



**THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY**  
YOUTH PROGRAMMES

**PRESS RELEASE: 1st September 2011**

### **Ghanaian recognised in Young Commonwealth Photographic Awards**

The Royal Commonwealth Society is delighted to announce that a young photographer from Ghana has been announced a winner in the 2011 Young Commonwealth Photographic Awards.

Gloria Dwomoh (19) was on the winning shortlist in the Senior (18-30 years old) category for her symbolic image of a woman breaking the chains that are holding her back from a bright future.

The theme of this year's competition was 'Women as Agents of Change' mirroring the 2011 theme of the Commonwealth. Entrants were encouraged to think about the opportunities and barriers faced by women around the world, as well as the role women play in their homes, communities and countries.

A distinguished judging panel including professional photographer, Michael Hallett, and Tate Britain curator, Katherine Stout, praised the standard of the entries:

*"The sheer breadth of interpretation of the theme was impressive. The creative potential of the younger photographers was especially encouraging."*

(Michael Hallett)

Gloria's image will be one of twenty-two photographs exhibited at the Commonwealth Festival Perth 2011, a significant achievement given the hundreds of excellent entries from all over the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Festival will also be flying two of the shortlisted photographers to Perth during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at the end of October. This is a tremendous opportunity for young photographers to see how the Commonwealth functions at the highest level; to be part of the events surrounding the Meeting and witness first hand the one-off, stunning outdoor exhibition of this year's Competition being presented by the Commonwealth Festival 2011.

Visit [www.thercs.org/youth/418](http://www.thercs.org/youth/418) to see the winning entries in this year's competitions.

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#### **Notes to Editors**

##### **Winning Entries 2011**

##### **Senior Category (18-30)**

**Gold:** Amit Madheshia (29), India

**Silver:** Rehnuma Tasnim Sheefa (18), Bangladesh

**Bronze:** Ma Iversen (21), Australia / Diana Lewis (24), Barbados

#### **Exhibition**

Madhabi Das Bhattacharyya (24), India

Gloria Dwomoh (19), Ghana

Syeda Mariam Humayun (22), Pakistan

Kasadha Juma (23), Uganda

Swastik Pal (20), India

Nina Ross (28), Australia

Christineil Thompson (18), Trinidad and Tobago

Ashish Verma (27), India

#### **Junior (17 and under)**

**Gold:** Siddharth Murali (16), India/Oman

**Silver:** Nishtha Garg (17), India

**Bronze:** Ann Hui Ching (14), Malaysia / Shintaro Tay (15), Singapore

#### **Exhibition**

Diana Chamsoutdinova (16), Australia

Jacinta Vock (17), Australia

Chisty Rahim (15), Bangladesh

Aqiil Muhammad Gopee (14), Mauritius

Rachel Lee (16), Malaysia

Wynona Goh Wen Yuen (12), Singapore

#### **Young Commonwealth Photographic Awards Judging Panel**

**Michael Hallett (Chair):** Michael Hallett is a professional image-maker and internationally published photographic historian. His biography on Stefan Lorant, known as the 'godfather of photojournalism' was published recently and his *Olympic Coast* depicting the venue for the sailing events of the 2012 Olympics is scheduled for early next year.

**Caitlin Montie Greer:** Caitlin Montie Greer is a photographer from London who is currently working as an Artist in Residence for a Women's Refuge in East Kent. Last year she launched "Survivor's Voices" which was an exhibition of work by women and children who have been the victims of Domestic Abuse. Caitlin has exhibited her work in both London and New York, and is part of an upcoming exhibition, entitled "Everyday Conversations" which will explore a visual discourse between different artists and their media.

**Peter Hayes:** Peter Hayes is a freelance photo journalist based in the UK. He previously worked as a television political editor for the BBC and ITV. He started photography in 2009 having never picked up a camera before. He joined the Royal Photographic Society the same year and embarked on their distinction scheme in order to follow a structure while learning the tricks of the trade. He achieved his LRPS in January 2011 and his ARPS three months later. In June 2011 he won the Daily Telegraph Travel Photograph Competition.

**Thierry Bal:** Thierry Bal is a Belgian photographer and artist based in London, specialised in projects in collaboration with and for contemporary artists, filmmakers, art publications and galleries worldwide, alongside a personal art practice. He is especially known for the creation of photographic work for and with artists working in a variety of media, and for expedition type projects, which have taken him all over the world. He has lectured at both the Royal College of Art and Sheffield Hallam University and regularly writes on photography.

**Katharine Stout:** Katharine Stout is a Curator of Contemporary British Art at Tate Britain, where she has curated numerous Turner prize exhibitions, and Associate Director of the Drawing Room, only public non-profit, gallery in the UK and Europe dedicated to the investigation and presentation of

international contemporary drawing. She has curated numerous Turner prize exhibitions. Prior to Tate she was the Contemporary art consultant at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

**The Royal Commonwealth Society:** Founded in 1868, the RCS conducts a range of events and activities aimed at promoting international understanding. Its educational, youth and cultural programmes include one of the world's oldest and largest schools essay competitions, and an innovative international youth leadership programme. HM Queen Elizabeth II is Patron and Peter Kellner is Chairman. Headquartered at the Commonwealth Club in London, the RCS has some 4000 members in the UK and a presence in 40 Commonwealth countries through a network of branches and Commonwealth societies. The RCS is a registered charity in England & Wales (226748) See [www.thercs.org](http://www.thercs.org)

### **The Commonwealth Festival Perth 2011**

The Commonwealth Festival Perth, an initiative of the Western Australian Government, is part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2011. An opportunity for the community to get involved with CHOGM, the Festival will be eight days (23-30 October) of family friendly events that celebrate the people and culture of the Commonwealth. Funded through the Department of Culture and the Arts and Lotterywest, the Festival will showcase WA's diverse culture and enliven Perth cultural centres and outdoor venues. The Festival program will be launched in August. Visit the Festival website for updates: [commonwealthfestival.com](http://commonwealthfestival.com)

The top two entrants of the Royal Commonwealth Society Photographic Awards will be flown to Perth, Western Australia and have their work exhibited as part of a special prize commissioned by the Commonwealth Festival Perth.

The Commonwealth Festival prize will be presented to two photographers, aged 18-30. Their work will accompany a selection of up to 50 images from the Photographic Awards to be exhibited in Perth during the Festival.

**The Commonwealth:** The modern Commonwealth was established with 8 members in 1949. In 2011, it has 54 members with a total population of nearly 2 billion. It is an association of governments and peoples, built around shared language, institutions, challenges, aspirations and values. The Commonwealth promotes democracy, development, and diversity within its member countries and across the world.

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