



Fritz Pölking Prize 2016

The English translation of the competition rules is supplied for the purpose of guidance only. The GDT or their translators cannot be held responsible for misunderstandings or mistranslations. In case of doubt, the German version will prevail and is legally binding.

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Image: © Bruno D'Amicis
Image: © Connor Stefanison

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Fritz Pölking and Fritz Pölking Junior Prize 2016 Information and competition rules for photographers

The influence of GDT founder member and honorary member Fritz Pölking on wildlife photography in Germany is unrivalled. His work received international recognition on numerous occasions and many of his photographs have found their way into a collective memory. Numerous books, lectures and workshops were the basis on which Fritz Pölking reached out to people all over the world; his work remains a source of inspiration and motivation for many photographers.

In recognition of his photographic work the publishing house "Tecklenborg" in cooperation with the GDT has launched the Fritz Pölking Prize and the Fritz Pölking Junior Prize in 2008. This award will be presented within the context of the contest "GDT European Wildlife Photographer of the Year" and will be awarded yearly for extraordinary work in the field of wildlife photography. This may either be a special wildlife photography project or a portfolio of individual photographs. The minimum number of submitted photographs is 8; the maximum number is restricted to 12. Judgement will focus on photographic performance as well as the overall conception, idea and creative execution. Please keep in mind that less means sometimes more, i.e. 8 suitable and coherent photographs may be a better choice than 12 pictures which do not harmonize.

The winning photographs will be presented on the occasion of the International Nature Photography Festival in Lünen and will afterwards be put on exhibition in a range of museums, galleries and companies. A catalogue will accompany this exhibition and the winning photographs will also be issued in publications by Tecklenborg publishing house.

Take part ...

... in the contest "Fritz Pölking and Fritz Pölking Junior Prize 2016"!

For the 9th time the GDT (Gesellschaft Deutscher Tierfotografen e.V.) invites amateurs and professionals from all over the world to participate in this event.

The prizes

Fritz Pölking Prize

2 000 Euro – donated by Tecklenborg publishing house

Fritz Pölking Junior Prize

1 500 Euro – donated by Tecklenborg publishing house

A merchandise voucher worth **500 Euro** – donated by AC-Foto *

* Cash equivalents as a substitute are not available.

The winners will be **invited** to the award ceremony (festival ticket, buffet and accommodation will be paid for)

Competition management

The competition manager 2016 is Marc Hesse.

Please send inquiries in writing to: contest@gdtfoto.de

We ask for your understanding that we cannot deal with individual questions on the phone!

Send your pictures to (from 15 January 2016):

By post: „Fritz Pölking Prize 2016“, Marc Hesse, Zum Jagenstein 1, 14478 Potsdam, Germany

Online: www.gdtfoto.de

The closing date for all entries is **1 March 2016** – 24:00 midnight – CET (incoming)!

Submissions after this date cannot receive consideration!

Important information:

- For online participation you will need a valid **email address** and a **PayPal account**.
- For participation by post please include the completed participation form as well as the entry fee of **10 Euro** in cash.
- When registering for online participation, the participant must state a valid email address, at which he / she can be contacted. The organising committee will contact you via the email address **contest@gdtfoto.de**. Please add this address to your email address book to ensure security settings and spam filters do not block relevant mails.

Dates and deadlines

Closing date: **1 March 2016** – 24:00 midnight – CET (incoming)!

Request for RAW files, original JPG / DNG files (only valid for online-entries): **after 19 April 2016**

Deadline for RAW files, original JPG / DNG files (only valid for online-entries): **25 April 2016** at 24:00 midnight

Notification of the winners: **after 9 May 2016**

Deadline for high-resolution files (only valid for online-entries) and image descriptions: **26 May 2016** at 24:00 midnight.

File requirements

- Preview files – **1920 pixels** wide or high (may be sharpened)
- High-resolution files – data volume must be suitable for large format printing (90 x 140 cm) and must have a clearly specified RGB colour space. Depending on the workflow, the most suitable are **Adobe RGB** or **sRGB colour space**. Do not interpolate data and please sharpen only moderately!
- Image editing within the framework of our guidelines – see point 7 of the competition rules.

COMPETITION RULES

1. Invitation

The competition „Fritz Pölking and Fritz Pölking Junior Prize 2016 is hosted by the Society of German Nature Photographers (GDT – Gesellschaft Deutscher Tierfotografen e.V.) in cooperation with the Tecklenborg publishing house.

2. Prizes

Fritz Pölking Prize

2 000 Euro – donated by Tecklenborg publishing house

Fritz Pölking Junior Prize

1 500 Euro – donated by Tecklenborg publishing house

A merchandise voucher worth **500 Euro** – donated by AC-Foto *

* Cash equivalents as a substitute are not available.

All successful photographers will be awarded a **free ticket** for the International Nature Photography Festival 2016 in Lünen (incl. the buffet and accommodation).

The winning images will be showcased in an exhibition at the International Nature Photography Festival (28 – 30 October 2016) in Lünen. The award ceremony will be held during the International Nature Photography Festival on Friday, **28 October 2016** at the Heinz-Hilpert Theatre in Lünen.

3. Participants

The competition is open to professional and amateur photographers worldwide.

Participation in the **“Fritz Pölking Junior Prize”** is restricted to photographers up to the **age of 23** (at the date of entry). The prizes will be given to the same photographer only twice.

Members of the GDT board or the jury as well as employees of the companies Tecklenborg and AC-Foto are not eligible for participation.

4. How to Enter

It is possible to enter the competition online or by post. Online participation requires the participant to **register** at the website **www.gdtfoto.de** with a valid email address. Online participation also requires a **PayPal account**. If the competition is entered by post, a data carrier is to be submitted together with a completely filled in entry form and the entry fee in cash.

The entry form is downloadable from the website **www.gdtfoto.de**.

When registering for online participation, the participant must state a valid email address, at which he / she can be contacted. It is the participant's responsibility to ensure that he / she receives email correspondence via **contest@gdtfoto.de** by adding this email address to their email address book and making sure that security settings or spam filters do not block relevant mails.

5. Entry Fee

Entry fee is **10 Euros** for each participant regardless of the number of submitted photographs. When entering images by post, the entry fee must be included with the submission in cash. Cheques will not be accepted.

In the case of online participation, payment will be made through the online money transfer system PayPal.

6. Submissions

Each participant may enter a **minimum of 8 images** and a **maximum of 12 images**.

Images displaying domestic animals or pets and cultivated forms of wild plants are not permitted. The same applies to images which have been taken violating current conservation or animal welfare regulations and / or have been taken in an irresponsible way.

Images that have been entered into the competition „GDT European Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2016“ may be entered.

7. Technical Requirements and Digital Guidelines

Permitted are images from digital cameras (digital images) as well as high quality scans of transparencies and negatives. Analogue images (transparencies, paper prints) will not be accepted.

After a pre-selection procedure, the jury will check the authenticity of digital images by reference to the original image file. In the case of scans, authenticity check will be conducted using the original analogue transparencies / negatives.

RAW files of any format (e.g. *.NEF, *.CRW, *.CR2, *.PEF) as well as original JPG files will be accepted as original image files. Only JPG files straight out of the camera are accepted as originals. Any kind of image processing (compressing, re-saving with an image editing software) leads to the file considered not being original. DNG files are only eligible if this is the original camera format.

We attach great importance on authentic nature photography, but do not ignore the technical possibilities of digital image editing within the framework of our guidelines. For us, awarding the photographic achievement has priority.

Within the framework of digital image editing, the following is **PERMITTED**:

- moderate adjustments of contrast, tonal values, gradation, white balance, colour and saturation
- moderate use of the shadow / highlight tool, dodging / burning and digital graduated grey filters
- removal of sensor dust, marginal „clean-up“ if this does not change the statement of the image
- cropping – longest side of the image must have at least 3000 pixels (squares must have a minimum of 2500 pixels), not interpolated
- moderate (selective) sharpening and (selective) noise reduction
- HDR images, stitched panoramas and images using focus stacking as well as in-camera multiple exposures (for all these techniques the requirement is that all images were taken at the same location at approximately the same time. With multiple exposures this means that the viewer should not be misled by the combination of two or more images).
- => for Canon multi exposures: Allowed are the ADDITIVE and AVERAGE settings
- removal of chromatic aberrations and vignetting as well as lens distortions
- black&white and infrared rendering (incl. filter and tonal adjustments)

Within the framework of digital image editing, the following is **NOT PERMITTED**:

- Adding or removing objects (e.g. animals, plants, people, items of civilization and traces thereof), digital collages
- => for Canon multiexposures: Not allowed are the BRIGHT and DARK settings

8. File Naming

Files are to be named with image number and the respective image title. File names must not contain special characters (e.g. „#“ or „<>“) or punctuation marks (e.g. „!“ , „?“ or „.“). Umlauts and other diacritics are to be avoided and should be replaced appropriately (e.g. ae, oe, ue). Blank spaces are to be replaced by underscores. File extensions must be separated by a dot and must not exceed four characters.

Example for acceptable file naming: 01_Eagle_and_Gull.jpg

If a special technique has been used, the file name has to be completed accordingly: „S“ for scan, „ME „ for multiple exposure, „HDR“ if high dynamic range techniques have been used, „P“ for panorama images and „FS“ for focus stacking.

Example: 01_Mountains_in_Italy_P_HDR.jpg (panorama and HDR)

Pictures of animals that were restricted in their freedom of movement before, during or after the shot, are to be marked with a capital „C“ (= Captive).

Example: 01_Cheetah_C.jpg

All submitted file formats must have identical file names. In order to ensure anonymity, the photographer's name must not be part of the title or the photograph itself (e.g. like in a digital watermark). The IPTC data (in Photoshop -> File -> File Info) should contain

complete information about the contact details of the photographer.

9. Data transfer for online participation

For online entries, initially only a preview file in JPG format has to be uploaded onto the GDT server for each photograph. These should be submitted in highest possible quality. Preview files may be sharpened. The longest side of each image must be **1920 pixels**. This value is absolute and must not be deviated from. An uploaded preview image can be deleted and replaced by an alternative image until the entry deadline **1 March 2016**. The same applies to image titles and descriptions.

The organizer will request the RAW files or original JPG / DNG files as well as the analogue originals of all photographs that have reached the final round of judging. The competition management will dispatch notifications by **19 April 2016** at the latest. The deadline for the required data and analogue originals to arrive at the competition management will end **25 April 2016** at midnight. If requested original image files or analogue originals are not provided by the set deadlines, the relevant images will be excluded from further participation, i.e. awards and commendations. In this case, no refunds of the entry fee will be made.

Winners will be notified after **9 May 2016**.

The photographers of all winning and commended images will have to supply the GDT with non-interpolated highest quality JPG or TIFF files of the awarded images. Data volume of these high-resolution files must be suitable for a large format print (e.g. 90 x 140 cm) and must have a clearly specified RGB colour space. Depending on the workflow, the most suitable are Adobe RGB or sRGB colour space. Do not interpolate data! Please sharpen only moderately!

Together with the high-resolution data an image description has to be supplied. Exposure data also have to be delivered. High-resolution files, image description and a note of the exposure data have to be with the competition management by **26 May 2016** at latest.

All online participants will receive information on the placement of their images after **1 August 2016** via email.

10. Data transfer for postal participation

When submitting images by post, photographs must be send on one CD / DVD to the following address: „Fritz Pölking Prize 2016“, Marc Hesse, Zum Jagenstein 1, 14478 Potsdam, Germany. This posting has to arrive at the above address by **1 March 2016**. Please note: date of receipt is binding, not the post mark.

Photographs for competition entry must be on one single data carrier. On the data carrier, three separate folders named „preview“, „original data“ and „high-resolution“ have to be set up.

The folder „**preview**“ must contain images for submission to the contest as preview JPG files. These JPG files should be submitted in highest possible quality. Preview files may be sharpened. The longest side of each image must be **1920 pixels**. This value is absolute and must not be deviated from.

The folder „**original data**“ must contain the original files of the digital images. In case of submitting only scans from transparencies / negatives, this folder is to be omitted. Analogue originals of scanned transparencies / negatives will be requested after the final round of judging. The competition management will dispatch notifications by **9 May 2016** at the latest. The deadline for the required analogue originals to arrive at the competition management will end **26 May 2016** at midnight. If requested original images are not provided by the set deadline, the relevant images will be excluded from further participation, i.e. awards and commendations. In this case, no refunds of the entry fee will be made.

In the folder „**high resolution**“ non-interpolated high-resolution data of images submitted to the competition must be saved in highest quality as JPG files or TIFF files. Data volume of these high-resolution files must be suitable for a large format print (e.g. 70 x 100 cm) and must have a clearly specified RGB colour space. Depending on the workflow, the most suitable are Adobe RGB or sRGB colour space. Do not interpolate data! Please sharpen only moderately!

Winners will be notified after **9 May 2016**.

The photographers of all winning and commended images are obliged to supply the GDT with an image description and the exposure data. High-resolution files, image description and a note of the exposure data must be with the competition management by **26 May 2016** at latest.

11. Description of project

The photographer is required to give a short description (8-10 sentences) of origin, execution and objective / intention of his / her selection of photographs. This description can be submitted online or has to be send in printed form when participating by post.

12. Entry deadlines

You can send in your images by post or submit them online from **15 January 2016**.

Closing date is **1 March 2016**. By this deadline, images for the competition must be either transmitted online to the GDT or have arrived by post at the address stated in the section „Data transfer for postal participation“.

13. Jury

Competition decisions will be made by an independent expert jury.

14. Competition management, enquiries

Manager for the competition „Fritz Pölking and Fritz Pölking Junior Prize 2016“ is Marc Hesse. The competition management's address is: **Marc Hesse, Zum Jagenstein 1, 14478 Potsdam, Germany**.

Please direct your enquiries in writing to: **contest@gdtfoto.de**.

We ask for your understanding that we cannot deal with individual questions on the phone!

15. Copyright and right to one's own picture

By entering the competition, the photographer confirms that the entered photograph is his / her original work and the photographer is the sole owner of the copyright and that there are no third-party claims. It is the photographer's responsibility to obtain releases and consents in written form for publishing, exhibiting and using the awarded image if any persons appear in the photograph or if objects in the photograph are subject to the rights of third parties; it is the photographer's responsibility to obtain official permits where applicable. The photographer is held liable for all damages that the GDT or third parties, to whom the GDT legally granted usage of the image, may experience due to the lack of necessary release forms or missing permits.

16. Usage rights

Photographs awarded with a prize may be used in the context of the competition „Fritz Pölking and Fritz Pölking Junior Prize 2016“ and its related public relations. The GDT is in particular entitled to publish the photograph on their website and to pass the image on to newspapers and magazines for the purpose of news coverage of the contest. In addition, the GDT is entitled to exhibit the photograph in Germany and abroad, to reproduce and distribute it in the form of print media and to use it to advertise the exhibitions and publications provided that the context of the competition „Fritz Pölking and Fritz Pölking Junior Prize 2016“ is clearly marked. The GDT is entitled to transfer these usage rights to third parties. For the above stated usage rights the photographer cannot claim compensation or a fee of any kind.

In case of enquiries concerning the purchase of usage rights of the awarded photographs, the GDT will forward the relevant photographer's contact details to the interested party.

The required prints for the exhibition will be made on the GDT's own expenses or that of third parties eligible for using the photographs. After the exhibitions have concluded, the GDT is authorized to sell the prints to interested members of the public provided the proceeds of this transaction are assigned to charitable projects, in particular nature conservation projects. Unsold prints will be destroyed.

17. Post-contest handling of images

Submissions that have not been awarded a prize will be deleted after the close of the contest. CDs / DVDs send in by the participants will not be returned; they will be destroyed provided the images on the data carrier have not received a prize.

18. Liability

The risk of damage or loss of submitted photographs from negatives, slides or on CD / DVD in transit or during online transfer lies with the participant. The GDT cannot accept any liability or responsibility.

19. Final clause

Submissions that do not fulfil all or some of the competition's requirements in terms of content, technical or any other aspect cannot receive consideration and will be excluded from the competition. It is the jury's decision to admit images whose fulfilment of the necessary requirements may be considered ambiguous. The jury's decisions will be final. Legal proceedings are eliminated. By submitting images to the competition the participant consents to the above competition rules.