

FOREWORD

With this catalogue and the accompanying exhibition, we are very pleased to present the 41st edition of the Leica Oskar Barnack Award. In addition to the two winning series, by Ana María Arévalo Gosen and Emile Ducke, we are also introducing the additional eleven LOBA shortlist candidates. It is evident that all the subjects dealt with this year fit perfectly into LOBA tradition. They have socio-political relevance, they look at the dramatic upheavals of our times, they speak of flight, displacement, the destruction of landscapes and environments, the climate crisis – even the Covid-19 pandemic is the theme of one series.

Leica has played a decisive role in the history of photography; and the medium's humane approach remains clearly visible in the current LOBA series. Once again, I've delighted in experiencing the amount of passion and love the photographers have dedicated to their subjects, sharpening our awareness – in particular towards man-made problems. Through the LOBA, contemporary photojournalism and committed photography continue to enjoy a highly visible forum.

I offer my gratitude to all those involved – the nominators and the jury, the employees at Leica, and the team that prepared the catalogue and accompanying exhibition. Above all, however, I thank this year's photographers from the bottom of my heart. Without a doubt, their stories have enthralled us once more, and taught us to look at the world with different eyes. We wish you an exciting journey of discovery with the LOBA 2021!

Karin Rehn-Kaufmann
Leica Camera AG

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