

2020 IN PERSPECTIVE

Selections from the 2020 Pictures of the Year Archive

Curated by Ron Tarver, Andrea Packard, and Tess Wei

On view September 9 – October 19, 2021



Deanne Fitzmaurice, *Brianna Noble: Urban Cowgirl*, July 26, 2020

As Fitzmaurice writes, "Brianna Noble represents our cultural story at this moment in America's reckoning of our racial history. As a Black cowgirl she represents the new America West – independence, strength and resilience – while standing up for her values: social and racial justice and equity. As the Black Lives Matter protests erupted over the summer in Oakland, California, Brianna showed up at a march on horseback . . . Before long, she was leading the protest. Brianna rescues and tames wild horses and has built a non-profit, The Humble Project, providing free lessons to inner city youth of color."

2020 in Perspective features more than 190 images taken during the COVID-19 pandemic by 36 photographers representing 19 different nationalities. Selected from the archives of the 2020 Pictures of the Year Competition (POY), the selected photographs highlight the variety of ways people experienced the pandemic, and related challenges such as climate crisis, systemic injustice, and civil rights activism. While the pandemic instilled a sense of isolation in many people, it also demonstrated our global interdependence, the impact of digital images, and the importance of photojournalism. With this exhibition and related events, Swarthmore is pleased to collaborate with the organizers of the Pictures of the Year Competition (POY), a project of the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri. Since 1944, the POY competition has been organized annually in order to call attention to the importance of documentary photography, especially during times of crisis.



Luis Tato, *Locust Invasion in East Africa*, April 24, 2020.

This image shows Herny Lenayasa, a Samburu man and chief of the settlement of Archers Post trying to scare away a swarm of locusts ravaging Samburu County, Kenya. As Tato writes, "A locust plague, fueled by unpredictable weather patterns, threaten parts of East Africa. [Locusts] have already made a devastating appearance in Kenya, two months after voracious swarms – some billions strong – ravaged big areas of land, just as the coronavirus outbreak has begun to disrupt livelihoods."

September 29, 4:30 – 5:30 PM: "The Power of Photography Amid Global Crises"

A Conversation with Ron Tarver and Elizabeth Cheng Krist

Moderated by List Gallery Director Andrea Packard

Lang Performing Arts Center Cinema

List Gallery reception follows: 5:30-7:00 PM

How have documentary images shaped your understanding of the past year?

Why do some images appear archetypal, spark controversy, or catalyze social upheaval? And why do many documentary photographers see their work as distinct from "Art?" Ron Tarver, an associate professor of Art at Swarthmore College and recent Guggenheim fellowship recipient, will discuss such questions with Elizabeth Cheng Krist, who was a senior photo editor with *National Geographic* magazine for more than 20 years and serves on the boards of Women Photograph and of the W. Eugene Smith Fund. During 2020, both Tarver and Krist served as jurors for the 78th Pictures of the Year Competition (POY), which received more than 38,000 entries and awarded 240 prizes in varied categories, including photojournalism, visual editing, and online multimedia.

In conjunction with *2020 in Perspective*, McCabe Library will host a companion exhibition titled **Swarthmore 2020: Students Respond**. During 2020, students enrolled in photography courses taught by Ron Tarver recorded their experience of the pandemic and social unrest. A selection of these images reflects the variety of student experiences and the important role of photography within our community. Student photographs will remain on view in display cases in McCabe Library Atrium through October 19, 2021.

The List Gallery organized *2020 in Perspective* and *Swarthmore 2020: Students Respond* with support from the Department of Art and Art History, Swarthmore College, the Donald J. Gordon Visiting Artist Fund, and the Kaori Kitao Endowment for the List Gallery. Additional support was provided by Swarthmore College Libraries. We are especially grateful to Miranda Roelandt '22 for providing valuable curatorial and technical assistance.



The image at left, taken on March 21, 2020, is just one of 20 images in Elisabetta Zavoli's picture story, titled *And in Darkness You Find Colors*. The series won first prize for the POY category, COVID-19 Personal Expression. The entire series can be viewed in McCabe Library Atrium.

As Zavoli describes her image:
"Giovanni Ferraro, 8, laying on the grass in the garden at night, is illuminated with a LED torch by his brother, Davide Ferraro, 11. Giovanni says, 'When I put on my colored glasses, I can always see a different world.' I did this photo project together with my two sons as a means of mental resistance during COVID-19 lockdown in Italy. (5th March 2020 - 18th May 2020)."

For more images and full captions, please visit the Pictures of the Year website: <https://poy.org/>

List Gallery Current Exhibition page: <https://www.swarthmore.edu/list-gallery/2020-2021-schedule>

Gallery hours: Tuesdays–Sundays, Noon – 5 PM.

McCabe Library hours: <https://www.swarthmore.edu/libraries/hours>

Currently, Swarthmore's campus is only open to community members with OneCard access.

***Health and access precautions may change. Please check our website before planning your visit.**



Reynolds Journalism Institute
University of Missouri