

## Preface

Dear friends of photography,  
What a pleasure it is to know that, for the first time in the history of the Leica Oskar Barnack Award, the presentation ceremony will be held in Berlin! ‘Oscar is returning home’ – that’s the motto, because it was there, in the Brandenburg Mark, that Oscar Barnack (he wrote his name with a ‘c’ back then) was born in the 19th century. It is to honour him, the man whose invention so intensely influenced photography in the 20th century, that we have been granting this award for 37 years. I do believe that nowadays, with the flow of imagery we are subjected to, it is all the more necessary to show quality: humanistic photography centring around people! This is certainly in line with our motto: Leica – das Wesentliche (the essential)! The more than 3200 submissions speak for themselves, and the quality of the finalists underlines it: the LOBA is one of the most important photography competitions in the world! Join us in appreciating the different perspectives the photographers have of our multi-faceted world, in celebrating that ‘Oscar is returning home’, and in having the chance to get to see the essential: the art of photography!

Yours,  
Andreas Kaufmann,  
LEICA Camera AG

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