



Underwater Photographer of the Year 2016
@Christian Vizl

CAPE TOWN – April 2016.

Coming to South Africa for the first time, the **Underwater Photographer of the Year 2016** exhibition will be showcased at the Chavonnes Battery Museum, Clock Tower, V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, from 1st May to 30th September 2016 in partnership with the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI).

The 41 images cover 8 categories, 3 of which are exclusively in British Waters while the rest are from 54 countries including South Africa, UK, Mexico, Russia, Indonesia, Egypt, Jordan, Malta and Italy.

These spectacular images invite you to explore fascinating perspectives and interesting insights into our world underwater and on land from underwater.

South African Pier Mane, is the winner of the Up & Coming Underwater Photographer of the Year 2016 for his image titled “Three Pillars - Practice, Patience & Luck!”

The overall winner, Davide Lopresti’s image titled “Gold”, is an artistic portrait of a spiny seahorse taken in Trieste, Italy to celebrate their return to areas of the Mediterranean that have been protected from destructive fisheries, such as trawling.

Highlighting issues of conservation and endangered species can also be found in Mane’s image of a Hawksbill Sea Turtle found in Sodwana Bay off the coast of SA and Prieto’s picture titled “**What feeds beneath**” of an endangered Hawaiian Petrel snapped in Mexico.

Like Mane’s winning image in his category, other photographers were also rewarded for their patience and perseverance.

Sarah Bowring, a Marine Mammal Medic at a seal rehabilitation centre in the UK achieved a long time ambition to engage with the seals in their natural environment. This led to the charming image called “**Hello, give us a kiss**”.

Paul Colley’s attempt to photograph trout during a year-long river project with a home-made pole-cam, led to a raft of Mallard **ducks** muscling in to steal food intended to entice trout to the camera.

Christian Vizl was highly commended in the “Wrecks” category for capturing an image of his lecturer, award winning photographer David Doubilet in the Caribbean during a workshop.

“We are very excited to partner with the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) and to host this fascinating Underwater Photography exhibition. The various themes will be incorporated into our school group visits along with the NSRI WaterWise Academy project which I know the learners enjoy. The Wrecks category ties into our new display of Model Ships on loan from Iziko Museums and the Rocket Lifesaving Apparatus used for saving lives from shipwrecks at the Cape of Storms in the 1800’s”, says Dale Dodgen, Business Executive of Chavonnes Battery Museum. “Thank goodness we have the NSRI now”

Visitors have the option to meander on their own or join a guide from local communities for a tour, where they will enjoy breath-taking images and explore the history of Cape Town in one affordable experience that lasts up to 2 hours.

The exhibition and museum is open 7 days a week from 09:00-16:00 and the costs are R70 Adults, R50 Seniors/Students/Wild Card Holders, R30 Children and R200 for a family of 4.

In celebration of Worker’s Day, entry to the exhibition and museum is FREE on Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd May.

Tickets are available from webtickets (<https://www.webtickets.co.za/>) and at the door.

All donations accumulated during the exhibition will be presented to the NSRI and at the end of the show, the exhibition will be donated on behalf of the NSRI to a local school or community organisation.

ENDS

Chavonnes Battery Museum

The Chavonnes Battery was a VOC fort built to protect Table Bay from sea borne aggressors and covered over in 1860 when the harbour was constructed. Rediscovered and converted into a museum in 2008, the archaeological ruins of the Chavonnes Battery and the history of Cape Town can be explored on the original Cape Town shoreline that has been buried for 300 years

The Battery, unique for live muzzle loaded canon firing, offers guided tours, school and seniors outings, is available for hire and has hosted presentations, cocktail parties and “Old Cape” themed events.

The Chavonnes Battery is a work skills incubator that provides work experience for unemployed youth and Tourism Graduates who want to be Tourist Guides – all profit is invested in these social goals.

UPY2016 SA Exhibition Details:

Location: Chavonnes Battery Museum, Clock Tower, V&A Waterfront

Opening Hours: Monday – Sunday 09:00-16:00

Exhibition Dates: 1st May – 30th September 2016

Costs: R70 Adults, R50 Seniors/Students/Wild Card Holders/Red Bus Ticket Holders, R30 Children, R200 for a family of 4.

Interest & School Group Prices: *Available on request*

Dropbox link to press kit:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/od7b98pp8s8iplh/AAAzRD_gtVKBMT73pxSndn3Oa?dl=0

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