

IMS Photo Contest awards the best Mountain Photos

Amazing moments, mystic summits, balancing acts of standstill and movement. The IMS Photo Contest 2017 honoured at the seventh edition the most sensational mountain pictures at the International Mountain Summit (IMS) in Brixen. With six different categories the photographers had endless space for expressing their creativity. Fascinating are also the stories behind the winners' photos.

Climbers in the solitude of light and shadow, natural phenomena that last for a split of a second or people, for which the mountain is the symbol of their lives. 3,000 pictures from over 100 countries have participated at the IMS Photo Contest considered one of the most important photographic contests of mountain pictures all over the world. The contest creates a new platform, honours photographic achievements, and promotes photo-culture.



More than 37,000 Facebook fans have been following the contest's Facebook page for half a year. There the news reaches within a week more than half a million people. It wasn't an easy task for the renowned jury to decide among the many magnificent shots. Seven winners were honoured Saturday evening (14.10.17) on the IMS festival stage in Brixen with prizes. The total prize money is over € 20,000.

These are the winners and their stories.

The **Mountain Photo of the Year 2017** represents a unique moment that only in that perfect timing allowed the photographer to capture the miracle of nature. In January 2017, **Sergio Tapiro Velasco** was twelve kilometres from the crater of the Colima volcano in Mexico, when it suddenly broke out. "I suddenly heard a big loud bang, then I saw the hot lava flow down the mountain and the giant ash cloud that rose to the sky," he says and immediately acted. With an incredibly high technical brilliance, the photographer has kept an indescribable moment in this very dangerous situation forever. His photo is titled "**Light belongs to Heaven**".

This year, photos of the Team Spirit category help disabled children and teenagers to approach winter sports. In fact, the full amount for the registration of pictures in the **Team Spirit** category of the photo contest has been entirely devoted to the *Laureus Schneetiger* project of the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation. Behind the impressive winner photo "**Prayer Flag**" by **Sebastian Wahlhuetter** is a valuable story: "In the Himalayas it is a tradition that flags can be hung on the summits as a sign of peace, compassion, strength and wisdom.

In our project, we also wanted to create a flag in Austria, which should show harmony and peace". The project at the Peilstein was realized together with slackliners from Vienna.

Mountains may appear immutable. But their interplay with nature creates ever new perspectives and captivating sights. The winning photo of the category **Mountain Nature**, presented by the world's leading manufacturer of personalised decorative and lifestyle products Picanova, comes from Italy. **Jona Salcher** held a fascinating moment on the Seceda in the Dolomites. "When we were close to the summit, the front of the fog suddenly opened. The picture that arose tied me up and never let me go", states the photographer. His impressive shot carries the title "**Far Away**".

Mountains also include dynamism, speed and adventure. The **Mountain Action** category, presented by the IMS Photo Contest's long-standing partner, the premium apple producer, KIKU, focused on people who are active in mountain sports. The winning photo "**Into the Sky**" unites the power of nature with the human power of movement. **Patrick Steiner** from Austria was able to capture this peak experience just before sunset at the Arlberg before the fog also covered the summit.

Rain, snow covered landscapes or impressive waterfalls; there are endless forms of water in the mountains. The category **Mountain Water** was presented by South Tyrolean energy producer Alperia. It unites images that represent both the beauty and the wild side of this natural power. The winner is the Italian **Maurizio Casula** with his photo "**Stockness Night**". For the winner, the photo of Mount Klifatindur in Iceland is closely linked to a personal inner mountain: "I took this picture on my first trip to Iceland and immediately felt an inner peace that I had never felt before."

In the category **Mountain Faces**, the photos of mountain lovers of all kinds tell stories and show faces. Life on and with the mountain has shaped their lives. The winner photo of **Anton Yankovyi** is called "**Wind-hardened**" and puts a very special person in the foreground. "I met this boy in Nepal at the foot of Manaslu," says Yankovyi. "Nowhere else have I met such an independent and self-confident boy as here in the Himalayas."

For people who like to spend their free time in the mountains and capture great impressions with the smartphone, the IMS Photo Contest 2017 presented for the first time the category **Mountain Mobile**. The winner photo of the South Tyrolean **Christine Trebo** was created after a long hike and shows a short break at the Gran Cir in the Dolomites. Suddenly the weather changed and created an impressive atmosphere. The title is "**A gentle mouth to rest within**".

Media to download: www.imsphotocontest.com/press.html

More information: www.imsphotocontest.com

The IMS Photo Contest 2017 is supported by [KIKU](#), [Picanova](#), [Alperia](#), [International Mountain Summit](#).