



MUVS Photography Competition

Stock Photos on Abortion

Entry deadline: March 31st 2017

Prize money:

- 1st place: 700 Euros
- 2nd place: 500 Euros
- 3rd place: 300 Euros

Inspiration!
On **thursday 19th**
of **January at 6 p.m.** MUVS
will provide a **free guided tour**
for every interested participant –
please **sign up here:**
info@muv.org

Organized by

MUVS MUSEUM FÜR VERHÜTUNG UND
SCHWANGERSCHAFTSABBRUCH

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women on waves, Photo: Willem Veithoven, 2002

Details and instructions for participating: www.abortion-pictures.info



1. CONCEPTION AND BACKGROUND

The Museum of Contraception and Abortion (MUVS), a non-profit association registered in Vienna, Austria, calls for all interested photographers, professionals and amateurs, to participate in a competition on the topic of "Abortion". The MUVS decided to organise this contest because of the severe lack of good photographic material for journalists and media to use when covering this important although emotional and controversial issue.

Most commonly, the media resort to pictures of women in the final stage of pregnancy, or to ultrasound of rare late-term fetuses, and even to graphic pictures of late-term aborted fetuses. Alternatively, pictures of religiously-motivated political actions can be found. We also see pictures of women staring in despair at a pregnancy test or their (forgotten) birth control pills. The perception of women with an unwanted pregnancy is completely omitted in most reports, namely that an abortion represents the (best) solution from the difficult situation of an unwanted pregnancy.

The types of pictures mentioned above all project a wrong impression of abortion and the circumstances and interests of women affected by unwanted pregnancy. This false or rather distorted view can get further instrumentalised by moralising arguments that undergird the propaganda of religiously-motivated fundamentalists and activists. In this way, such pictures ultimately impede an objective, solution-oriented approach to the topics of unwanted pregnancy and abortion.

About abortion

The majority of abortions are performed before the eighth week of pregnancy if women have unrestricted access, many of them taking place even before week six, when only the amniotic sac can be seen, no embryo. Women may opt for abortion when they decide on their own or together with their partner that they cannot provide responsible care for a(nother) child's life in their current living conditions and partner situation. We should always bear in mind that most women who decide to have an abortion already have one or more children, and make up their minds based on their knowledge and experiences of motherhood – they know what it takes and they may need to prioritize their existing children. In such cases, abortion becomes a real and ethical solution to the problem of unwanted pregnancy.

2. AIM

The goal of this competition is to create a free photo collection for media and/or public use. The collection would actualise the living conditions of unintentionally pregnant women (or couples) and sensibly and creatively deal with the delicate issues of unwanted pregnancy and/or abortion.

Creating photos that get beyond the negative, religiously based ideology that surrounds abortion represents a challenge to the photographer's imagination and requires a strong interest in the matter. In socio-political terms, the intended contest outcome will be a contribution against the stigmatisation and criminalisation of abortion and towards an evidence-based and women-centred discussion about it.

3. CALL FOR ENTRIES AND PROMOTION

The photography competition will be announced and promoted via various international channels and sponsors. In addition to Facebook and Instagram, other social communities with a connection to photography will be targeted. Training institutions such as universities for fine and applied arts and the photography section at the School of Graphic Design, all based in Vienna, will be requested to promote the competition to their students and faculty. Finally, companies and organisations from the photography sector (The Austrian Federal Guild etc.) will be involved to promote the call in their newsletters.

4. REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

By submitting their entry, all competitors accept the conditions for participation and grant the following rights to the MUVS:

The contest is open to all photographers aged 18 years and above, whether amateurs or professionals, who intend to photographically illustrate the topic above. The contest entry is free. Entrants may only submit pictures for which they own the exclusive copyright and usage rights. The competition will be announced in German and English and is not bound to geographical borders.

The closing date for entries is midnight, March 31st 2017.

Interested entrants can upload up to three photographs after completing an online registration at www.abortion-pictures.info. When registering and uploading entries, you must enter your name, address, phone number and email address. If uploading more than one photograph, please specify whether they are separate themes or a series. Submission of reproductions is not allowed and will be rejected.

Images that are morally objectionable, discriminatory, ideological, pornographic, violent, or that do not fit the competition topic will not be accepted or admitted for evaluation by the jury.

There is no legal entitlement or award simply for participating in this competition. No correspondence beyond a simple notification about the decision will take place for entries that were not accepted or awarded. Entrants shall not have any legal recourse.

5. TECHNICAL QUALITY OF ENTRIES

The photographs must be high quality (at least 3,000 x 2,000 pixels), saved as a JPG or JPEG file and upload a file at the online platform www.abortion-pictures.info. Photographs in both portrait and landscape format, as well as in colour and b/w will be accepted.

Details specifying the conception of the submitted photographs are welcome and can be uploaded in PDF format. The maximum file size of 1,000 characters including spaces should not be exceeded.

Requirements for successful upload:

Maximum number of uploads per entrant: 3 photographs

Files to be named as follows:

surname_first name _1 (sequential series number)

Details on conception (if uploaded) to be named as follows:

surname_first name_concept (saved as PDF file)

In addition, every entrant shall send a signed Letter of Confirmation that all depicted persons agreed to the participation in this competition, and that he/she owns the exclusive copyright and usage rights which, in the case of winning an award, he/she irrevocably assigns to the MUVS. The Letter of Confirmation form can be downloaded from the website www.abortion-pictures.info. The Letter of Confirmation should be uploaded together with the pictures named as follows: surname_first name _confirmation (as pdf).

6. PRESENTATION AND EXHIBITION

If the call has been successful and there is a sufficient number of suitable entries, the MUVS Vienna reserves the right to hold an evening event to present the winning photographs and their photographers, as well as the right to hold an exhibition of any suitable photographs submitted (including those that did not win awards). Also, the MUVS may produce an illustrated volume featuring the submitted photographs.

Thus, independently of winning an award, all entrants declare their consent to the MUVS presenting and exhibiting their works, copying and publishing them in a volume, and promoting the exhibition and presentation ceremony. However, the entrants have no legal claim to exhibition, presentation, and/or publishing of the submitted entries.

7. SELECTION AND AWARDS

The entries will be reviewed and selected by an appointed jury comprising experts from the fields of fine art, photography, journalism, and medicine. The jury will have direct access to the online platform with the submitted entries, and will meet on a designated day to discuss and select the photographs. For the jury's review, all photographs uploaded by the deadline that meet the criteria for participation and upload requirements will be admitted. The winners will be notified by e-mail as soon as the selection process has concluded.

The number of photographs discussed and selected by the jury depends on the number of suitable entries. The contest closes immediately if no qualifying entry was submitted within the deadline.

At most, three top winners will be awarded a cash prize. However, the jury may suggest that none, one, or two awards/cash prizes be conferred if the jury decides that there are not enough qualifying entries for the award. In such case, the MUVS shall make no use of the images.

If the jury proposes more than three winning photographs, up to 20 non-cash awards are under consideration. However, no legal entitlement shall exist to this effect.

The prizes will be awarded during the exhibition on a date to be determined.

For entrants who may win a non-cash prize, no cash compensation can be claimed.

The decision of the jury is final and there is no right of appeal.

8. COPYRIGHT AND RIGHTS OF USE

All competitors acknowledge the above conditions for participation and confirm that they are the rightful owners of the photographs submitted, including the copyright and rights of use, and that no rights of third parties are affected by submitting and publishing the photographs in the manner stated above.

When illustrating persons, the participants confirm that no rights to protection of personality, data or one's own image (according to § 78 Austrian Copyright Act) have been affected. In particular, persons depicted must have declared their express consent to the submission of the entry in the purpose of an unrestricted and free-of-charge publication.

After the competition, the winning photographs as well as those awarded a non-cash prize will become property of the MUVS Vienna, Museum of Contraception and Abor-

tion. When awarded a cash prize or non-cash prize, all rights to the photographs will be assigned to the MUVS without any restriction in terms of time, substance or territory. Subsequently, the MUVS will make these photographs available for free on the Internet, including on its websites www.muvs.org and www.abortion-pictures.info, to all interested media and publishers for further dissemination in online and print media, either in original form or suitably edited. Distribution in connection with promotion of products by third parties is not included. The entrants, however, should be aware that the photographs may be provided for use on websites that incidentally contain promotion of products or advertisements by sponsors or the like. The MUVS shall publish relevant terms of use for media and publishers on its website www.abortion-pictures.info, yet by no means assumes responsibility for the respective third party's compliance with the above.

9. DATA PROTECTION AND COPYRIGHT NOTICE

The data obtained shall remain confidential and will not be passed onto third parties. The winners of the photography competition, including those awarded a non-cash prize, agree that their names will be published by online and print media, including the general copyright notice declaring them as authors of the photographs.

10. PRIZES

The top three winners will be awarded the following prizes:

1st place: 700 euros

2nd place: 500 euros

3rd place: 300 euros

All other non-cash prizes (up to 20) will be awarded upon the jury's suggestion, provided that prize sponsors from the photography sector can be found. Possible non-cash prizes may be, for instance, high quality copies of the winning photos or some other recognition in connection with photographic activities.

11. CONTRIBUTIONS

The MUVS kindly invites partners who want to contribute to this fascinating socio-political issue and become sponsors of this photography competition, such as by contributing non-cash prizes or presenting the awards.

MUVS, Museum of Contraception and Abortion

The MUVS tracks and tells the cultural history of how people achieved control over their own fertility in a long and often painful way over thousands of years. Sigmund Freud expressed it this way in 1898 (loosely translated): One of the greatest achievements of humanity would be the separation of sexuality and reproduction. About 100 years ago, natural human fertility resulted in 15 pregnancies, 10 deliveries, and 8 surviving children in an average woman's lifetime. Today, we have a largely self-determined approach to controlling our sexuality and fertility. Often, however, access to information on reproductive relations and our knowledge and application of effective contraception is still insufficient, as shown by the estimated 35,000 abortions done every year in Austria alone. The 30,000 young students who have visited the MUVS and taken part in interactive guided tours and storytelling since the museum's opening in March 2007 confirms the need for sex education outside the school environment.

The MUVS collects, documents, researches, displays, and communicates this exciting and fascinating part of our cultural history – with a vision of full self-determination in the areas of sexuality, fertility, and reproduction..

MUVS, Museum of Contraception and Abortion

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Not for profit association registered

under the number: ZVR-Zahl 233000932