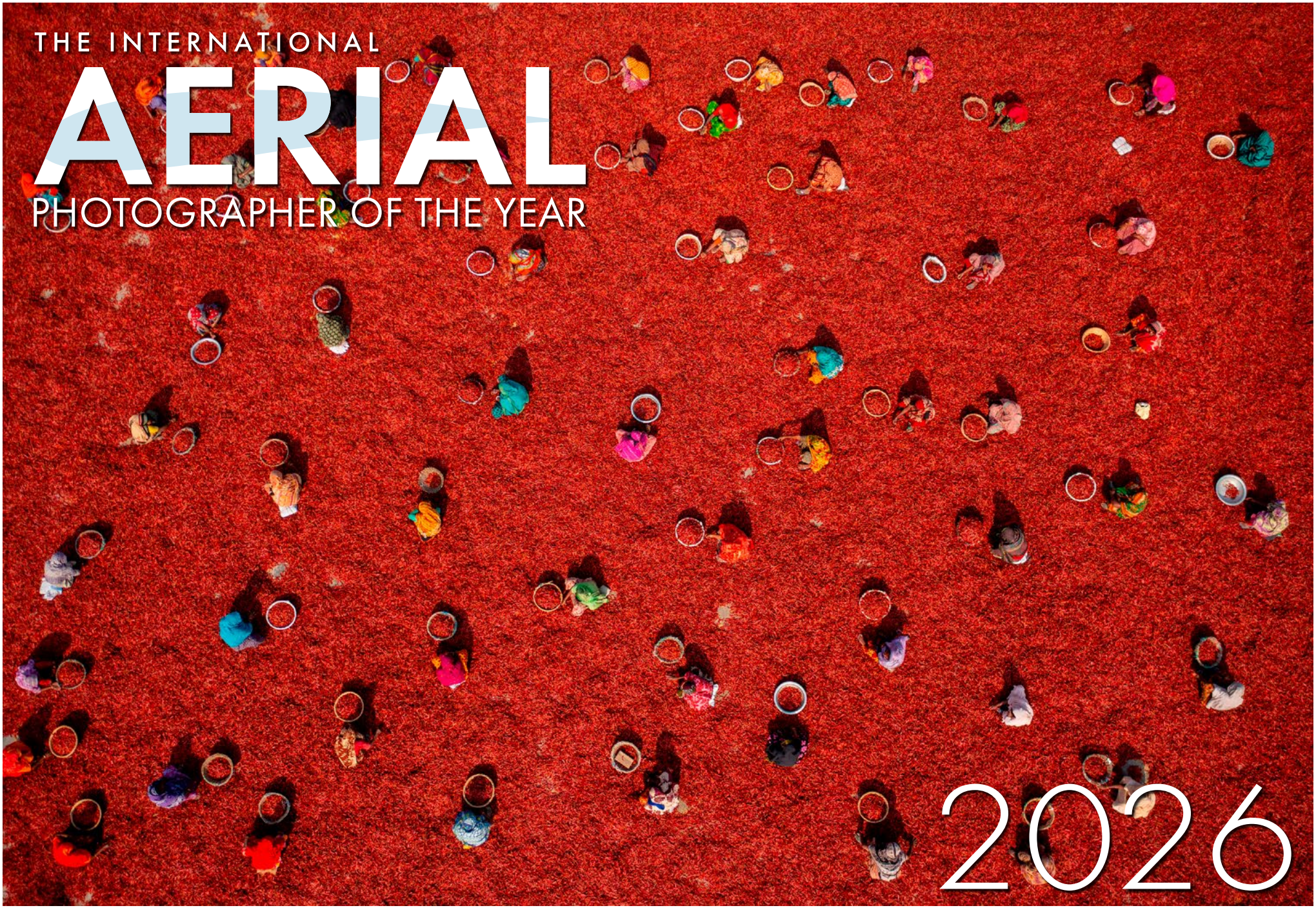

THE INTERNATIONAL
AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR
2026



THE INTERNATIONAL

AERIAL

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

2026



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THE INTERNATIONAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

STILL SO SPECIAL

Over a decade ago, we started seeing amazing aerial images in photographic competitions. They were usually entered into the landscape category as this is what most of them were, but more importantly, they weren't just interesting views from a high vantage point, they explored and described wonderful patterns, shapes and compositions that couldn't be seen from the ground.

The aerials were very popular with the judges and many of us expected their 'surprise value' would diminish over time. But we were wrong. While David Evans and I continue to run the International Landscape Photographer of the Year awards, and while it also accepts aerial photographs, we could see a real thirst for an award that celebrated all the different aspects of aerial photography.

And that's why you're about to enjoy our second year of the International Aerial Photographer of the Year award.

And what a year it is. I think we have one of the strongest collections of 101 aerial photographs ever assembled. Some are breathtaking scenics from above, others are carefully framed abstract compositions; some are hardly edited, others are deliberately manipulated. It's not for us to define what aerial photography is, we leave that to our entrants and our judges.

And every entry is judged by all three judges. We understand that with some very large competitions it might not be possible for all judges to judge tens of thousands of entries, but with our smaller award we think this is an important distinction for our entrants.

Our approach to designing competitions comes from over 40 years of experience. It's not the only system that works, but we think it is the best. The only rule we have is that all entries must be created by a real person and no AI that generates new content is permitted. And by rewarding the Top 101 entries, the judges can applaud a diverse range of subject, techniques and approaches. Being accepted into the Top 101 is the key.

Of course, we still have our major prize winners! There is US $10,000 shared for the best Photograph of the Year (single shot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd), best Photographer of the Year (portfolio of four photographs, 1st, 2nd, 3rd), and four special subject awards.

This year we received 1587 entries from around the globe. Thanks to our three judges, Tom Hegen, Isabella Tabacchi and last year's winner, Joanna Steidle for their careful assessments.

We hope you enjoy the world's best aerial photographs for 2026.

Peter Eastway and David Evans
Co-convenors
The International Aerial Photographer of the Year Awards



Peter Eastway



David Evans



Tom Hegen



Isabella Tabacchi



Joanna Steidle

THE INTERNATIONAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2026



Azim Khan Ronnie

BANGLADESH

Azim Khan Ronnie is a professional photographer from Bangladesh and currently living in France. He has been working in photography for 11 years, covering travel, aerial, documenting news, culture, sports, humanitarian issues and everyday life with a strong emphasis on visual storytelling. His work has taken him from major sporting events to remote communities, capturing moments that reflect both resilience and the human condition.

Professionally, he was a journalist on many news channels for more than 19 years.
Azim Khan Ronnie's journey into photography began with a fascination for telling real stories through images. What started as a passion gradually developed into a full-time profession, driven by a commitment to documenting authentic moments that might otherwise go unnoticed. He believes photography has the power to inform, inspire and preserve history.

Today, his work focuses on creating compelling visual narratives with both journalistic integrity and artistic sensitivity. His photographs have been recognised in international competitions and published by media organisations around the world.

"I use a combination of mirrorless cameras, action cameras, drones and professional lighting equipment that gives me the flexibility to work across photojournalism, documentary, sports, wildlife, and aerial photography."

“For aerial photography, I use the DJI Mavic 4 Pro and DJI Mavic 3 Classic, allowing me to create images that reveal scale, patterns and perspectives impossible to capture from the ground. I always shoot exclusively in raw to capture the maximum amount of image data, giving me greater flexibility during post-processing while preserving image quality.

“I use Adobe Photoshop for all of my post-production work. My workflow typically includes raw processing, exposure and white balance adjustments, contrast and tonal corrections, colour refinement, sharpening, noise reduction and selective local adjustments.

“My post-processing philosophy is based on enhancement rather than manipulation. I believe editing should strengthen an image without altering its truth or narrative. Every adjustment is made with the goal of accurately reflecting the atmosphere, light and emotion I experienced when I pressed the shutter. Especially in my documentary and photojournalistic work, I am committed to ethical editing practices that preserve the integrity of the photograph. For me, post-production is the final step in realising the image I envisioned in the field, not creating a different reality."

Azim Khan Ronnie says what he enjoys most about aerial photography is its ability to transform familiar landscapes into something entirely new. “From above, everyday scenes reveal patterns, geometry, textures and relationships that are often invisible from the ground. Aerial photography allows me to tell stories about people, nature and the environment from a perspective that inspires curiosity and offers a deeper understanding of the world.

“In my photographs, I look for strong composition, beautiful light, meaningful moments and visual balance. Whether I am photographing landscapes, sporting events, humanitarian stories or everyday life, I aim to create images that are both aesthetically compelling and emotionally engaging. I want viewers to pause, explore the details and connect with the story behind the image.

“I am influenced by the work of photographers who combine technical excellence with powerful storytelling. The photographers of National Geographic, especially those who document culture, nature and the human experience, have been a constant source of inspiration. I also admire contemporary aerial photographers who use perspective, scale and geometry to reveal the beauty and complexity of our world. Their work encourages me to keep exploring new viewpoints, while remaining authentic to the stories I tell."

Azim Khan says he is drawn to locations that reveal something unexpected when viewed from above. Each of the locations in his portfolio had a unique story to tell, whether it was the quiet simplicity of rowing on the Lake Zurich in Switzerland, the dramatic interaction between people and birds at Yamuna Ghat in Delhi, India, the vibrant geometry of red chilli peppers drying in Bogura, Bangladesh or the spiritual atmosphere of the Rakher Upobash ritual in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

“I visited these locations while working on documentary and travel photography projects and I chose them because I saw the potential to transform everyday scenes into compelling visual narratives. Behind each photograph was patience, waiting for the right light, the perfect arrangement of people, or a fleeting moment when everything came together. Those brief moments are what make aerial photography so rewarding.

“I entered the International Aerial Photographer of the Year because it celebrates creativity, storytelling and the unique perspective that aerial photography offers. It is an opportunity to share my work with an international audience and to learn from some of the world’s best aerial photographers.

"I also enter selected international photography competitions, particularly those that value documentary storytelling, photojournalism and aerial photography. For me, competitions are not only about winning awards, they are a way to challenge myself, receive recognition from respected judges and be inspired to continue exploring new perspectives and telling meaningful stories through photography.”

www.azimronnie.com/index



Gliding through Serenity

An aerial view of a rowing team gliding through the pristine waters of Lake Zurich in Switzerland. The team is perfectly synchronised, with oars cutting cleanly into the turquoise, misty surface, leaving subtle ripples in their wake.



Thousands of Migratory Birds Feeding

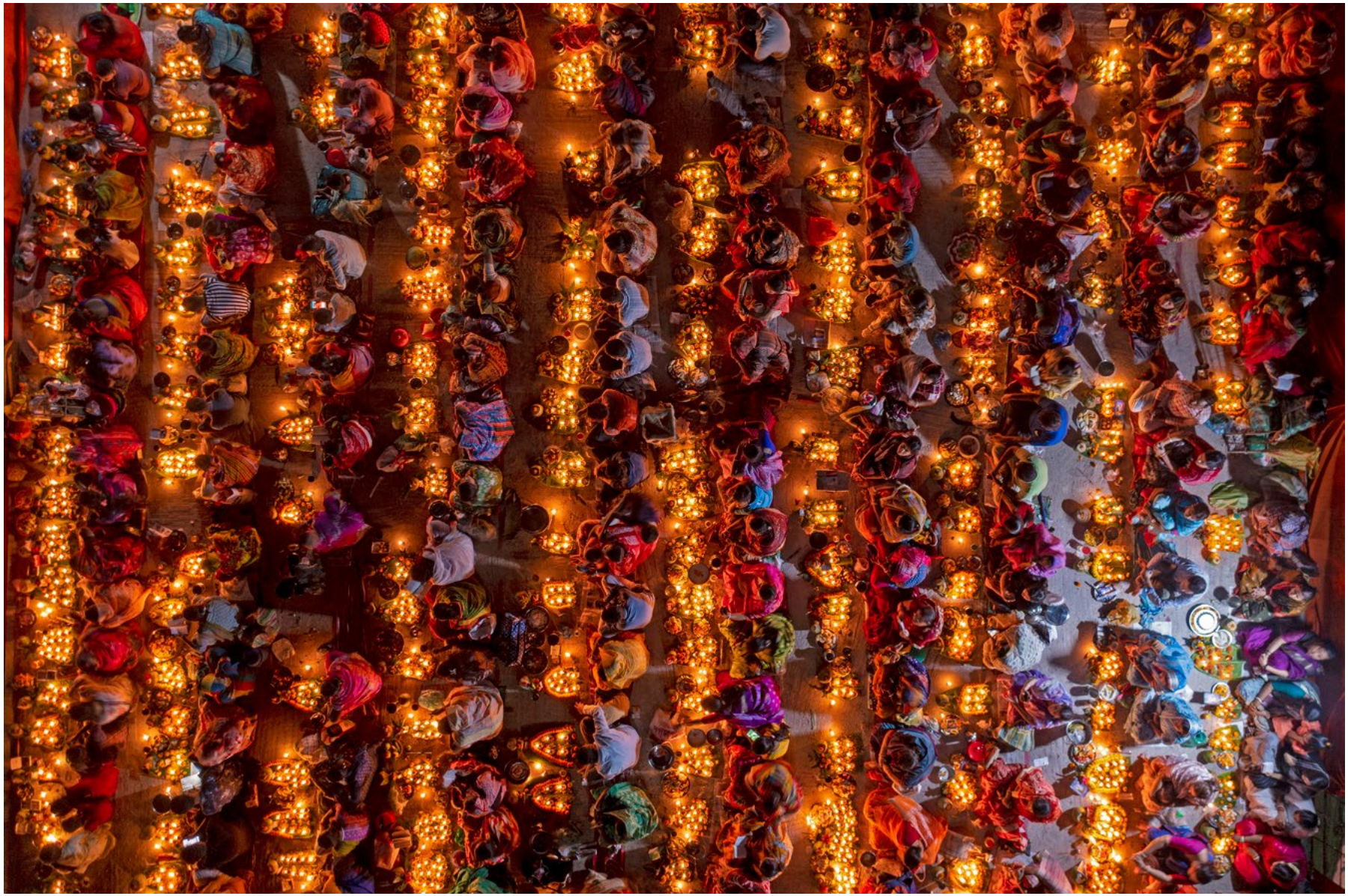
For a few months of the year, a large number of Siberian seagulls migrate to various parts of India. One of them is Yamuna Ghat in Delhi. The birds start coming in here in November and move out in mid-March. The activity continues all morning.

AZIM KHAN RONNIE | WINNER



Harvesting Red Chilies

Thousands of bright red chilli peppers are harvested in the hot sun before being sorted ready to be delivered to spice companies in the Sariakandi, Bogura, Bangladesh. More than 2,000 people work in almost 100 chilli farms in Bogura.

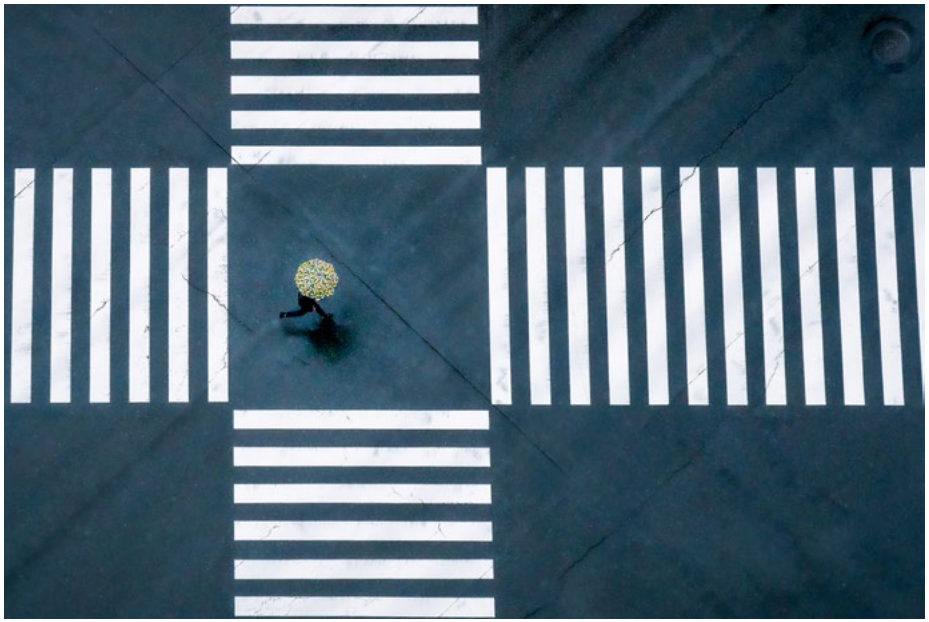


Fasting Festival

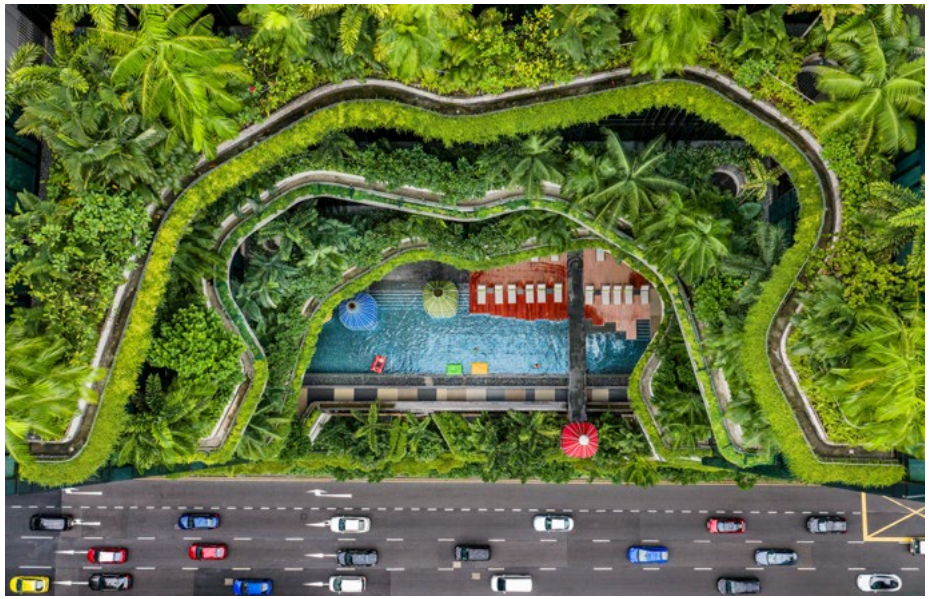
Hindu devotees gather in Dhaka for Rakher Upobash, fasting and praying with incense and oil lamps to honour Baba Lokenath. Thousands seek blessings for health and protection, recalling the 18th century saint's life of asceticism and spiritual devotion.



Dawn Net
A lone fisherman casts a radiant yellow net that blooms across the water like liquid sunlight. From above, the sweeping lines wrap around his small boat, turning a simple act into a moment of quiet poetry.



Crossing the Junction
A split second shot where only a single person appears in the frame of a large traffic junction in central Tokyo, depicting the overwhelming loneliness and the hectic pace of living in a large city.

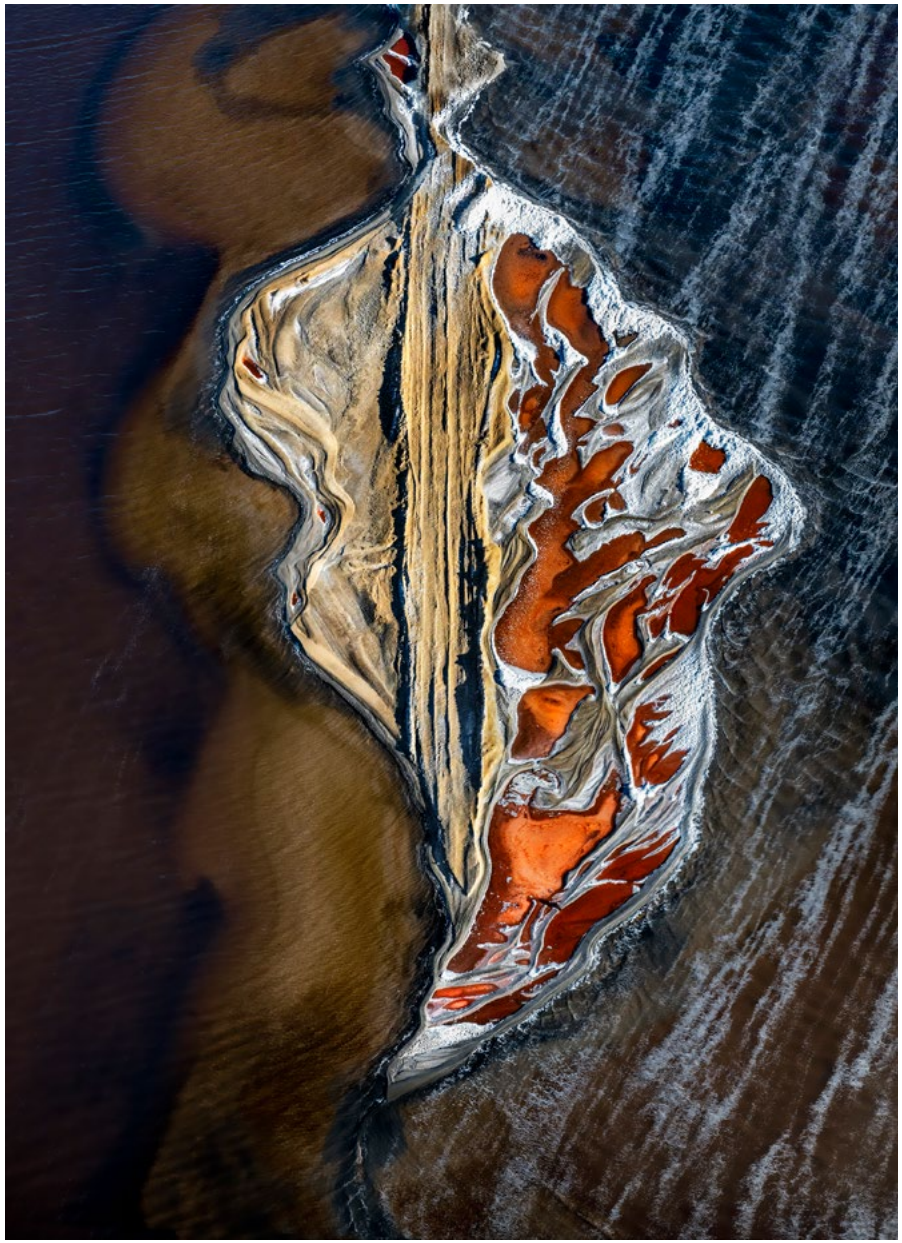


Green City Hotel
The Park Royal on Pickering Road in Singapore feels like a lush vertical garden in the heart of the city, with a swimming pool surrounded by sky-gardens and cabanas, dramatically juxtaposed with the hectic city streets below.



Bali Rice Terrace 2
Bali's rice terraces cascade down the hillsides in vivid green steps, shaped by centuries of careful irrigation. Four ladies with a dog work the fields in a line, moving steadily through the paddies as they tend the young rice plants.

BARBARA BROWN, AUSTRALIA | THIRD PLACE



Pendant
Salt Works, Walvis Bay, Namibia.



Cloud Over Dunes
Walvis Bay, Namibia.



Mud Trees
Flooding of Sossusvlei due to heavy rains generated tree patterns.

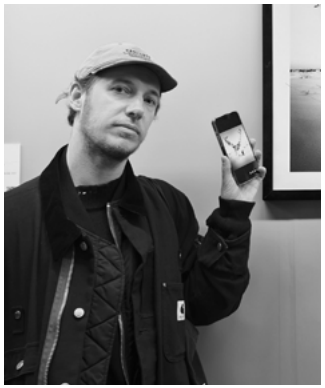


Sossuvlei Dune
Heavy rain had resulted in the dunes of Sossusvlei being flooded, giving a unique view.

THE INTERNATIONAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR 2026

Vitaly Golovatyuk

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



Vitaly Golovatyuk is a professional cinematographer and photographer with over 15 years of experience, including 11 years dedicated to aerial imaging. “My journey began in video, but the rise of social media in 2011 drew me into still photography, where I found inspiration in collaborating with the creative community.”

Vitaly currently uses a DJI Mavic 4 Pro and a Sony FX2 with Sony prime and zoom Gmaster lenses. “Over the years, I’ve tried many different cameras and drones, but I’m happy with my current set-up. I’m not a big fan of bulky camera bags, so I usually carry a more comfortable bag where I put my cameras.

“Aerial photography has fundamentally expanded my creative vision, pushing me to seek unconventional angles and compositions that stand out in an increasingly saturated visual landscape. I prioritise capturing the ‘money shot’ in-camera, treating editing in Lightroom and Photoshop as a supplementary step, rather than a crutch.”

The winning image was taken at Elk Park, outside Dongtai City in Zhejiang Province, China, November 2025.

“After several days exploring the area during sunrise and sunset, I photographed this bird on a tiny lake surrounded by red grass. The clarity of the sky's reflection creates a striking illusion, as if the bird is suspended weightlessly in the air.

“I think IAPOTY is a great competition and currently there are not many dedicated aerial photography competitions. So I try to enter a competition every time I think I have a chance – and if I think I have work worth seeing.”

www.panvelvet.com



Birdie in the Sky
Birdie is sitting on the water of a tiny, crystal clear lake with reflection of the sky and surrounded by red grass, somewhere in Dongtai.

SANGHAMITRA SARKAR, INDIA | SECOND PLACE



Wari

A gathering of Warkaris during Maharashtra's Wari pilgrimage forms a circular pattern around the central palkhi carrying sacred padukas. Dressed in white, devotees sit in rows, creating a powerful visual of unity, devotion and harmony.



Thunder of Hooves

At sunset in Cappadocia, Yilki horses surge across the dusty plateau. Raised by villagers and released to roam free, they embody resilience and tradition, moving like a river of fire beneath the fading Anatolian sky.



SPECIAL AWARDS



Emerald Waves at Dusk

Captured above the rolling hills of San Jose, California at golden hour, this image reveals the Diablo Range at its greenest after winter rains, highlighting smooth contours and flowing patterns.

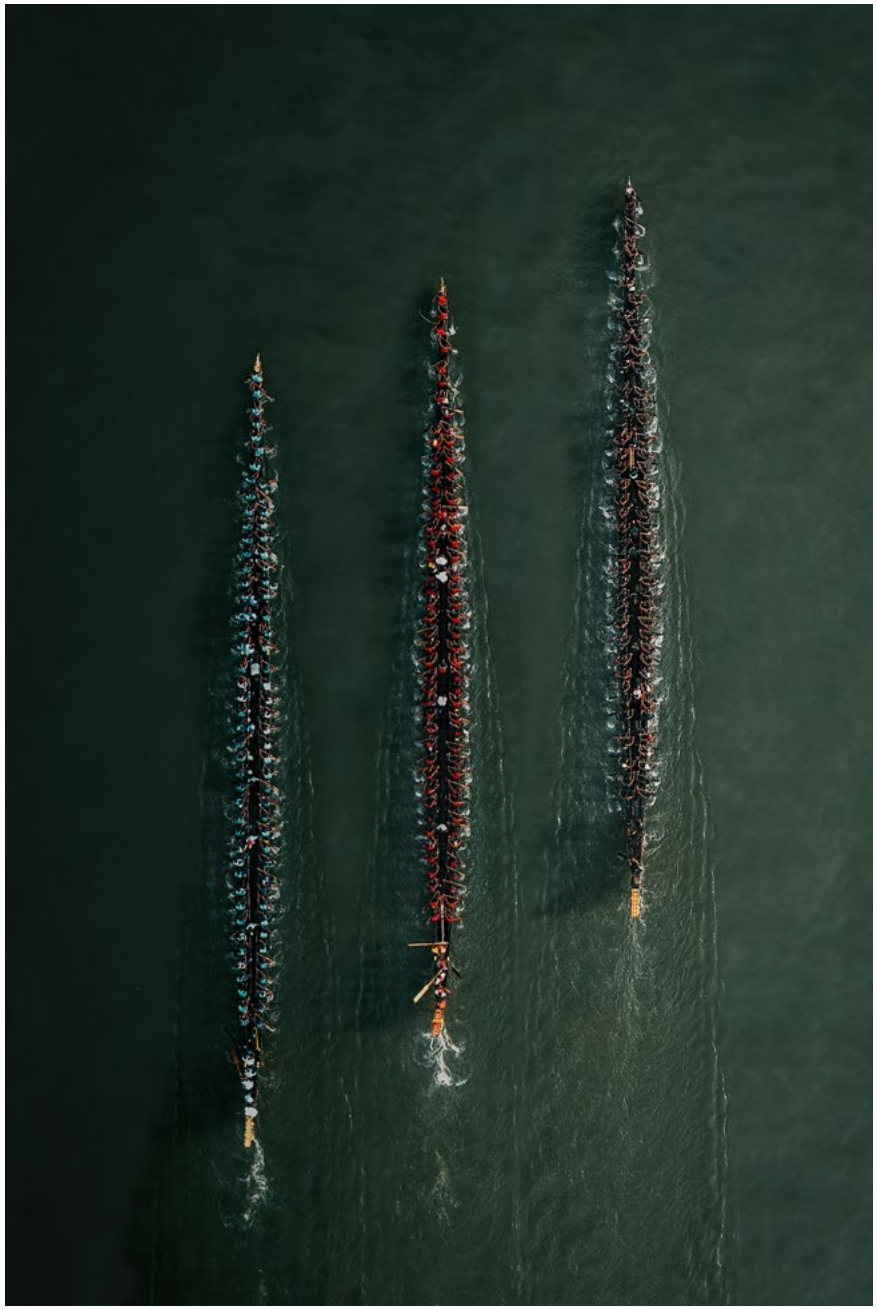


Winter in Bavarian Countryside
Winter in the Bavarian countryside near Lake Ammer. The onion-domed roof is characteristic of southern Germany. My intention was to capture this church which stood on a street, with nothing to disturb the composition, all white in a graphic style.

SAVADMON AVALACHAMVEETTIL, IRELAND | THE ABOVE WATER AWARD

Rhythm of the Oars

From above the Nehru Trophy Boat Race at Punnamada Lake, three snake boats glide in perfect rhythm. Oars strike in unison, turning human effort into pattern – where tradition, teamwork and motion merge into a single, powerful flow.





Serration
Time and rhythm intertwine among the steeply eroded ridges of the Blue Hills in Utah's Badlands, U.S.A.





THE TOP 101

INTERNATIONAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE YEAR 2025

The Top 101 aerial photographs are not published in any particular order, except to curate what is an exceptional body of work.
Our congratulations once again to the successful photographers.

Paolo Lazzarotti | Italy 31
Marcin Zajac | Poland 32
Mark Gray | Australia 33
Savadmon Avalachamveettil | Ireland 34
Savadmon Avalachamveettil | Ireland 35
Kah-Wai Lin | United States 36
Thibault Gerbaldi | United States 37
Jiri Kostal | Czech Republic 38
Laszlo Siman | Hungary 39
Luca Fucci | Italy 40
Brianne Manuel | Canada 41
Alexandra Moldovan | Denmark 42
Aleksandra Wilk | Germany 43
Neil Vincent | Australia 44
Venkiteswaran Ramasubhramoni | UAE 45
Jeroen Van Nieuwenhove | Iceland 46
Daniel Viñé Garcia | Spain 47
Daniel Viñé Garcia | Spain 48
Rhiannon Lawler | United Kingdom 49
Max Horng | Taiwan 50
Kateryna Polishchuk | Ukraine 51
Chi Hin Tsoi | Hong Kong **52**
Abhijeet Sawant | India 53
Craig Davis | United States 54
Juan Lopez | Spain 55
Fabio Pappalettera | Italy 56
Zhengze Xu | China 57
Mohit Ghatak | Singapore 58
Cédric Tamani | Switzerland 59
Cédric Tamani | Switzerland 60
Cédric Tamani | Switzerland 61
Thomas Hartstang | Germany 62
Gianluca Rubinacci | Italy 63
Gianluca Rubinacci | Italy 64
Peter O'Hara | Canada 65
Vitaly Golovatyuk | Russian Federation 66
Koki Shinoda | Japan 67
Azim Khan Ronnie | Bangladesh 68
Azim Khan Ronnie | Bangladesh 69
Azim Khan Ronnie | Bangladesh 70
Azim Khan Ronnie | Bangladesh 71
Tamara Susa | United States 72
Tamara Susa | United States 73
Yaniv Rozenman-segal | Iceland 74
Gianluca Rubinacci | Italy 75
Valeria Castiello | Italy 76
Koki Dote | Japan 77
A.J. Rich | United States 78
Craig McGowan | Australia 79
Koki Dote | Japan 80
Koki Dote | Japan 81
Dylan De Haas | Australia 82
Dylan De Haas | Australia 83
Dylan De Haas | Australia 84
Dylan De Haas | Australia 85
Judith Kuhn | Germany 86
Tyson Waldron | Australia 87
Yoichi Yoshinaga | Japan 88
Chris Gurton | United Kingdom 89
Selene Sanmartin | Brazil 90
Kenneth Childress | United States 91
Chin Leong Teo | Singapore 92
Chin Leong Teo | Singapore 93
Chengming Liu | United States 94
Timea Ambrus | Hungary 95
Gregory Stokesbury | United States 96
Michiko Kimura | Japan 97
Cody Roberts | United States 98
Sanghamitra Sarkar | India 99
Didier Collas | France 100
Avishek Patra | India 101
Christopher Harrison | United Kingdom 102
Dani Watson | Australia 103
Clément Coudeyre | Iceland 104
Clément Coudeyre | Iceland 105
Chen Kalifa Levi | Israel 106
Sapna Reddy | United States 107
Paweł Jagiełło | Poland 108
Marco Di Marco | Iceland 109
Wayne Montag | United States 110
Serkan Dogus | Türkiye 111
Barbara Brown | Australia 112
Barbara Brown | Australia 113
Barbara Brown | Australia 114
Peter Harrison | Australia 115
Kevin Nyun | United States 116
Alexey Kharitonov | Israel 117
Giacomo Feroldi | Italy 118
Thomas Vijayan | Canada 119
Thomas Vijayan | Canada 120
Thomas Vijayan | Canada 121
Yihsun Chou | Taiwan 122
Daniel Franc | Czech Republic 123
Magali Chesnel | France 124
Magali Chesnel | France 125
Holly Kirkland | United States 126
Juan Lopez | Spain 127
David Soldano | United States 128
Yau Tat Hui | Hong Kong 129
Holly Kirkland | United States 130
James Rodewald | United States 131



MARCIN ZAJAC | POLAND

Golden Gate Framed

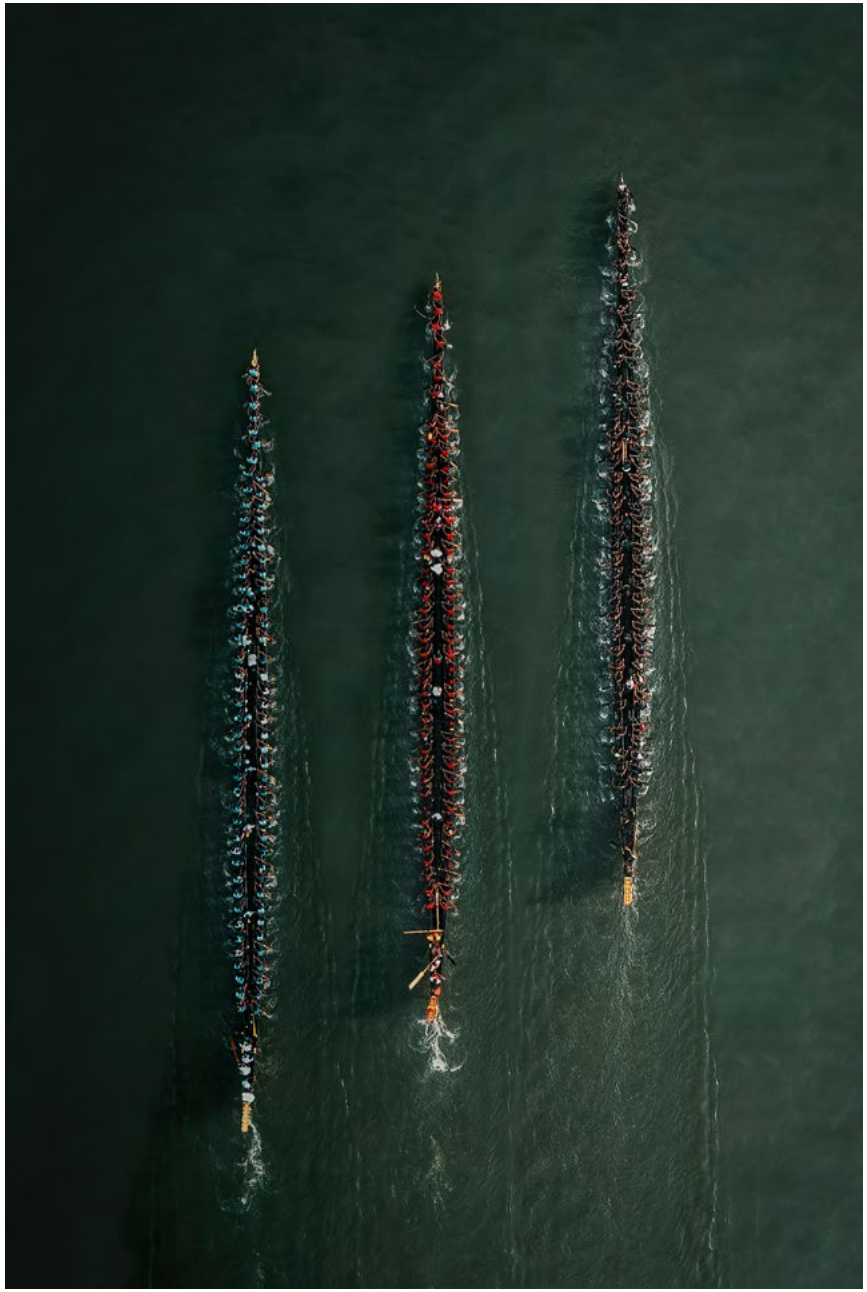




SAVADMON AVALACHAMVEETTIL | IRELAND

World,s Largest Gathering





KAH-WAI LIN | UNITED STATES

Thunder of Hooves

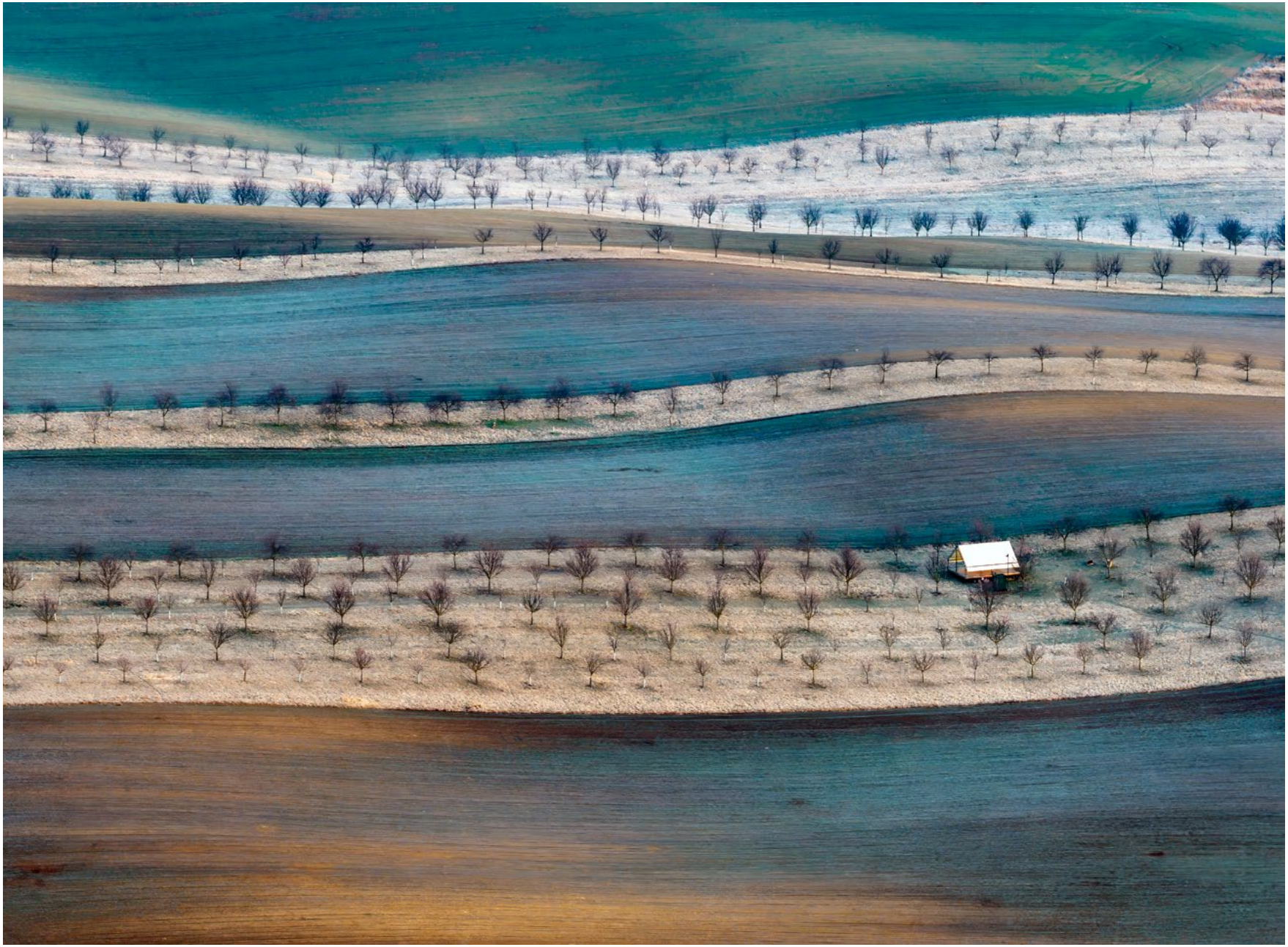




JIRI KOSTAL | CZECH REPUBLIC

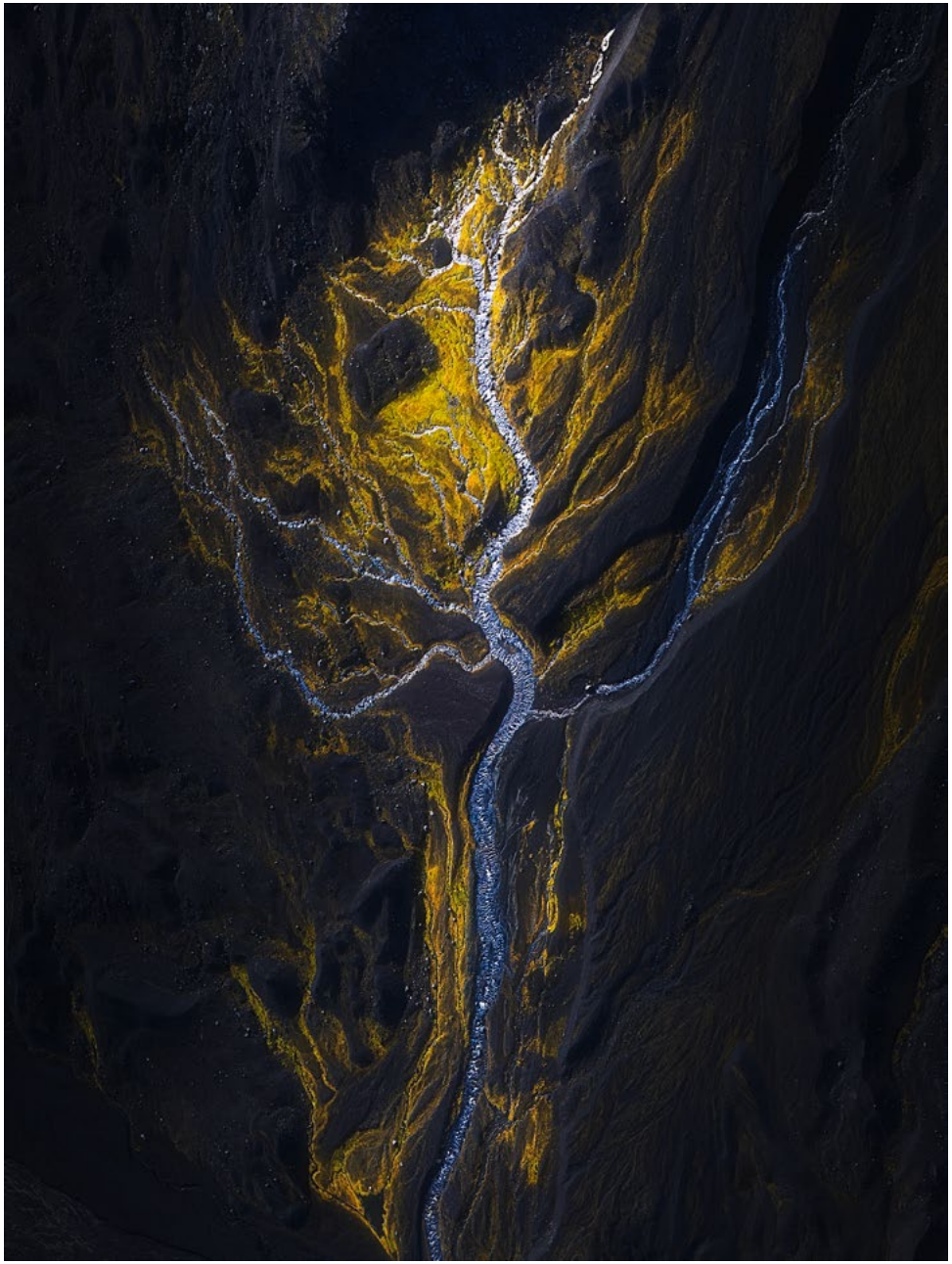
Dead Man Walking





LUCA FUCCI | ITALY

Flame Vein





ALEXANDRA MOLDOVAN | DENMARK

Basking in Divine Light



ALEKSANDRA WILK | GERMANY

Winter in Bavarian Countryside



NEIL VINCENT | AUSTRALIA

Southern Right Whale

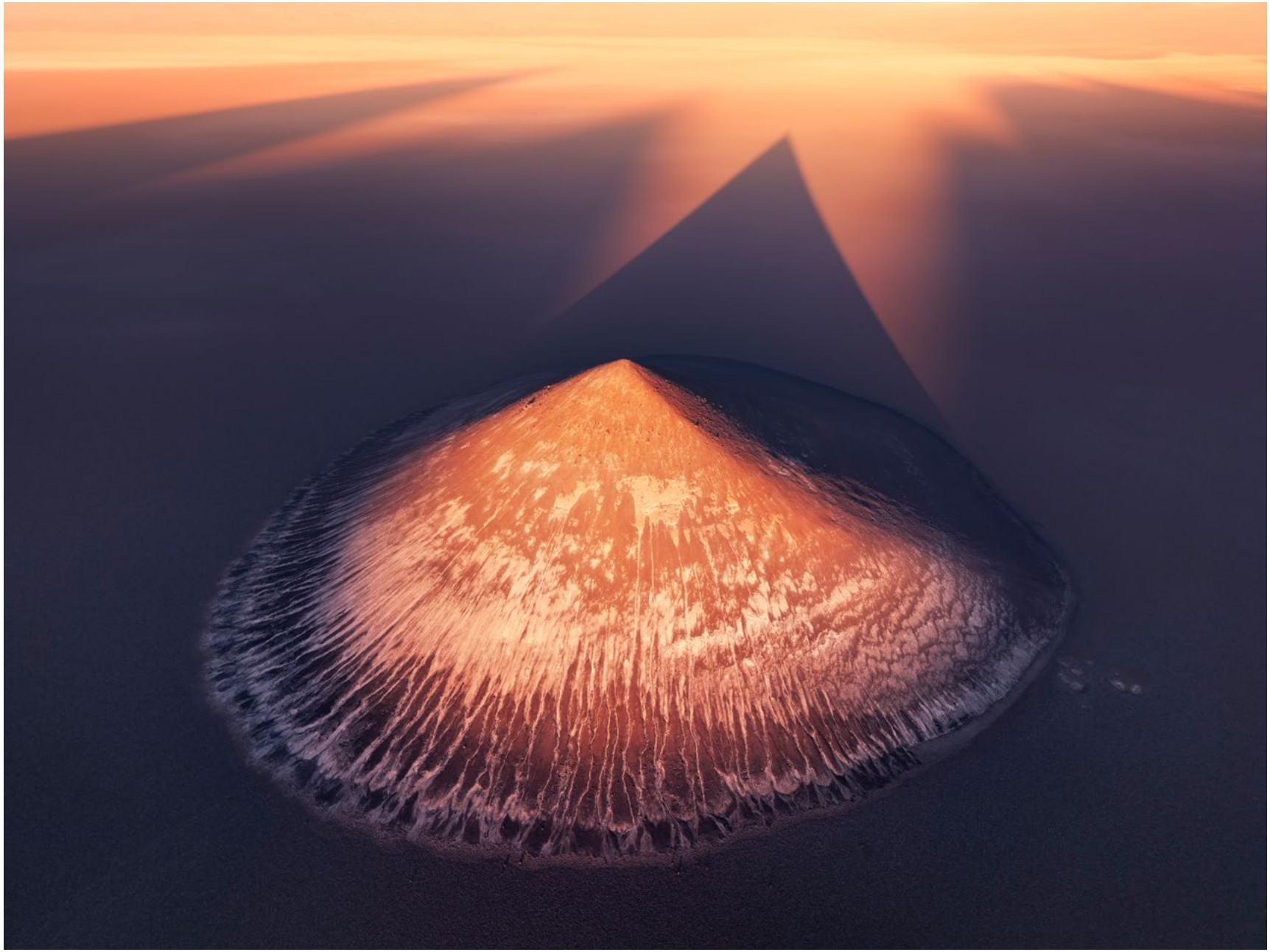




JEROEN VAN NIEUWENHOVE | ICELAND

Steam Eruption





DANIEL VIÑÉ GARCIA | SPAIN

Toxic Veins





MAX HORNG | TAIWAN

City Shaped by Light





CHI HIN TSOI | HONG KONG

The Earth's Breath. Bromo, Indonesia



ABHIJEET SAWANT | INDIA

Embrace of the Sky



CRAIG DAVIS | UNITED STATES

Sculpted by Time



JUAN LOPEZ | SPAIN

Golden Highlands



FABIO PAPPALETTERA | ITALY

Flipper the Tumbling White Horse



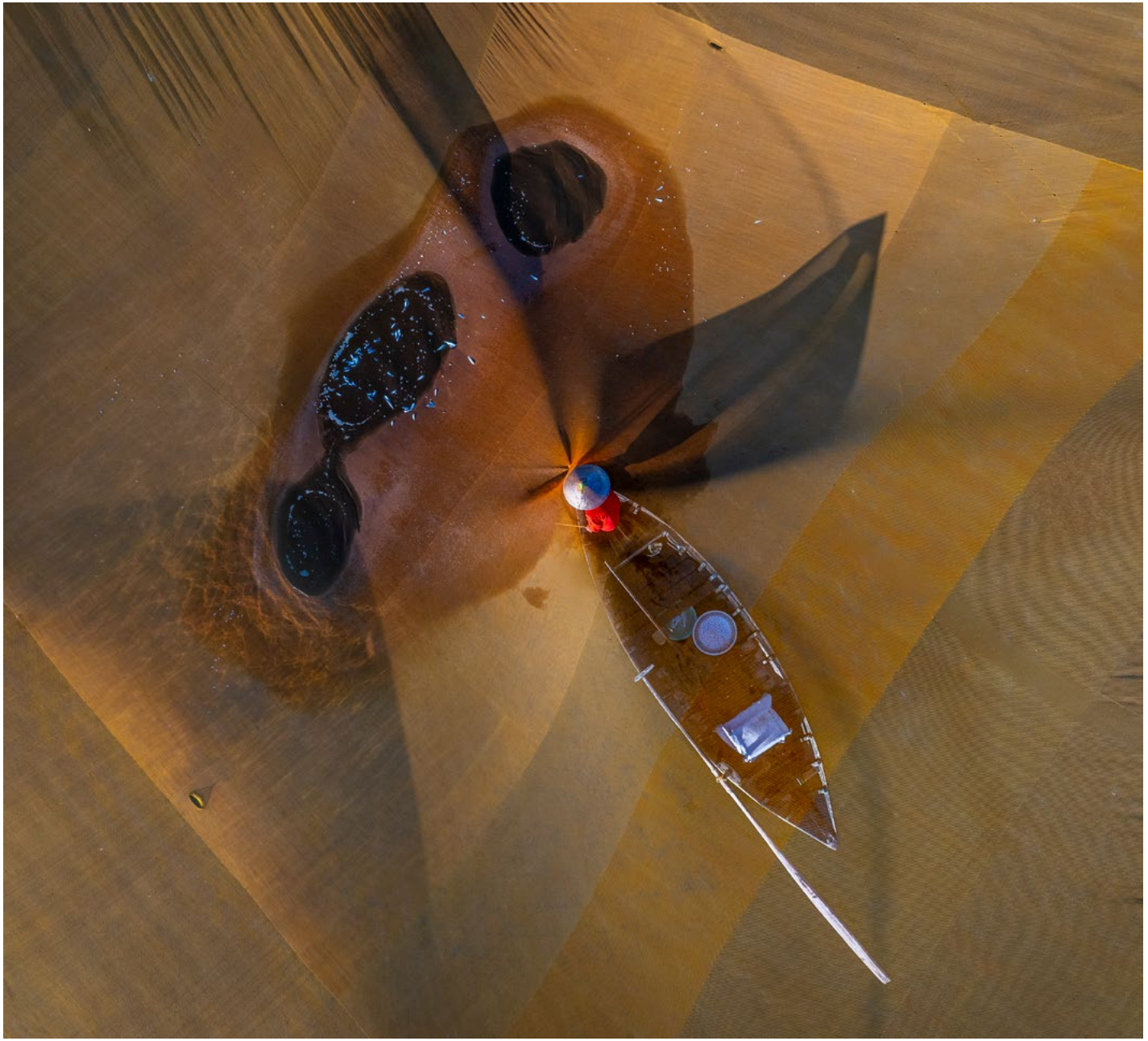
ZHENGZE XU | CHINA

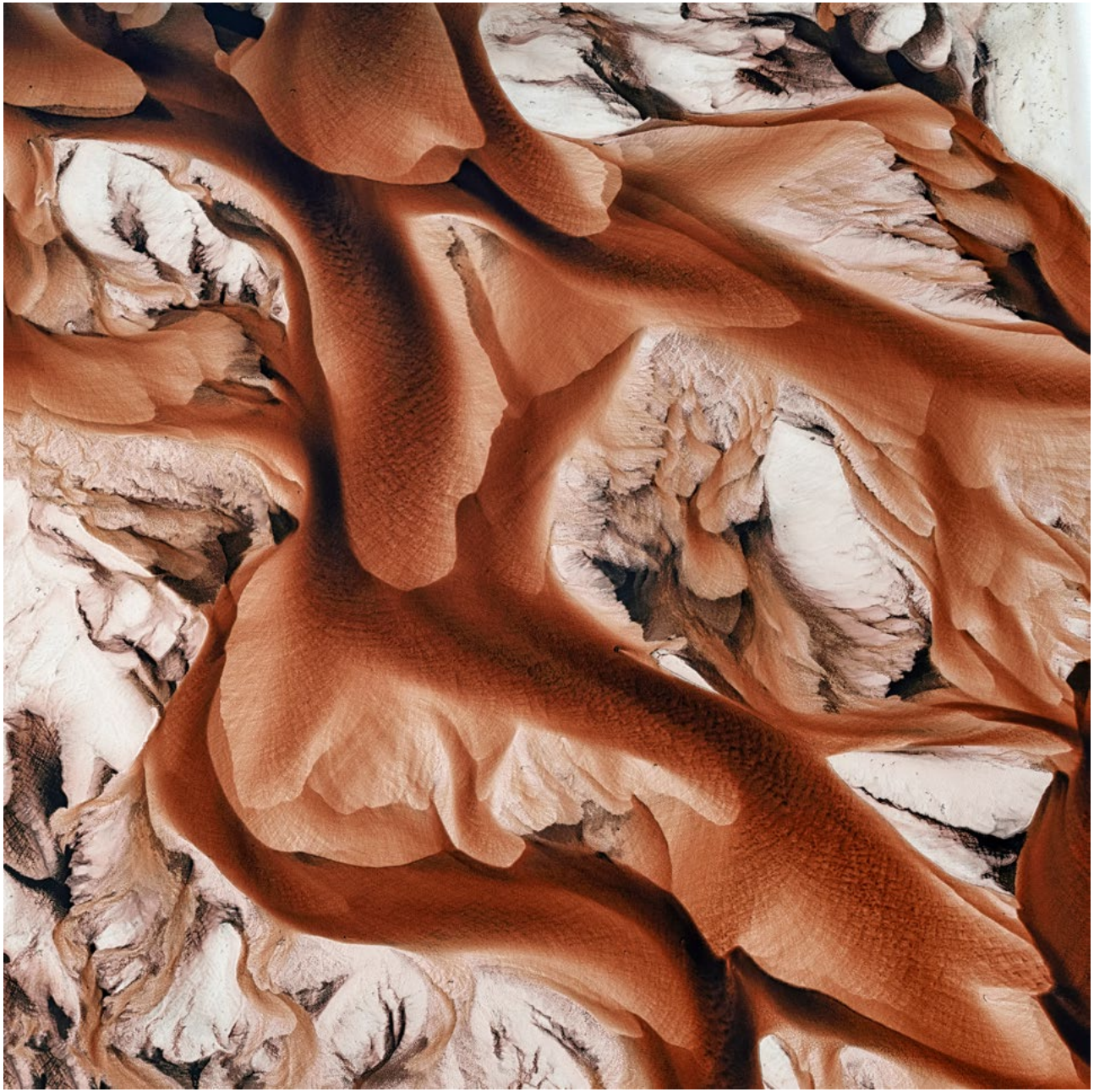
Oryx Walking on Dune



MOHIT GHATAK | SINGAPORE

Between Tides





CÉDRIC TAMANI | SWITZERLAND

Reflection

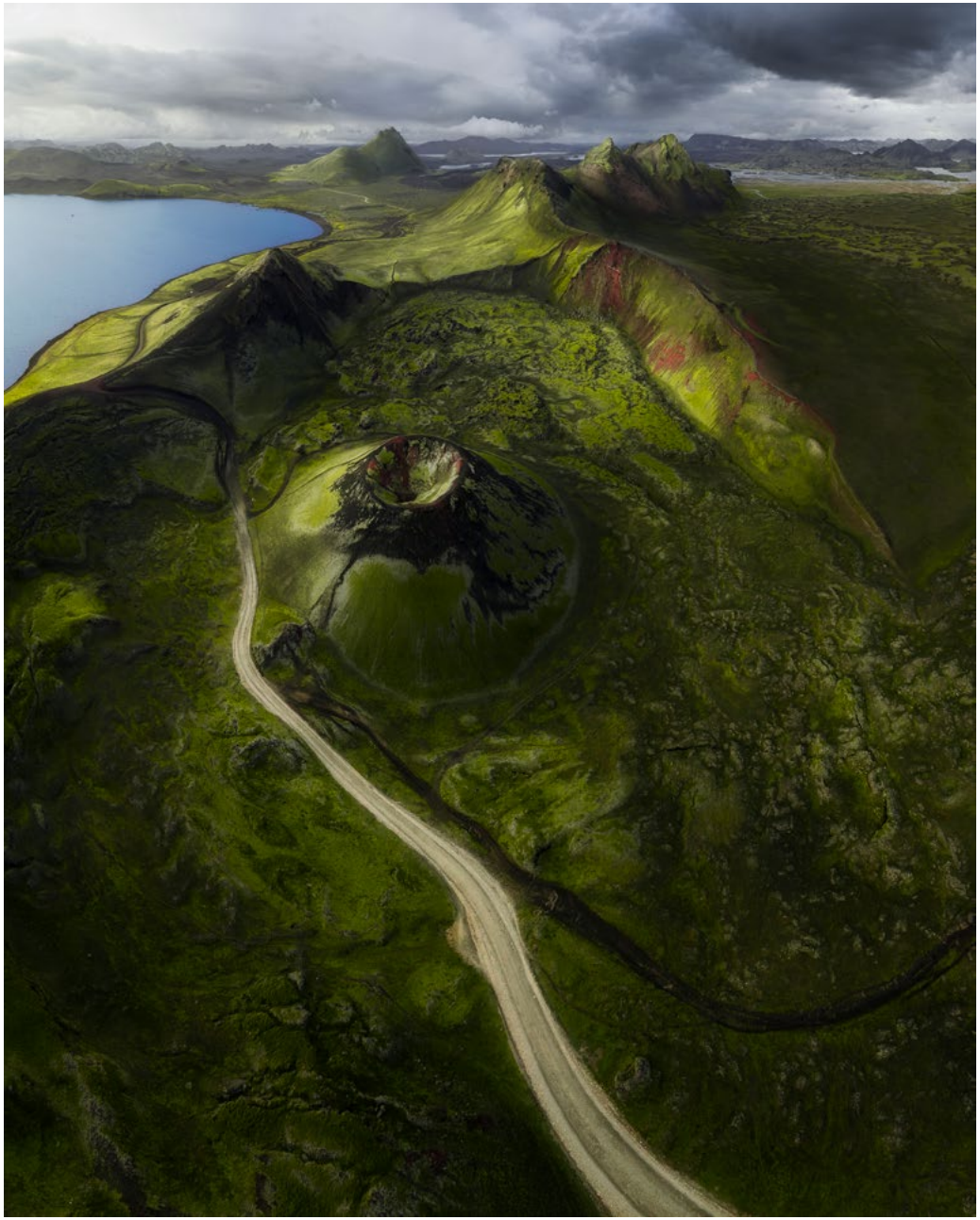




THOMAS HARTSTANG | GERMANY

Bouquet of Flowers





GIANLUCA RUBINACCI | ITALY

The Fjord Guardian



PETER O'HARA | CANADA

Cloud City Mount Yanapaccha



VITALY GOLOVATYUK | RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Birdie in the Sky



KOKI SHINODA | JAPAN

Commerson's dolphin and Giant Kelp



AZIM KHAN RONNIE | BANGLADESH

Thousands of Migratory Birds Feeding





AZIM KHAN RONNIE | BANGLADESH

Fasting Festival



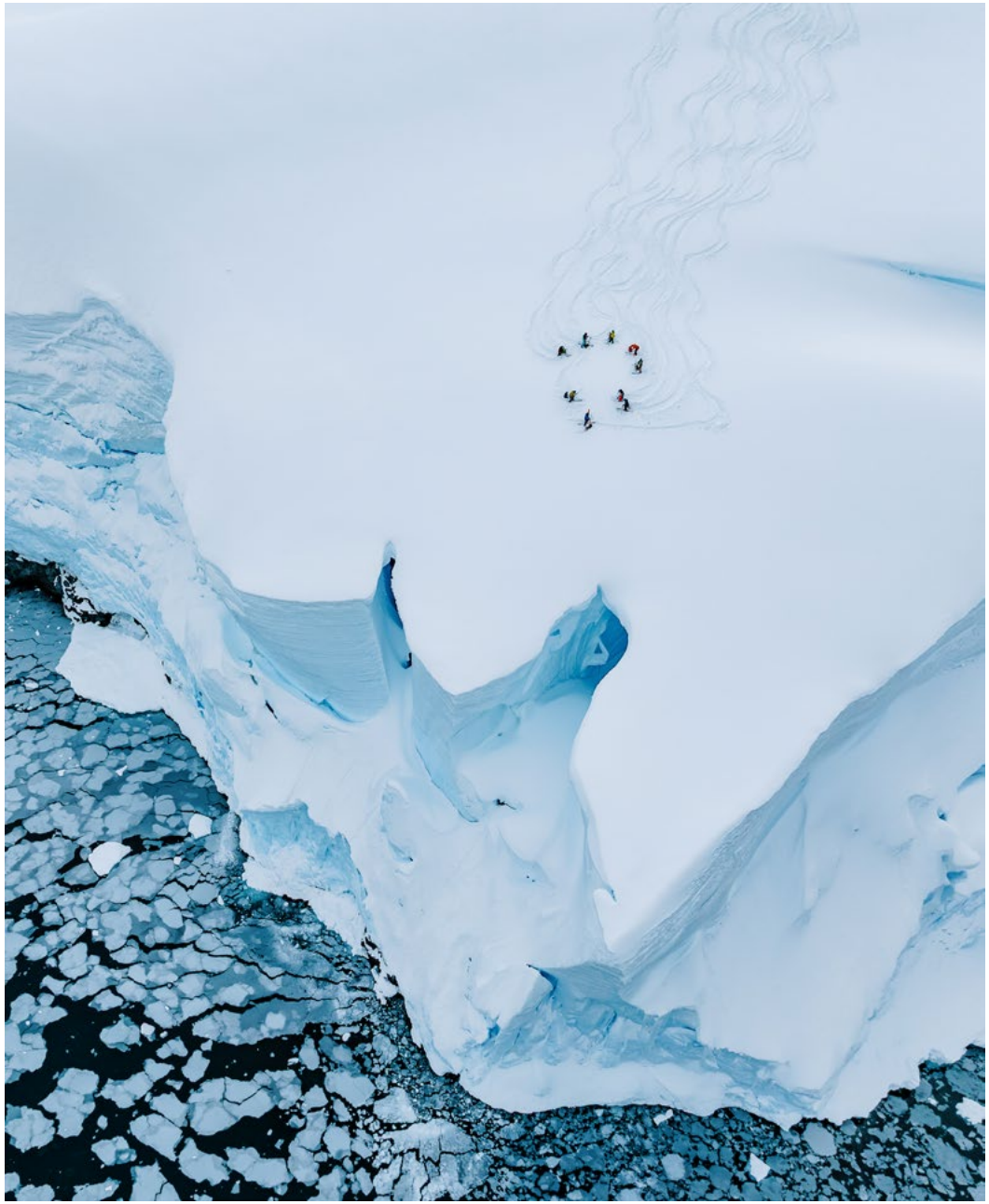
AZIM KHAN RONNIE | BANGLADESH

Harvesting Red Chilies



TAMARA SUSA | UNITED STATES

Transition Point





YANIV ROZENMAN-SEGAL | ICELAND

Burning Man



GIANLUCA RUBINACCI | ITALY

Lava Cascade



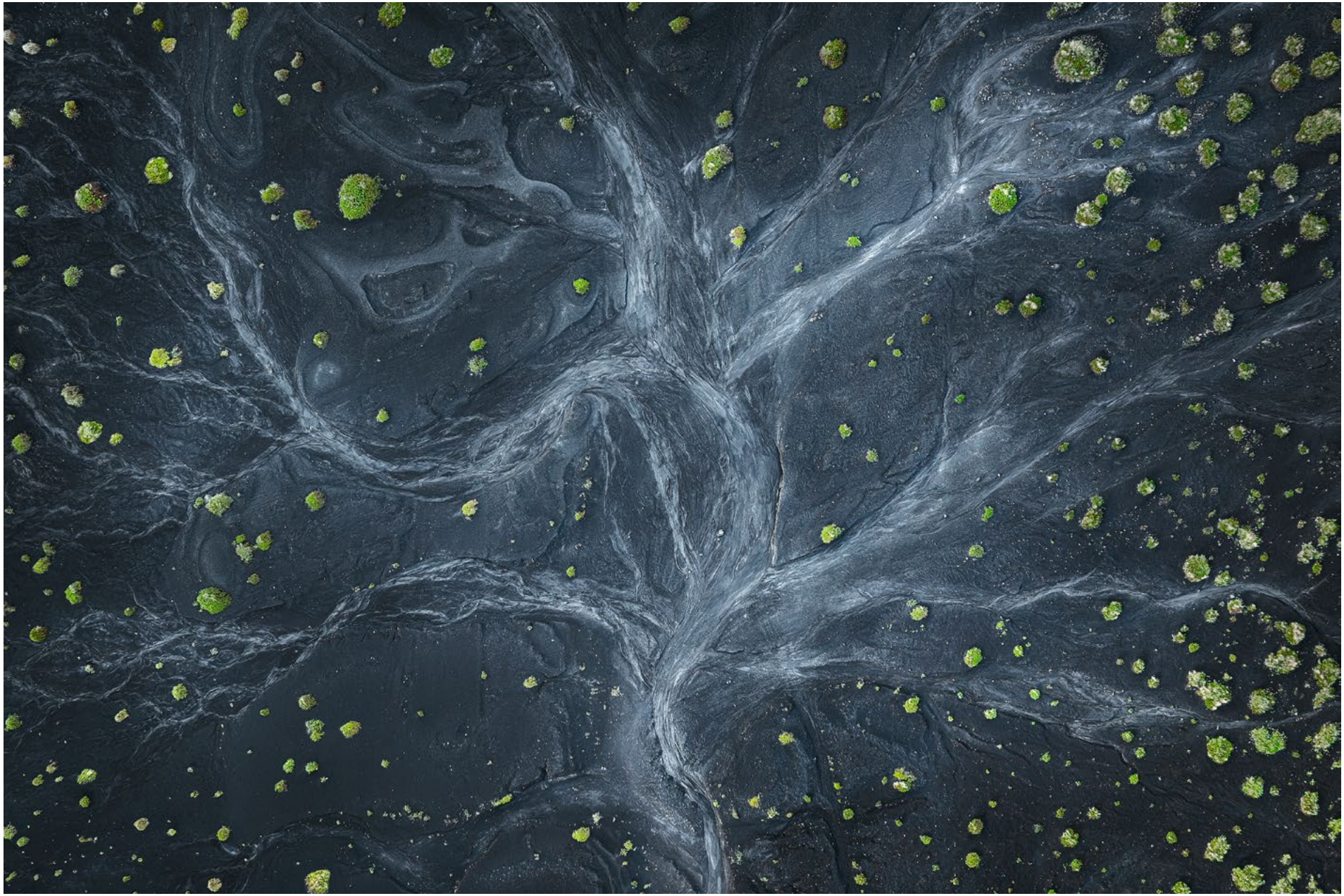
VALERIA CASTIELLO | ITALY

The Eye of the Apennines



KOKI DOTE | JAPAN

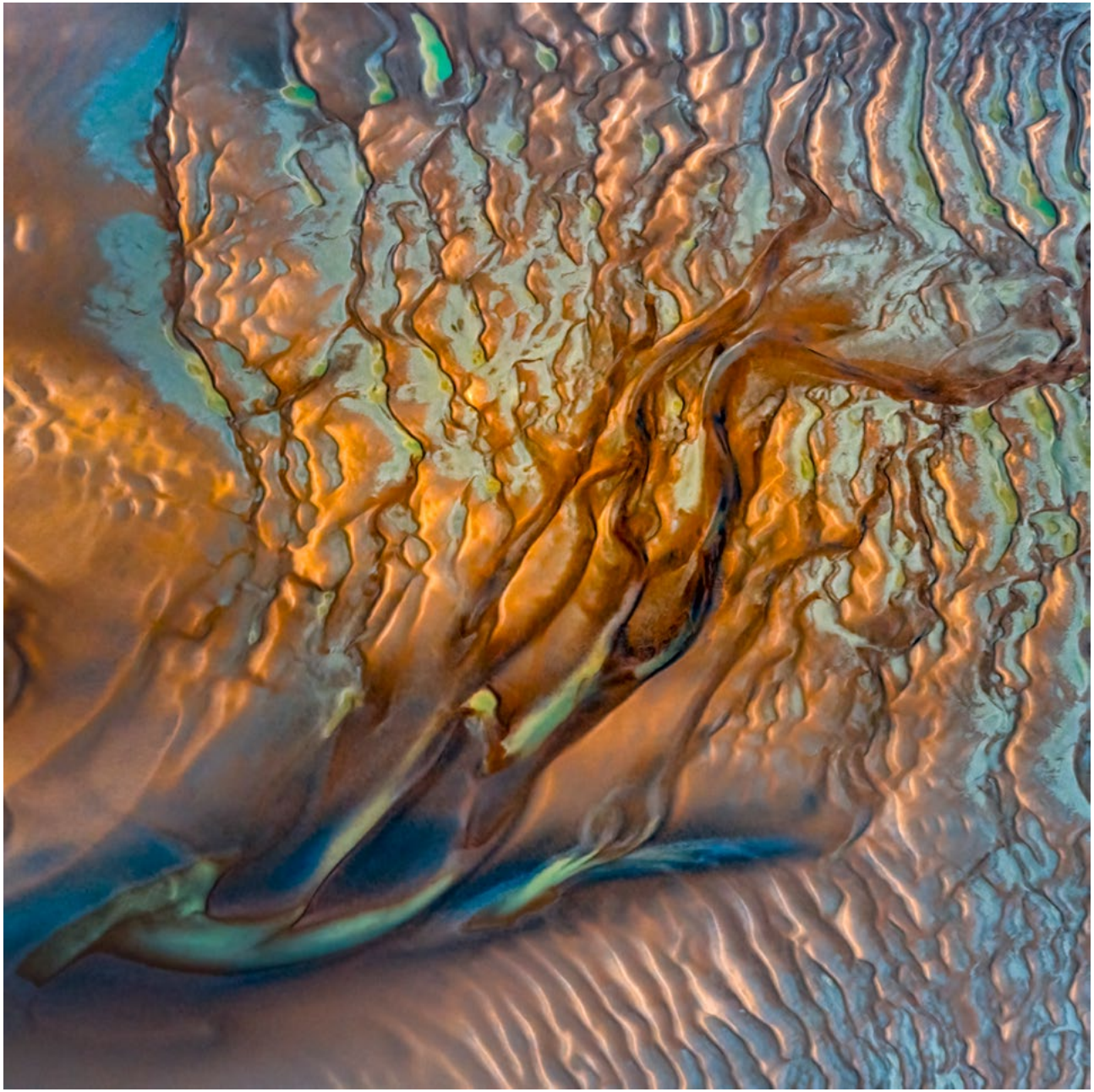
Artery of Rebirth



A.J. RICH | UNITED STATES

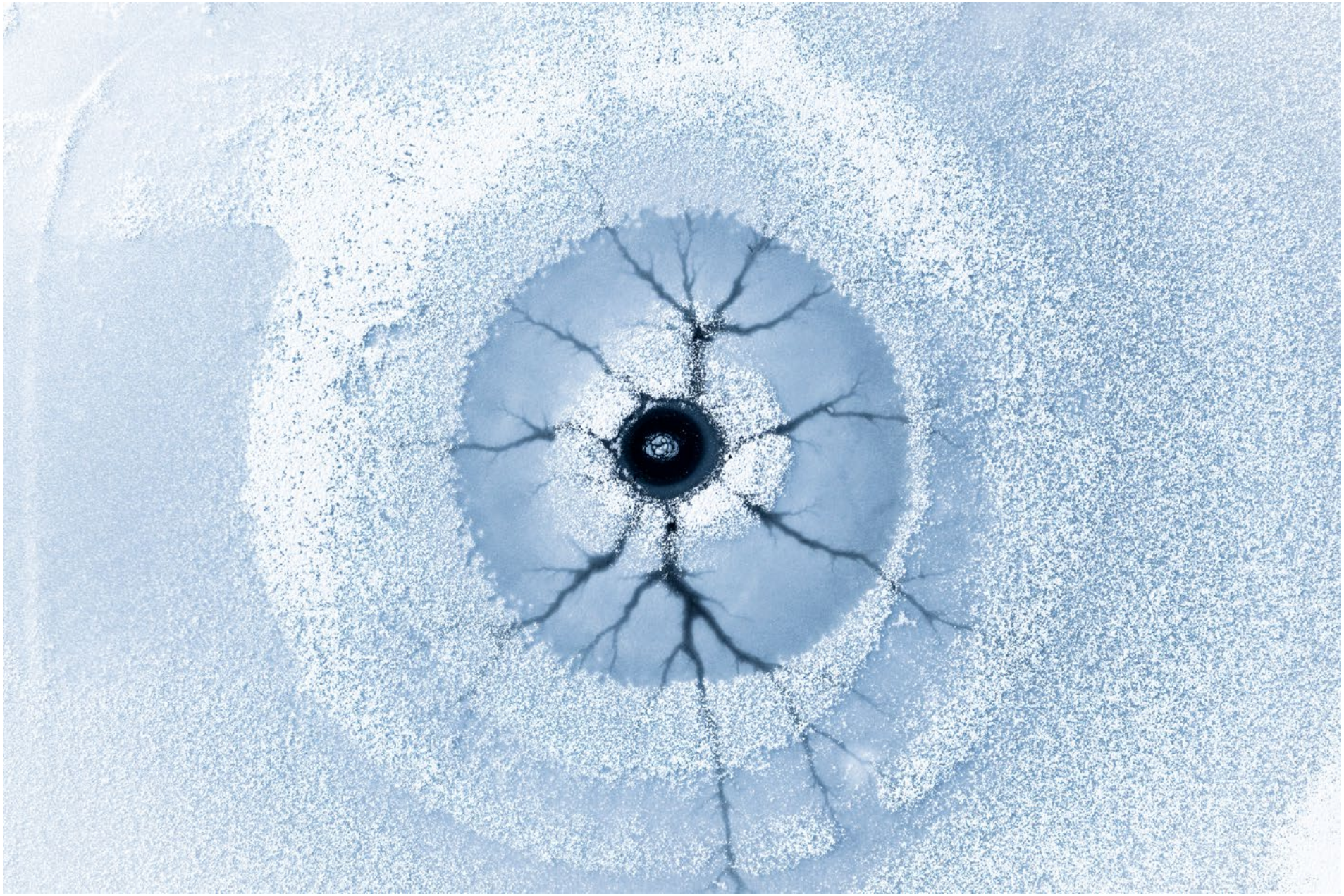
Serration





KOKI DOTE | JAPAN

Eye



KOKI DOTE | JAPAN

Tree of Ashes



DYLAN DE HAAS | AUSTRALIA

Ghosts Below





DYLAN DE HAAS | AUSTRALIA

Electric Blue





JUDITH KUHN | GERMANY

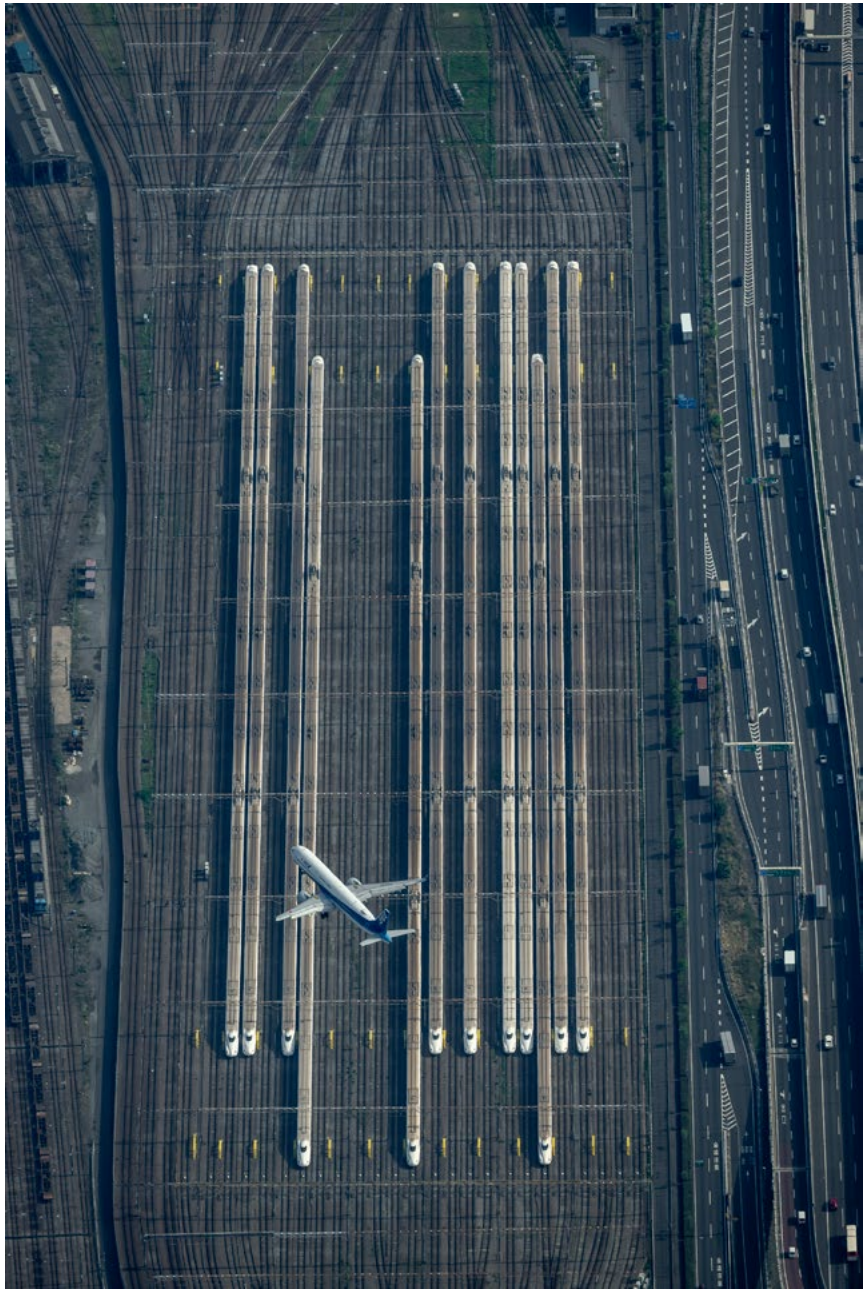
Maloja





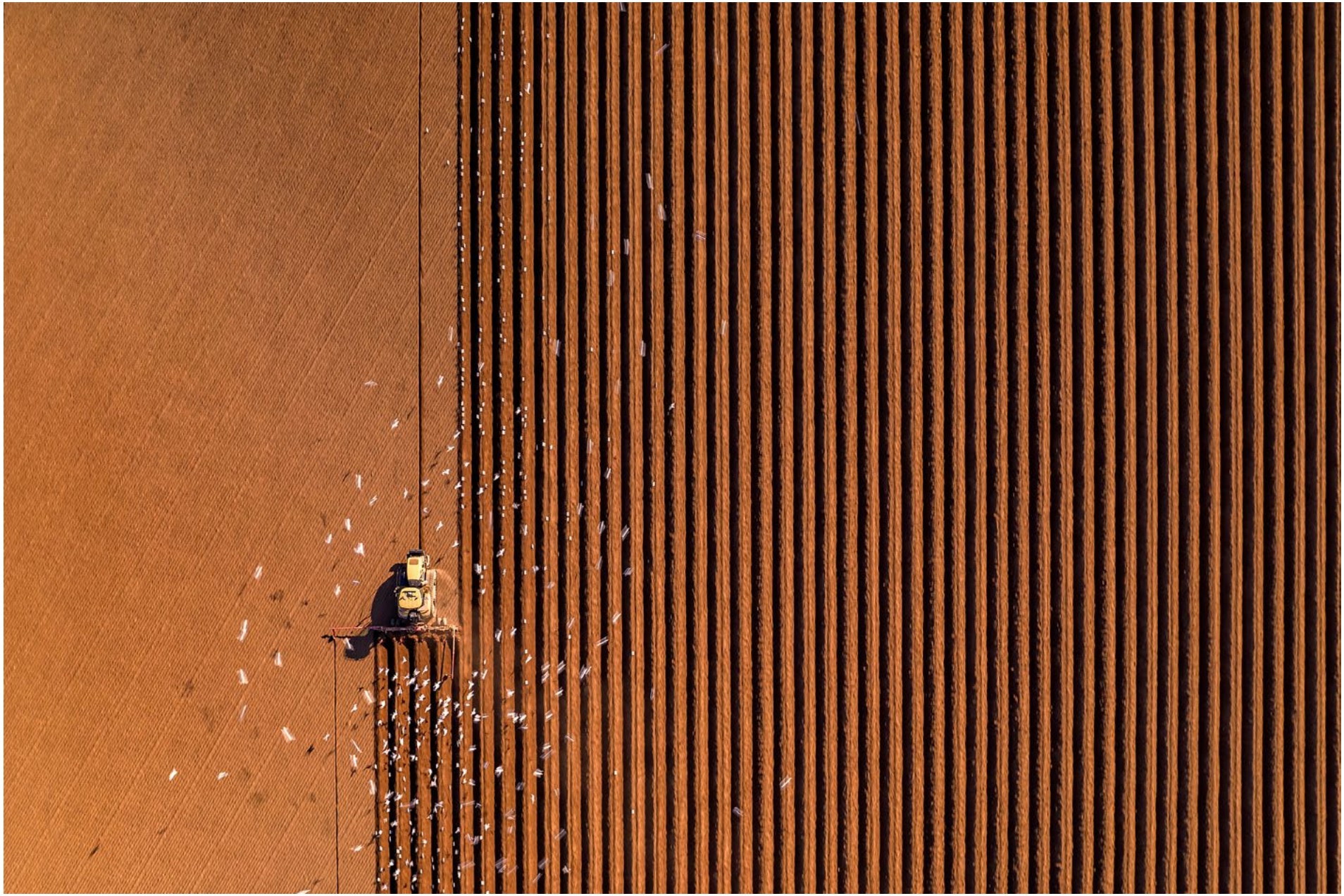
YOICHI YOSHINAGA | JAPAN

Trains and Airplanes in Tokyo



CHRIS GURTON | UNITED KINGDOM

Potato Ridging



SELENE SANMARTIN | BRAZIL

Flamingos in the Wetlands – Walvis Bay, Namibia





CHIN LEONG TEO | SINGAPORE

Bali Rice Terrace 2



CHIN LEONG TEO | SINGAPORE

Dawn Net



CHENGMING LIU | UNITED STATES

Emerald Waves at Dusk





GREGORY STOKESBURY | UNITED STATES

The Brain



MICHIKO KIMURA | JAPAN

Arctic Pulse, Samie



CODY ROBERTS | UNITED STATES

Event Horizon

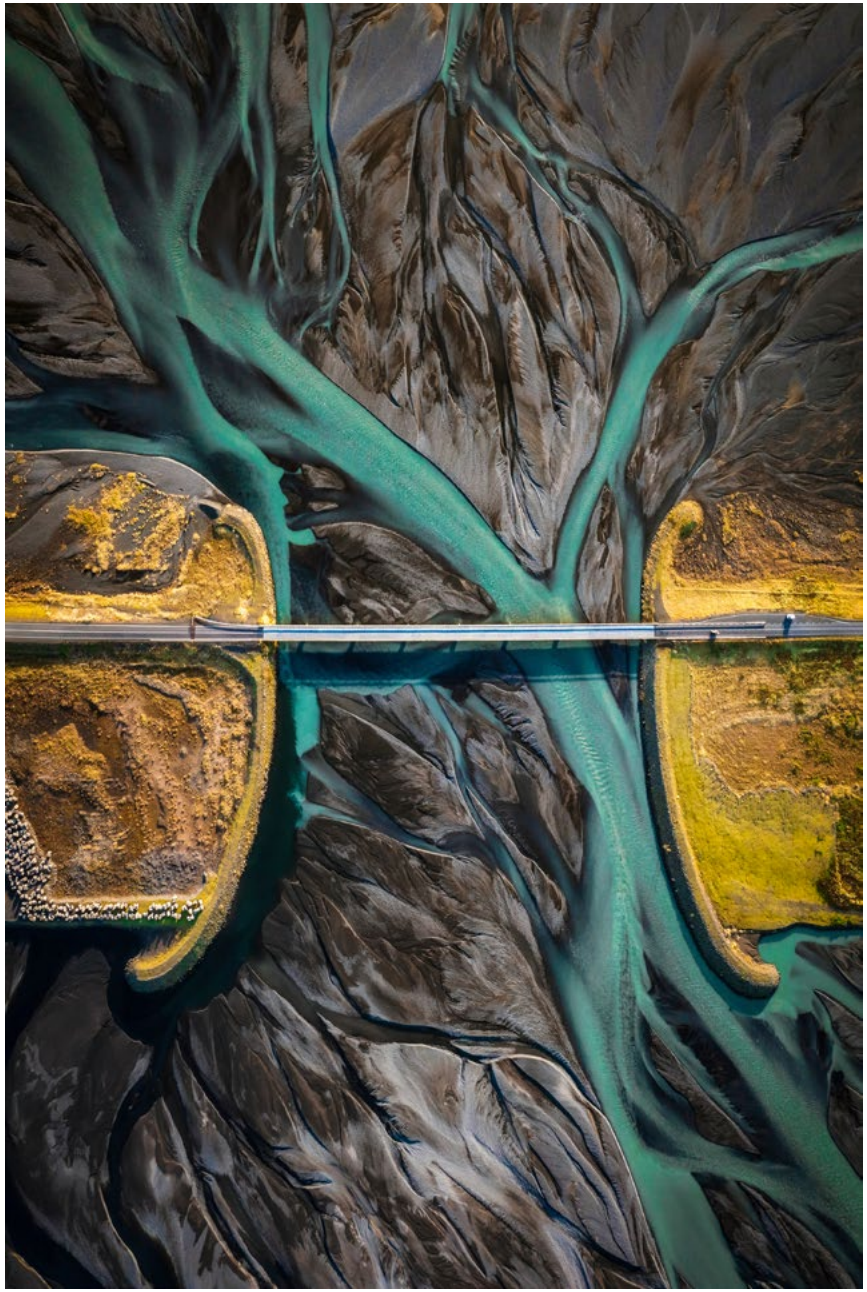




DIDIER COLLAS | FRANCE

Flamingos take off in Camargue





CHRISTOPHER HARRISON | UNITED KINGDOM

The Fallen One





CLÉMENT COUDEYRE | ICELAND

The Floor is Lava





CHEN KALIFA LEVI | ISRAEL

Golden Strokes





PAWEŁ JAGIEŁŁO | POLAND

The Valley of Forgotten Rivers





WAYNE MONTAG | UNITED STATES

Grand Prismatic Spring





BARBARA BROWN | AUSTRALIA

Pendant



BARBARA BROWN | AUSTRALIA

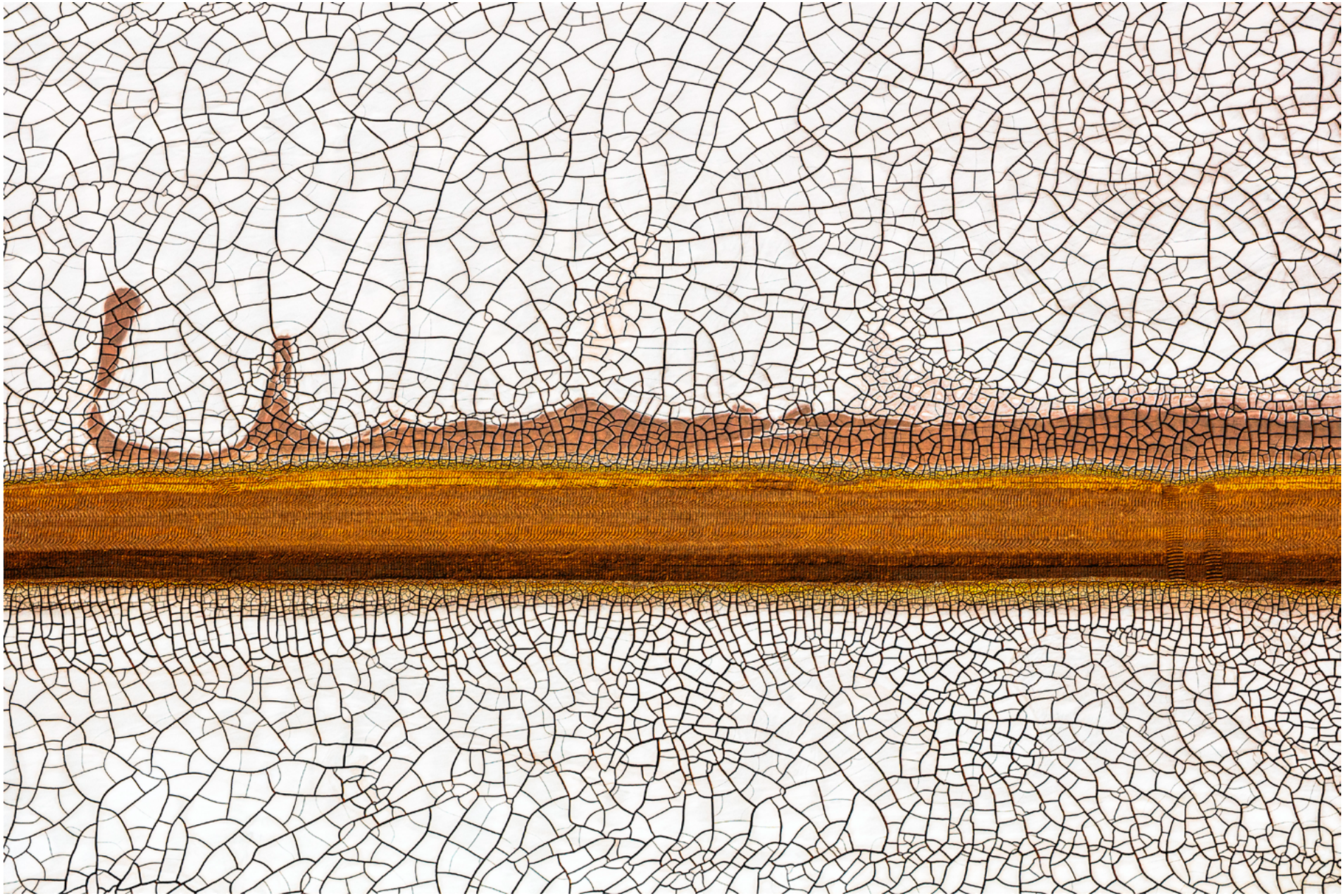
Cloud over Dunes



BARBARA BROWN | AUSTRALIA

Mud Trees





KEVIN NYUN | UNITED STATES

The Factory





GIACOMO FEROLDI | ITALY

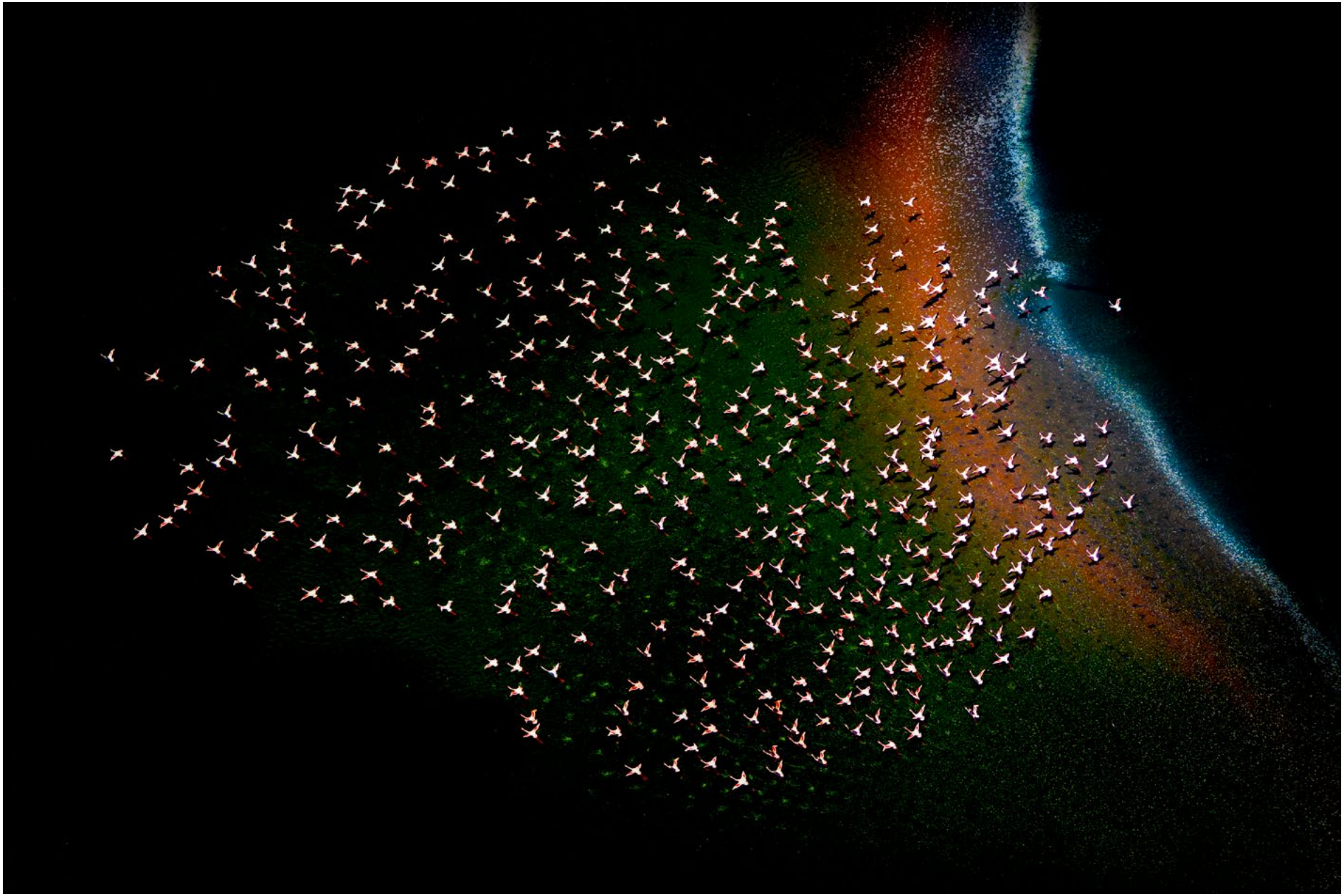
Painted Fields





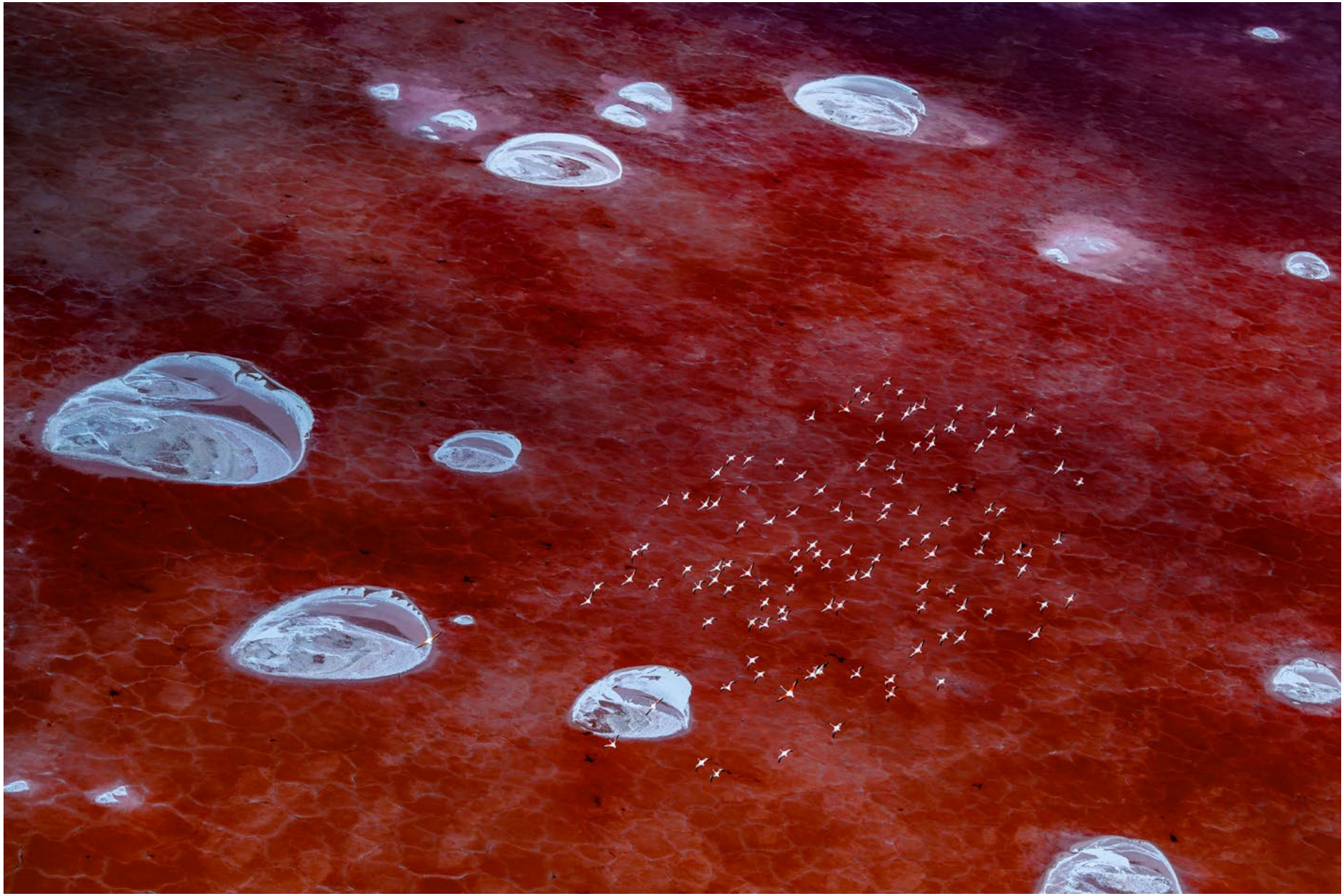
THOMAS VIJAYAN | CANADA

Display of Nature



THOMAS VIJAYAN | CANADA

Rosey Flamingos



YIHSUN CHOU | TAIWAN

The King Crossing the White Ocean

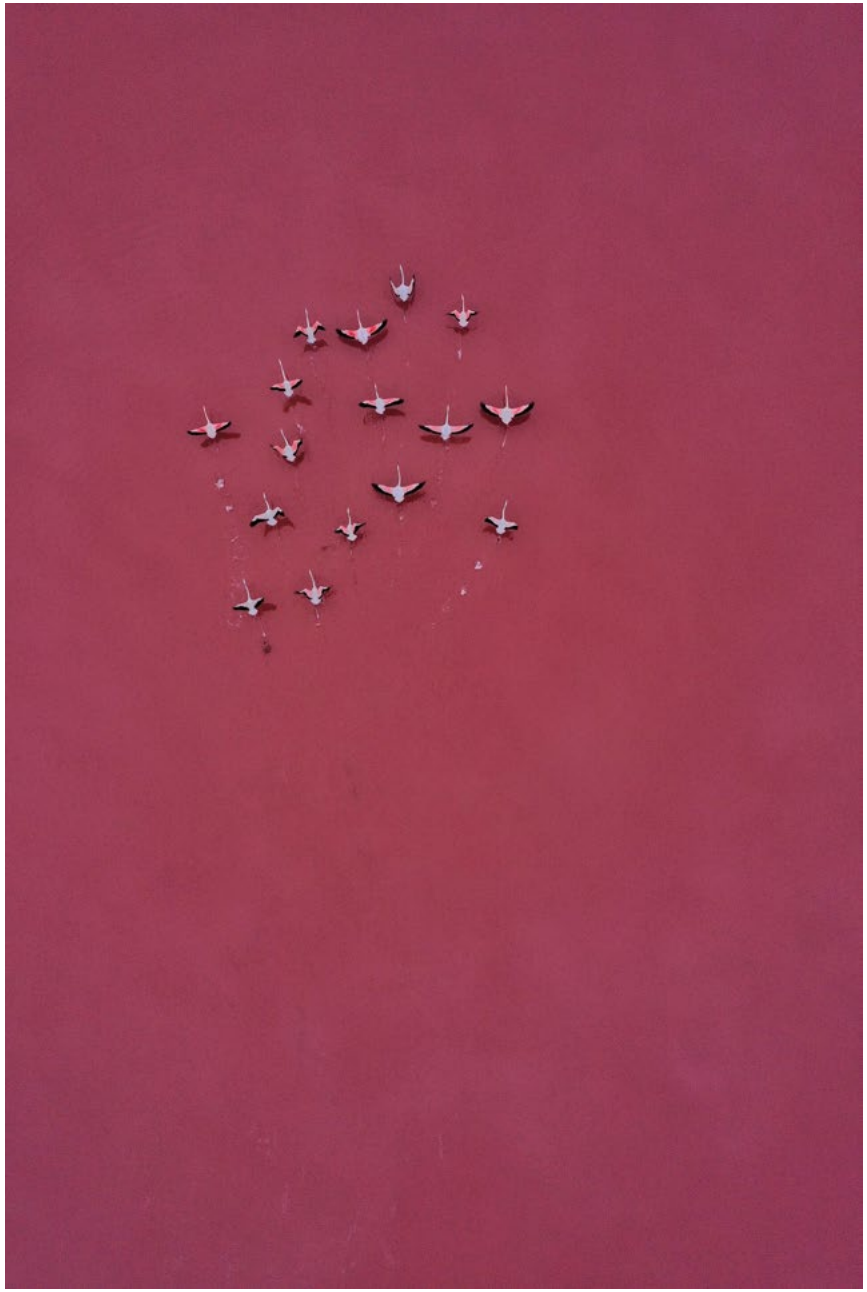




MAGALI CHESNEL | FRANCE

Pretty in Pink





HOLLY KIRKLAND | UNITED STATES

Living Colour



JUAN LOPEZ | SPAIN

The White Volcano



DAVID SOLDANO | UNITED STATES

Olympus





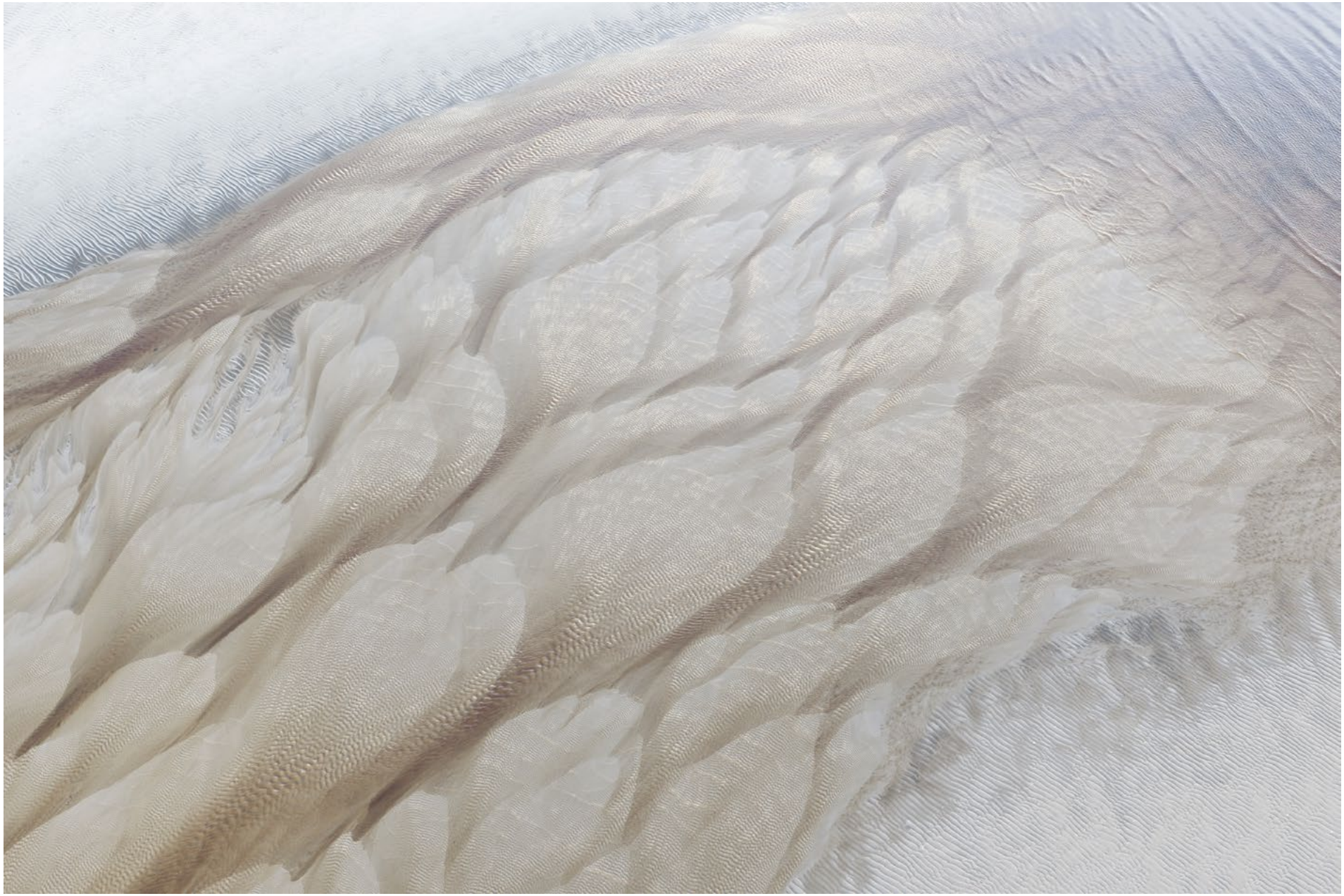
HOLLY KIRKLAND | UNITED STATES

Fault Line



JAMES RODEWALD | UNITED STATES

Cape Feathers No 1





JUDGE PORTFOLIOS

The International Aerial Photographer of the Year Awards presents a selection of the world's best contemporary aerial photographs and our thanks go to our esteemed and expert judging panel for giving us their time, their consideration and their opinions:

- Tom Hegen
- Isabella Tabacchi
- Joanna Steidle

The Awards are proud to present each of the judges as a part of this book, along with that of the organisers who are equally passionate about landscape photography.

We hope you enjoy them.



TOM HEGEN

PHOTOGRAPHER TOM HEGEN documents the traces that humans leave behind on the earth's surface in impressive aerial photographs. With precise image compositions, he provides fascinating insights into places where natural resources are extracted, processed and consumed. His works show the complex interplay between human activity and the resulting changes to the landscape. His work is characterised by abstract, often graphic perspectives of man-made landscapes.

Tom Hegen's works are presented in renowned solo and group exhibitions worldwide. His photographs have been recognised with numerous prestigious awards, including the Red Dot Design Award, the International Photography Award and the German Design Award. He is also the author of three illustrated books: *HABITAT (2018), AIRPORTS (2020)* and *SALT WORKS (2022)*.

www.tomhegen.com





ISABELLA TABACCHI

ISABELLA TABACCHI is an Italian landscape photographer capturing emotional and dreamlike views of natural landscapes across the globe.

With a distinctive style that transforms landscapes into ethereal experiences, her work has been featured in several publications including *National Geographic* and has garnered multiple awards such as International Landscape Photographer of the Year (ILPOTY), the Moscow International Foto Awards (MIFA), the Siena Awards, Xposure Awards and the DJI SkyPixel Annual Contest.

Isabella loves to evoke profound emotions and meaning through the elements of nature in her photography. Her images invite viewers to see the natural world through a poetic vision that can evoke different feelings.

www.isabellatabacchi.com





JOANNA STEIDLE

JOANNA STEIDLE WAS THE WINNER of the first International Aerial Photographer of the Year award and, as such, she is invited to sit on the judging panel the following year.

Joanna describes herself as a drone photographer. That's it. She specialises in aerial photography. "This is important to me because it has now become a niche in the photography world. Flying is my passion, my first love in this journey and it is all I want to do. Specialising also adds business and marketing advantages. Plus, it is the clear path for me to create a meaningful legacy.

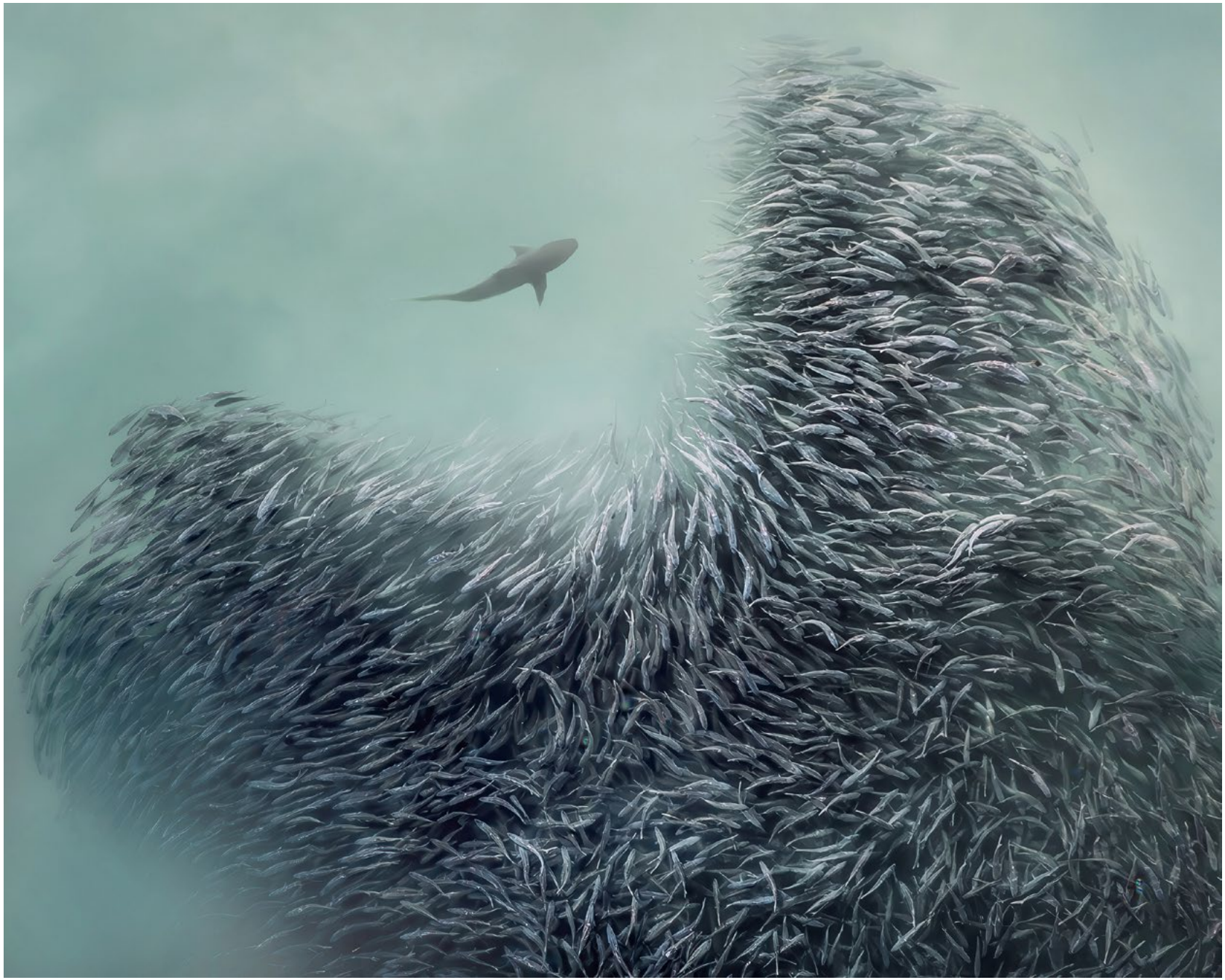
"I began flying drones in 2015. In 2017, I started a commercial drone business and by 2019, I realised aerial photography was where I most desired to improve my skills. I was 43 years old when the decision became clear and my life has never been the same.

"I had no prior photography experience. I basically grew up on a commercial clam boat, spending most summer days on the water or at the beach. This is where I grew a great love and respect for our oceans. And it's the ocean beaches where I spiritually connect and where I can literally see my smallness in this world. And now, at the age of 53, I still come home dirty and salty, every day."

It seems only natural for the ocean and wildlife to be Joanna's subject of choice. "To be honest, much of my inspiration comes from a spiritual connection. I enter a meditative state, letting go of as much analytical thought as possible, while maintaining safety precautions. This allows me to connect with Mother Nature and to capture intuitive compositions.

My editing process stems from heart-centered awareness rather than technical rules alone. Athletes are also quite inspirational in my work as “chasing the shot” gives me great pleasure. Watching gymnastics, tennis, skiing, and polo always ignites my passion to fly."

www.joannasteidle.com





PETER EASTWAY

FAIPP HON FAIPP HON FNZIPP GM PHOTOG PBII MNZIPP
CHAIRMAN OF JUDGES

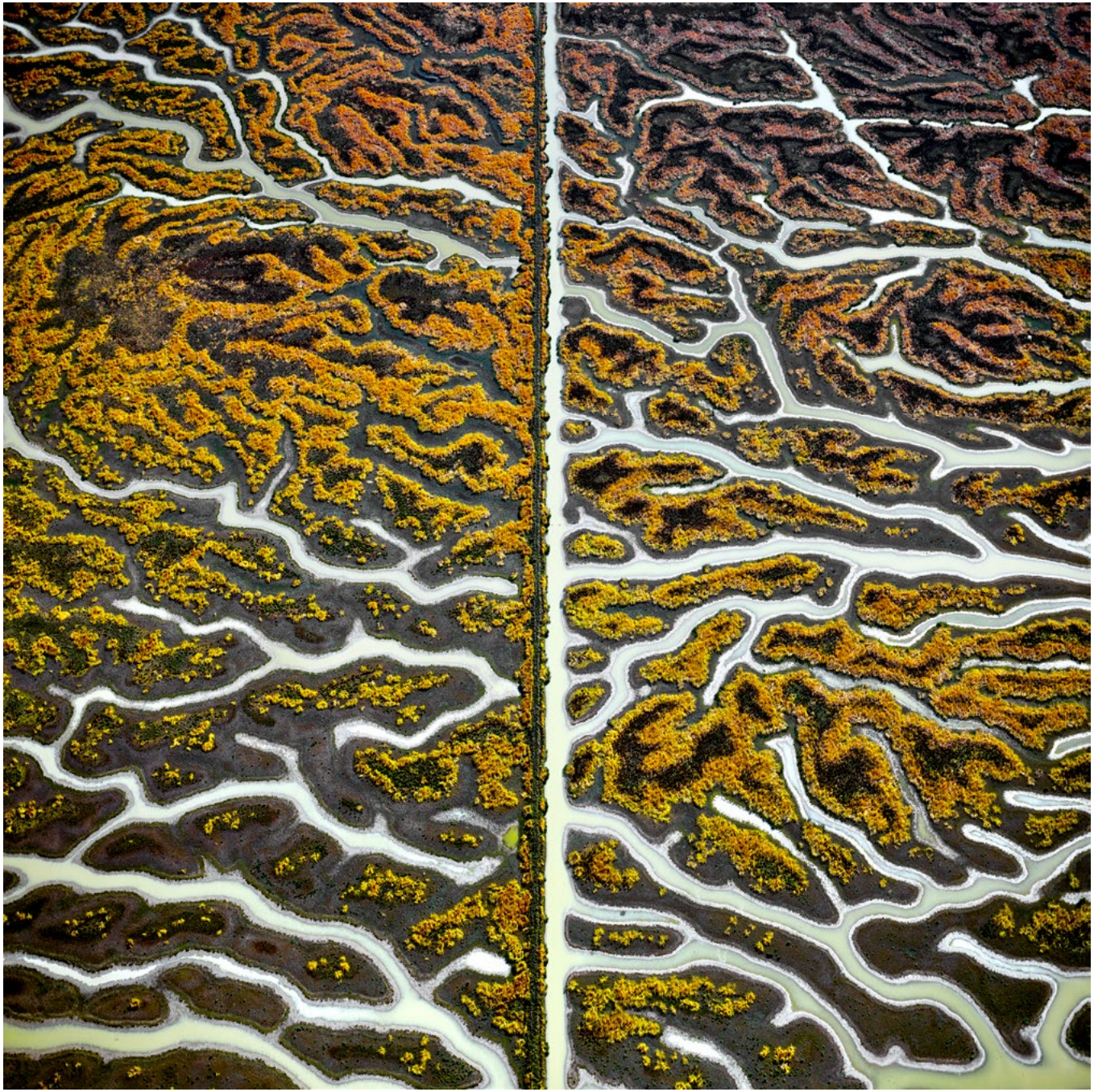
PETER EASTWAY has been involved in landscape photography, photography competitions and judging for over 30 years. He was the AIPP Australian Professional Photography Award Chairman for six years and has judged internationally around the world.

Peter has won many awards for his photography. In 1996 and 1998 he was the AIPP Australian Professional Photographer of the Year. He was Australian Landscape Photographer of the Year in 1995, 1996 and 1998, Australian Illustrative Photographer of the Year in 2004 and NSW Professional Photographer of the Year in 1995, 1996, 2004, 2010 and 2019. Most recently, he won the 2019 AIPP Australian Professional Nature Photographer of the Year.

Peter's passion is for landscapes, portraiture and the printed page. He is the publisher of *Better Photography* magazine and website. Peter's work is so respected that Lonely Planet chose him to write their international photography guide book on landscape photography. More recently, he featured in the *Tales By Light* television series, as seen on the Australian National Geographic Channel in partnership with Canon Australia. It is now available on Netflix.

Peter is an AIPP Grand Master of Photography, earned from a career spanning 40 years. His role in the International Aerial Photographer of the Year Awards is as Chairman of Judges and he will not be scoring the images himself.

www.petereastway.com
www.betterphotography.com





The International Aerial Photographer of the Year

First Place

- Cash prize of US $5,000 and trophy
- Inclusion and feature in *The International Aerial Photographer of the Year 2026* book
- Printed copy of *The International Aerial Photographer of the Year 2026* book.

Second Place

- Cash prize of US $500 and trophy
- Printed copy of *The International Aerial Photographer of the Year 2026* book.

Third Place

- Cash prize of US $250 and trophy
- Printed copy of *The International Aerial Photographer of the Year 2026* book.

International Aerial Photograph of the Year

- Cash prize of US $2,500 and trophy
- Inclusion and feature in *The International Aerial Photographer of the Year 2026* book
- Printed copy of *The International Aerial Photographer of the Year 2026* book.

Second Place

- Cash prize of US $500 and trophy
- Printed copy of *The International Aerial Photographer of the Year 2026* book.

Third Place

- Cash prize of US $250 and trophy
- Printed copy of *The International Aerial Photographer of the Year 2026* book.

Special Award Winners

- Each Special Award Winner (4) will receive a cash prize of US $250 and trophy
- Printed copy of *The International Aerial Photographer of the Year 2026* book.

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All cover photographs by Azim Khan Ronnie of Bangladesh, The International Aerial Photographer of the Year 2026.

If you've ever looked out of an aircraft window at the distant landscape (or seascape) below, you'll understand why photographers are mesmerised by this viewpoint. Whether photographing mountains, cities, seascape or deserts, there is something very special about an aerial perspective that is simply enchanting.

And this is what drives us at the International Aerial Photographer of the Year award – to encourage and share the wonders of aerial photography. In fact, you don't have to be sitting in a plane or a helicopter, we are just as happy with photographs taken from the top of tall buildings or mountains – anything that presents an aerial outlook.

This is our second competition and once again, we are in awe of the work presented by our entrants. Thanks to our three judges, Tom Hegen, Isabella Tabacchi and Joanna Steidle who had a very challenging job deciding which of the entries belonged in our Top 101 for the awards book, and even more challenging, selecting the major prize winners.

We're sure you will enjoy the photographs of the 2026 International Aerial Photographer of the Year.

www.internationalaerialphotographer.com

THE INTERNATIONAL
AERIAL
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