, in the cloud.

The pandemic had its side effects in every human activity, among them of course photography. In February we could not publish the program of our scheduled Congress in India, hoping that the situation would soon ameliorate. Unfortunately things became worst. One month later, due to the evolution of the Coronavirus, we postponed the FIAP World Cup Ceremony in Bulgaria for the next year and we canceled both the Congress and the 35th Black and White Biennial.

Nevertheless, we did not stay inactive. On the contrary we preferred to “Stay Home”, announcing our first international contest addressed to all amateur and professional photographers in the world. The idea had a double scope. From one hand to persuade people keep social distancing and from the other hand to promote photographic creation in a place we usually neglect; our own home ! Photographers should only submit pictures taken at home during this period. The participation was without entry fees. Instead, for each photographer who participated in this special competition, FIAP was going to contribute a certain amount of money to a world organisation specialised in the fight against the Corona Virus.

The success of this project was enormous. 1.881 photographers from 90 countries of the 5 continents participated with more than 5.800 images electronically submitted in a special platform created for that reason. The selection of the best ones was a really difficult job for the FIAP BD. The big prize went to Jo Knight from England for her picture “The enemy outside”. She will be invited for free to participate in the next FIAP photo Meeting. At the same time an amount of 30.000 euros was given to the Jenner Institute in UK as a small offer to its efforts for fighting the virus.

The pandemic had some other side effects to FIAP as well. In regard to this exceptional situation, FIAP temporarily lifted the ban on “online judging”, in order to facilitate salon juries and help salon organisers obeying to the governmental restrictions. Furthermore, it also affected the FIAP Directions of Distinctions and Medals, due to the many problems with the postal services around the world.

In the meantime, we had a change in the Direction of FIAP News Service. After the successful and very productive work of its former Director, Mr. Nikos Karanikis from Cyprus, it was the turn of Mrs Bronwen Casey from Australia to take over. This change was marked by the publication of the Regulation for publishing articles in FIAP News, a more or less legal document describing the rights and obligations related to the publication and distribution of Articles in FIAP News and governing how Authors, FIAP and the wider general public can use, publish and distribute them. This regulation was missing to FIAP all these years and fulfilled an important need.

In July we announced a new project. A World Natural Heritage Special Photographic Exhibition hosted by FIAP and China Artistic Photography Society in conjunction with Photo Beijing 2020. The objective of the World Natural Heritage special photography exhibition was to help raise the awareness of the protection and inheritance of natural heritage and, using Photo Beijing, to develop an international exchange and cooperation platform among our societies, professional photography agencies, curators, and photographers.

2020 was special for FIAP not only because of the pandemic but also thanks to our anniversary. FIAP became 70 years old! In order to celebrate our long and fruitful influence on world artistic photography, FIAP announced an international photography competition open to every photographer with photos taken during the year 2020. The competition was under FIAP patronage and free of charge entry. Apart from the acceptances and the medals which will count for the FIAP distinctions, the Best Author will be invited to the next FIAP Photo-meeting with all expenses paid. This seems to be also a big success. We are still receiving participations from all over the world till the last day, which will be January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

I wish you all a good and successful General Assembly and I hope next year we will be able to meet again in person !

Ioannis