

# Photoworks

## FIFTH JERWOOD/PHOTOWORKS AWARDS AWARDEES REVEALED

Photoworks is pleased to announce the 2025 recipients of the fifth edition of the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards as **Roman Manfredi and Sayuri Ichida**.

The artists will receive a £15,000 award each (comprising £10,000 fee and £5,000 production budget) with a full package of support from Photoworks to create new work over a 12-month period. They will also be part of a joint UK touring exhibition including presentations with associated exhibition partners **Ffotogallery (Cardiff), Barnsley Civic (South Yorkshire) and Street Level Photoworks (Glasgow)** across 2025 and 2026 with more venues to be announced.

Launched in 2015, the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are a biennial major commissioning opportunity open to all UK based artists using photography and within the first ten years of their career. The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards offer the awardees the opportunity to make ambitious new work and significantly develop their practice at a pivotal moment in their career. Previous recipients have included **Joanne Coates, Heather Agyepong, Silvia Rosi, Theo Simpson, Alejandra Carles-Tolra, Sam Laughlin, Lúa Ribeira, Matthew Finn, Joanna Piotrowska and Tereza Zelenková**.

**Louise Fedotov-Clements, Director, Photoworks, said,** *"The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are a rare and important opportunity with an incredible legacy, they offer career defining support through a programme of mentoring, development opportunities and exhibitions for mid-career practitioners. We are delighted to award the Jerwood/Photoworks Award to Sayuri Ichida and Roman Manfredi. Both artists use photography in expanded, innovative and unique ways to look at important subjects that are both personal and political. We look forward to working with them throughout 2025 to support the development of their commissions, to be exhibited with our wonderful exhibition partners in 2025-2026."*

## **The jury panel who chose the artists included:**

**Cindy Sissokho**, Curator, Cultural Producer & Writer

**Ingrid Pollard**, Artist and Researcher

**Louise Fedotov-Clements**, Director of Photoworks

**Lúa Ribeira**, Photographer

**Omar Kholeif**, Director of collections and Senior Curator at Sharjah Art Foundation

**Lucy Ash** broadcast journalist and author

**Sayuri Ichida** is a Japanese artist based in Margate, UK. Her work explores themes of self-identity, personal memories, and life experiences, often focusing on the human form and sculptural objects to create thought-provoking images. Ichida's work has been featured in numerous exhibitions, including solo shows at PhMuseum Lab (Bologna) and IBASHO Gallery (Antwerp), as well as solo presentations at Unseen Amsterdam and the InCadaques International Photography Festival (Cadaqués) in 2022. In 2023 and 2024, her work was presented by IBASHO Gallery at Art Paris, and she had a solo presentation at the SPARK Art Fair in Vienna.. Her artworks are held in the collections of Museum Voorlinden and SAMMLUNG VERBUND. Her book Absentee was named one of the ten best photobooks by the Prix Nadar Prize in 2022 and she was an artist-in-residence at Light Work in 2023. Her latest work, Ctrl Shift + J, was shortlisted for the Grand Prix Images Vevey 2023/2024 and selected for the Benrido Award as part of the Hariban Award 2023. She also received a DYCP grant from Arts Council England in 2023. Ichida graduated from Tokyo Visual Arts College in 2006 and initially pursued a career in commercial photography in Tokyo and New York. In 2016, she shifted her focus to art photography and completed an MA in Photography Arts from the University of Westminster in 2022.

Sayuri's commission for the Jerwood/Photoworks Award is concerned with Japan's population decline, particularly in rural areas, which has resulted in widespread school closures. This multimedia photography project aims to spotlight how depopulation impacts education and communities, fostering global awareness of the issue.



Image: Tomasz Laczny.

**Roman Manfredi** is a British lens-based artist who lives and works in London. Using analogue photography, moving image and sound, Manfredi's work explores the intersections of personal narratives and political landscapes through the everyday lived experience. Driven by a passion for amplifying working-class narratives, Manfredi's work is deeply rooted in capturing underrepresented communities, experiences and identities, with a particular emphasis on LGBTQ+ perspectives.

In 2023, Manfredi's solo exhibition *We/Us*, marked the UK's first visual art project dedicated to celebrating the undocumented presence of butches and studs from working-class backgrounds with the British landscape. In 2024, Manfredi's work has been showcased in several prominent group exhibitions, including the LensCulture Art Photography Awards 2024, winner (New York), Revela'T Contemporary Analog Photography Festival (Barcelona), Pride Photo Awards 2024 (Netherlands), 70:15:40 Project UK, winner (London), and BBA Photography Prize and MPB Award, finalist (Berlin). Manfredi holds a BA (hons) Fine Art from the Byam Shaw School of Art at Central St Martins and an MA in Fine Art (Printmaking) from the Royal College of Art.

Roman's commission for the Jerwood/Photoworks Award will delve into the unique cultural and social identity of a traditional third gender community native to Naples,

Italy, living at the intersection of pagan traditions and Catholic rituals that shape and define them. Driven by a passion for amplifying working-class narratives, Manfredi's work is deeply rooted in capturing underrepresented communities, experiences and identities, often with a particular emphasis on LGBTQ+ perspectives.



Image: Christa Holka

On behalf of the panel who awarded the artists, **Omar Kholeif, Director of collections and Senior Curator at Sharjah Art Foundation** added, *"Both of the selected artists, who were unanimously chosen by the jury, subtly engage with the hidden and errant aspects of histories personal to them. Through this prize, they have proposed a framework, one that fashions the capacious potential for their ideas to coalesce under one sun for myriad audiences in various contexts. Although distinct in character, tone and tenor, both deploying divergent approaches to*

*image-making, both photographers are preoccupied with unfolding the interior folds of time--unbuckling the ways in which spectators make sense of the self through image culture. Exploring subjects and concepts as broad and specific as the urban and the rural; erasure and disappearance versus the illusion of perpetual economic growth; the visual language and codification of gender and personhood, the artists grasp these ideas, contouring them into a view of the world that is boundless, endless, in its potential."*

**Lucy Ash, Jerwood Foundation Trustee** *"Like my fellow jury members, I was immediately struck by the passion underlying Roman Manfredi's and Sayuri Ichida's work. The projects both artists are proposing represent exciting new departures in visual storytelling. They afford the viewer insights into urgent social issues in two very different cultures. Ichida's innovative use of classroom chalkboards to chart the demographic crisis in rural Japan pushes the boundaries of photography. Manfredi's deep dive into the third gender Feminelli community of Naples is fascinating and powerfully underscores the role art can play in promoting inclusivity"*

The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are a collaboration between Jerwood Foundation and Photoworks, supported by Spectrum Photographic.

## **ENDS**

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IMAGES -

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**Jerwood Foundation**

**Jerwood Foundation** was established in 1977 for John Jerwood MC (1918–1991) by Alan Grieve CBE. The Foundation supports excellence and emerging talent in the arts in the UK and has to date donated over £110 million. In 2023 the Foundation merged with Jerwood Charity (Jerwood Arts) to create a single UK charity, ensuring maximum impact for beneficiaries and a sustainable future. Alan Grieve, who was Chairman of Jerwood Foundation for 30 years, was appointed Chairman Emeritus and Rupert Tyler appointed Chairman. The organisation is led by Lara Wardle, Executive Director and Trustee.

Jerwood Foundation owns the **Jerwood Collection** of Modern and Contemporary art, and an important part of Jerwood's philanthropic mission is delivered by the Collection through its promotion of a broader understanding, interpretation and enjoyment of art. Also included in the Jerwood group of organisations is **Jerwood Space**, which was Jerwood's first major capital project when opened in 1998. Jerwood Space continues to be one of the best and most sought-after rehearsal spaces for theatre and dance in the country.

To find out more about Jerwood, visit [jerwood.org](https://www.jerwood.org)

## **Photoworks**

**Photoworks** champions photography for everyone. We are an international platform, global in reach, and have provided opportunities for artists and audiences since 1995. We do not have a physical venue, but our online channels are always open. Our programme brings new experiences to audiences and opens up new ways to encounter photography. Photoworks is a registered charity and the only organisation with a national remit for photography in England. Our work is supported by public funding through Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

## **Spectrum Photographic**

**Spectrum** is a longstanding professional imaging lab specialising in high quality fine art and photographic printing, as well as archival mounting. They are proud of the reputation that they have established for themselves and are known for their high quality, passion, and above all, excellent service to their customers.

