

WPGA ANNOUNCES WINNERS!

34 Photographers Awarded From 1,020 Entries

February 1, 2011 York, United Kingdom

Don Smarto was one of 34 photographers awarded from 1,020 entries from 45 countries for his series *Barriers; Story of Prisoners* from his book, Heart of the Young Gladiator. His photographs will appear in the book **Storyteller** (WonderPick Publishing, 2011).

“These images deserve to be seen and published for their creativity”, said juror Julio Hardy.

The Worldwide Photography Gala Awards (WPGA) provides juried competitions for professionals and amateur photographers from around the world to compete in the WPGA Annual Award for the WPGA Photographer of the Year Award and the Humanitarian Documentary Grant, provided by WonderPick Gallery, as well as other thematic contests that offer artists similar opportunities for awards and recognition.

1,020 series were received for the first screening, and of those 178 passed to the second screening. One winner, 4 runner ups and 29 honorable mentions were awarded and will be featured in the book **Storyteller**.

The first screening was done by the Artistic and Editorial Team of WPGA while the second round was juried by Julio Hardy, managing director of the WPGA.

The participating countries were: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, United States, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

WPGA hosts **The Storyteller Award** to honor talented photographers and as a means of establishing and maintaining a continuing effort to help them further their careers. WPGA recognizes artists' talent through competitions juried by industry leaders, exposing their work in the media, publishing their work, hosting collective exhibitions, and by exhibiting their work to an extensive international audience through WonderPick Gallery, an art portal where selected artworks can be viewed online and purchased.

WPGA, Regency House – Westminster Place, York, United Kingdom