

IMAGE

the magazine of the **AOP**

**3
4
5**

June 2004 £2.00



AOP STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

AOP STUDENT AWARDS 2004

AOP STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR: EMMA CRITCHLEY >

IMAGE INTRODUCES THIS YEAR'S AOP STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR, AND PRESENTS THE IMPRESSIVE BODY OF SELECTED WORK THAT FORMS THE AOP STUDENT AWARDS EXHIBITION

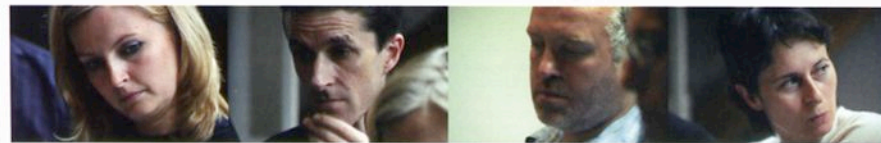
The Association of Photographers has been running an annual competition for students since 1981. These awards were introduced to recognise the excellent standard of photography produced by individuals studying on photography-related courses in the UK. Now, 23 years since their inception, the Student Awards continue to flourish and offer the winning students and their colleges both support and valuable publicity. With over 1,200 entries from photography students across the country, the judges have chosen an outstanding set of images that clearly displays the quality of imagery and creativity at student level.

The selected images are displayed in the 2004 Student Awards exhibition at the AOP Gallery in London from 3 to 17 June.

THE JUDGING PANEL



Betsie van der Meer, photographer Cesca Sims, assistant Debra Zuckermann, designer Gwyn Headley, Fotolibra



Helen Hope, art buyer, AMV Seamus Ryan, photographer Steve Paskin, art director, Lowe Worldwide Tricia Callaghan, picture editor, Time Out

IN ASSOCIATION WITH EPSON



AOP STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR: EMMA CRITCHLEY



BUT WHAT'S LIFE LIKE **AFTER** THE STUDENT DAYS ARE OVER? **IMAGE** TALKS TO AOP STUDENT AWARDS JUDGE, CESCA SIMS, ABOUT LIFE IN THE REAL WORLD

How do you think the industry has changed since you left college in 1997?

To be brutally honest when I left college I hadn't the faintest idea about the industry or how it worked. It just wasn't something that was taught at college. Having said that, just within the three years since I started assisting things have changed dramatically. Obviously, the primary changes are those involving the improvements in digital technology. Everything has become much faster, more immediate and consequently still more competitive. Certainly, from an assistant's point of view, it's becoming more and more imperative that assistants keep updating their knowledge of different camera systems as well as lighting.

Would you say you had a realistic idea of what you'd be doing seven years on?

Absolutely not. I suspect that, like most graduates, leaving the sheltered, supportive and relatively unpressured environment of university I was under the misguided illusion that things would be relatively straightforward.

Images © Emma Critchley. Emma is currently in her third year at the University of Brighton studying editorial photography. Of her winning images, she says: 'The inspiration behind my images is due to a complete fascination with an environment within which humankind cannot exist. I am interested in the relationship between the stillness of the subjects, and the imposed tension of the space.'