

PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, Oct 17, 2024

AFTER NATURE PRIZE 25

Lisa Barnard / Isadora Romero

C/O Berlin is delighted to announce that **Lisa Barnard** (b. 1967, United Kingdom) and **Isadora Romero** (b. 1987, Ecuador) are the winners of the **After Nature . Ulrike Crespo Photography Prize 25**. A double exhibition of both winners' work will be shown at C/O Berlin in Amerika Haus from **Sep 27, 2025 to Jan 28, 2026**.

In her prizewinning project proposal, **Lisa Barnard** takes Thomas Nagel's influential essay *What Is It Like to Be a Bat?* as her starting point to explore the question of how technology shapes human perception and affects our relationship to the environment. Drawing on a wide array of image-making processes, she presents her expansive artistic research into the topic of echolocation, which reveals unexpected connections between animal consciousness, driverless vehicle technologies, lithium mining, and nuclear test sites.

Isadora Romero uses three case studies in Ecuador for her prizewinning research into the cohabitation of humans and forests in the past, present, and future. She questions the colonial view of tropical rainforests, combining classical documentary photography, organic materials, and experimental development processes as an example of a thriving relationship between the environment and its inhabitants. Her collaborations with scientists and local communities create a nuanced narrative about the forest's spiritual, political, and ecological dimensions.

The prizewinning projects will be realized for the first time as part of the *After Nature . Ulrike Crespo Photography Prize 25*. Following the inaugural show at C/O Berlin, the double exhibition will be on display at Open Space, Crespo Foundation in Frankfurt am Main from February 2026.

The **jury** was comprised of Tomáš Dvořák (Associate professor of photography at FAMU in Prague), Zippora Elders (Freelance curator), Boaz Levin (Curator and co-head of program, C/O Berlin), Hinde Haest (Curator, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam), Michelle Henning (Professor of photography and media, University of Liverpool), Maria-Kyveli Mavrokordopoulou (Research associate, Vrije University Amsterdam), Christiane Riedel (Board member, Crespo Foundation), and Katharina Täschner (Junior curator, C/O Berlin). The decision was reached unanimously following nominations made by twelve international experts.

The *After Nature . Ulrike Crespo Photography Prize* is a joint project of the C/O Berlin Foundation and the Crespo Foundation. It is awarded annually to acknowledge artists or groups who explore new concepts of nature in photography and visual media through their work. Each prize includes a grant of forty thousand euros, an exhibition at C/O Berlin, and an accompanying publication.

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Lisa Barnard (b. 1967, United Kingdom) is a British artist, and teacher whose photographic practice focuses on real events. Her projects use both traditional documentary techniques such as photography, audio, video, and text, combined with more contemporary visual techniques and computer forms. She combines her interest in aesthetics and contemporary discussions on the materiality of photography with the political landscape surrounding critical initiatives focused on new ecologies, emerging technologies, science, and the military-industrial complex. Barnard is associate professor and head of the online master's program in documentary photography at the University of South Wales. In addition to regularly exhibiting her projects, she has published three monographs, *Chateau Despair* (2012, GOST, supported by the Arts Council England), *Hyenas of the Battlefield: Machines in the Garden* (2014, GOST, supported by the Albert Renger-Patzsch Prize) and *The Canary and the Hammer* (2019, MACK, supported by the Getty Images Prestige Grant).

Isadora Romero (b. 1987, Ecuador) is a visual storyteller based in Quito, Ecuador, whose work blends documentary and artistic photography, focusing on social justice, gender, and environmental themes, especially human-agriculture relationships and the preservation of agrobiodiversity in Latin America. She co-founded Ruda Colectiva, a group of Latin American women photographers, and has exhibited her work in Ecuador and elsewhere internationally. Her accolades include the 2023 Discovery Award at Les Rencontres de la Photographie d'Arles, the 2024 Ecuador National Photography Award, and the 2022 World Press Photo Open Format Award. She has participated in the Antarctic artist residency and received grants and fellowships from the Prince Claus Fund, Magnum Foundation, and World Press Photo. Romero is also an educator, speaker, and member of Women Photograph, Fotógrafos Ecuatorianos, Foto Fémimas, and Diversify Photo.

Jury Statements

Isadora Romero's photographic project tackles a place at the intersection of today's environmental crisis: the forest. Challenging colonial views of tropical forests, the project affirms the blurring of boundaries between nature and culture in three forests in Ecuador. Through collaborations with the inhabitants of these places, Romero will use photography to document ways of being in the forest that honor the relationships of humans to other living beings that surround them. Attentive to non-western approaches to nature, this work is an invitation to reflect on forests as thinking entities.

– Maria-Kyveli Mavrokordopoulou

Lisa Barnard's winning proposal explores how new technologies are shaping human perception, and the impact of these technologies on experience and the ability to care for the environment. Noting the way that novel sensing systems draw on animal techniques such as the echolocation used by bats, and looking critically at technological and scientific climate change solutions, Barnard's project is exhilaratingly original and eclectic.

– Michelle Henning

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Exhibition	Sep 27, 2025 – Jan 28, 2026
Opening Hours	Daily . 11:00–20:00
Admission	12/6 euro
Organizer	C/O Berlin Foundation Amerika Haus . Hardenbergstraße 22–24 . 10623 Berlin Tel +49.30.284 44 16-0 . www.co-berlin.org www.facebook.com/coberlinphoto www.instagram.com/coberlin www.x.com/coberlin #coberlin #afternatureprize #lisabarnard #isadoraromero

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A joint project of C/O Berlin and Crespo Foundation.