

## Spanish student beats photographers worldwide at 2013 Sony World Photography Awards Student Focus

- Work to be exhibited at Somerset House, London
- Competing for €35,000 worth of Sony photography equipment



© Sarai Rua Fargues, Spain, Student Finalist  
2013 Sony World Photography Awards

**19 February:** A student from Institut d'Estudis Fotogràfics de Catalunya, Barcelona is today named as a finalist for the prestigious Sony World Photography Awards Student Focus competition, the world's largest student photography programme and award. It is the third time a student from I.E.F.C has been selected as a finalist in the competition's six year history.

Sarai Rua Fargues, aged 28, beat entries from over 230 universities worldwide to be named as one of 10 finalists for the Student Focus award. She will now compete against the nine other finalists from as far apart as New Zealand to Argentina, to win the overall Student Focus title and €35,000 worth of Sony digital imaging equipment for her college.

Fargues' finalist image, 'Turning 30', was shot in a farmhouse in the outskirts of Barcelona and shows the photographer's sister and two childhood friends celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. The photograph was taken in response to an initial brief asking student photographers to capture the spirit of celebration in their country.

Fargues says of the picture: "It was a very nice moment - several friends brought them cakes with candles, and formed a circle around the women. I then moved around capturing the emotions from one to the other."

Fargues studied Fine Arts in Barcelona and Berlin and has professional experience in graphics, web design and advertising. She specialized in Photographic Essay at I.E.F.C where she is currently studying and developing her interest in social reportage.

Talking about her success in the Student Focus competition Fargues comments: "I am very excited about the contest, I want to give my best in the final phase, take the opportunity to spread my work and gather strength to find the way to make a living with my photography."

Robert Barrio, Director Acadèmic at I.E.F.C added: "We are proud to have, for the third time, a student selected as a finalist among such a large number of participants from

around the world, in the most important international contest dedicated to the young talents.

“For students is a wonderful opportunity to showcase their work, to obtain a valuable experience during the festival and to feel supported to continue learning and working in the world of photography. It is also exciting for the school to participate in this event, meet colleagues from other schools and exchange knowledge and experiences to improve the quality of teaching.”

Fargues' image will be shown as part of the 2013 Sony World Photography Awards Exhibition at the famous Somerset House, London from 26 April – 12 May. It will also be published in the 2013 edition of the annual Sony World Photography Awards book.

As a finalist, Fargues receives a Sony [α65](#) camera and will use it to complete the final brief of the competition to decide the winner. Each student photographer will shoot a set of 6-10 images exploring what the word 'family' means to them.

All finalists, including Fargues, and their professors will be brought to London to find out which school has won the 2013 Student Focus title which will be revealed at the glamorous Sony World Photography Awards Gala Ceremony on 25 April.

**[www.worldphoto.org/studentfocus](http://www.worldphoto.org/studentfocus)**

**For further details and images please contact:**

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**Notes to editors:**

- Finalist images are available to download at [www.press.worldphoto.org](http://www.press.worldphoto.org) Please contact Jill Cotton at World Photography Organisation for membership
- The ten finalist for the competition are:
  - Africa – South Africa: Zanele Plaatjie, Vaal University of Technology
  - Asia – Singapore: Eugene Soh, Nanyang Technological University
  - Asia – India: Anshul Mehrotra, Jamia Millia Islamia, Dehli
  - Europe – Belgium: Andrea Azema, École nationale supérieure des arts visuels de La Cambre, Brussels
  - Europe – Poland: Natalia Wiernik, Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts, Krakow
  - Europe – Spain: Sarai Rua Fargues, Institut D'Estudis Fotogràfics de Catalunya, Barcelona
  - Europe – Wales: Aimee Turner, Coleg Sir Gâr, Carmarthen
  - North America – Mexico: Marcelo Sanchez, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Monterrey
  - Oceania – New Zealand: Kim Annan, The University of Auckland, Auckland
  - South America – Argentina: Maria Candelaria Rivera Gadea, Escuela Motivarte, Buenos Aires

- The 2013 Student Focus judging panel includes: photography collector, curator and consultant W.M Hunt and British photographers Jonathan Worth and Leonie Hampton. The judges were asked to select six universities from the six continents plus four favourites from anywhere in the world to make a list of 10 finalists from the entries
- The same judging panel will select the winner which will be announced on 25 April 2013
- **About World Photography Organisation**  
WPO supports professional, amateur and student photography, lending a global platform for the photographic industry to communicate, converge and showcase current trends in Photojournalism, Fine Art and Commercial photography. Delivering various initiatives and programmes across this global community, these programmes involve the photographer in commercial, cultural and educational activities within the many industry sectors, whilst also creating cultural activities for the public to participate in. Currently included within the WPO portfolio are: the Sony World Photography Awards; the World Photography Student Focus Competition; the World Photo international festivals and events, and the World Photography Focus Programme.
- **About Sony:**  
Sony is a leading global innovator of audio, video, communications and information technology products for both the consumer and professional markets. Sony is renowned for its audio-visual products, such as the BRAVIA™ LCD high-definition (HD) television, Cyber-shot™ digital camera, Handycam® camcorder, “α” (pronounced Alpha) digital SLR camera, Sony Tablet and Walkman® MP3 player as well as its VAIO™ personal computers and 3D HD professional broadcast equipment.

For more information on Sony Europe, please visit <http://www.sony-europe.com>. For more information on Sony Corporation please visit <http://www.sony.net>.

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