

# !ndiaczech

● PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2018







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## Reflecting the cultural diversities of India and Czech Republic through Pictures

Photographs play an important role in shaping our perception in today's world. Photographs can capture the essence of a place, its people and culture in a very emotive manner. I, therefore wanted to use this powerful tool of photography to create a platform for Czechs and Indian citizens to share images of their places, people and culture by organizing the first ever IndiaCzech Photography Contest online. Photo entries were invited from Czech and Indian photo enthusiasts who submitted their photographs on the theme of My Land, My People, My Culture. The submitted entries were evaluated by a select jury panel of eminent photographers from Czech Republic and India.

Mrs NARINDER CHAUHAN  
Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary of  
the Republic of India  
to the Czech Republic

2018-2020





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**The best entry will win  
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For more details, please visit  
[www.indiaczech.in](http://www.indiaczech.in) and sign up today!

Contest **NOW OPEN**  
Last date of registration **10.12.2018**  
Last submission date **10.01.2019**

For more information, please contact us  
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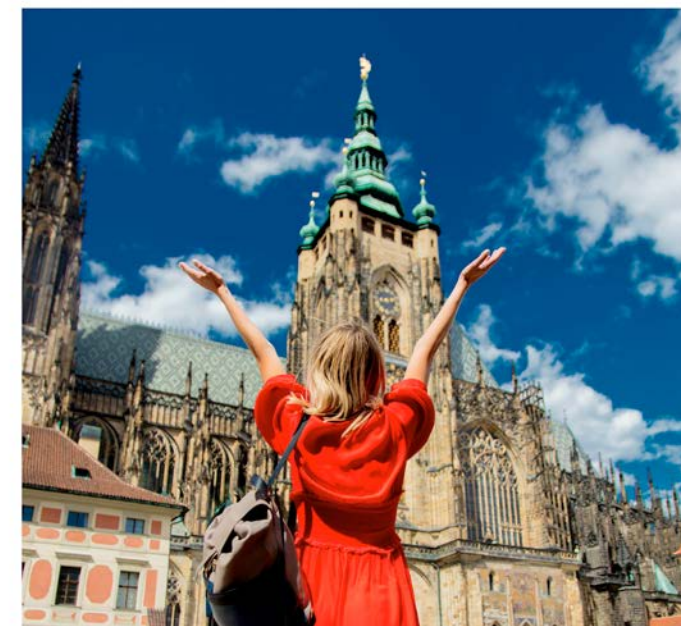
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## INDIACZECH Photography Contest 2018

My Land. My People.  
My Culture.

INDIACZECH Photography Contest invited all photographers in India and the Czech Republic to capture the spirit of the people and culture of India and Czech Republic through their photographs. The objective was to identify people, communities and cultural activities that make India and Czech Republic exciting, vibrant and colourful and best represent the essence of India and Czech Republic, the people and ethos.

The winner was to receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the country for a short photography assignment.

The incoming entries was adjudicated by an eminent panel of photographers and industry professionals. The pictures were judged on the relevance and the quality of perspective presented within the context of the contest theme.



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Debdatta Chakraborty from India won the First Prize and won a short trip to the Czech Republic to capture his vision of the Czech Republic through his lenses.



## Results of the INDIACZECH Photography Contest

The jury panel comprising of photographers and professionals from India and the Czech Republic evaluated the shortlisted entries and declared the winners of the INDIACZECH Photography Contest. with the theme My Country, My Land and My People.

- Debdatta Chakraborty
- Bidyut Goswami
- Pranab Basak
- Amitava Chandra
- Santanu Das
- Sujit Saha
- Somenath Mukhopadhyay
- Nimai Chandra Ghosh
- Rajib Singha
- Jitubha Jam
- Monidipta Saha
- Anand Kishore
- Chandan Paul
- Dimple Pancholi
- Vishal Ranpura
- Sharmistha Haldar



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DEBDUTTA CHAKRABORTY

**CESKY KRUMLOV**

Český Krumlov is a city in the South Bohemia region of the Czech Republic. It's bisected by the Vltava River, and dominated by its 13th-century castle. The castle has Gothic, Renaissance and baroque elements, an 11-hectare garden and an original 17th-century baroque theater. There are panoramic views of the old town and the river from the top of its round bell tower.






#### ODISSI DANCERS

Young Odissi dancers, dressed in their rich traditional costumes, get ready to perform. They are seen wearing coloured sari made of local silk decorated with traditional and local designs. Silver jewellery adorns her head, ear, neck, arms and wrists. Odissi is one of the pre-eminent classical dance forms of India which originated in the Hindu temples of the eastern coastal state of Odisha in India. Its theoretical base traces back to 'Natya Shastra', the ancient Sanskrit Hindu text on the performing arts.

**ANAND KISHORE**





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#### OLD TOWN SQUARE, PRAGUE

Old Town Square, in Czech known as Staroměstské náměstí, is the central square of the historic part of Prague. The square, located between Wenceslas Square and Charles Bridge, is one of the greatest tourist attractions of the Czech capital. The square features buildings belonging to various architectural styles, including the Gothic Church of Our Lady before Týn, which has been the main church of this part of the city since the 14th century. The Christmas Markets in Old Town Square are the largest Christmas markets in the Czech Republic and are visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors.

DEBDUTTA CHAKRABORTY



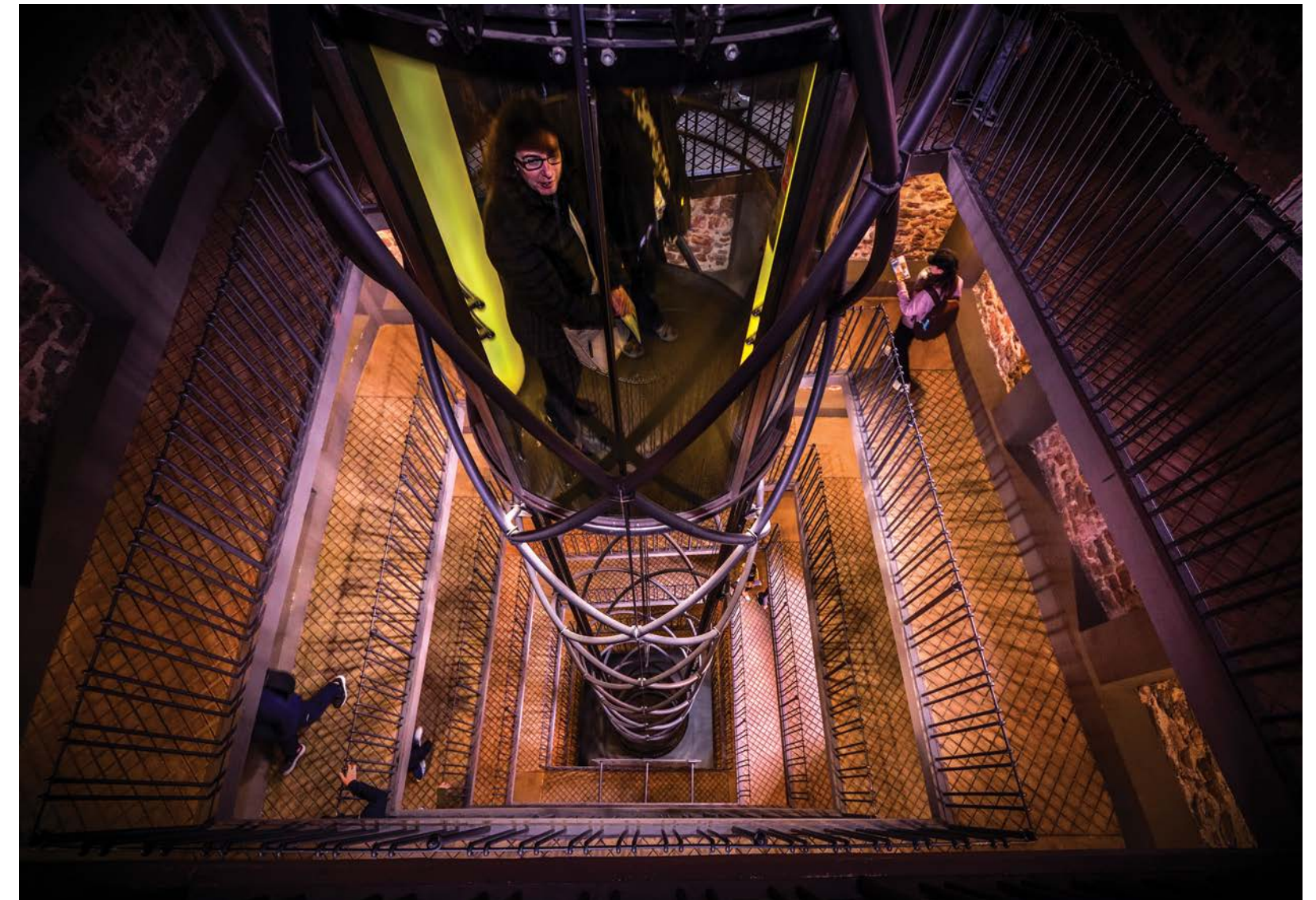


#### **RABARI MARKET**

Rabari women in their richly decorated dresses jostle in the local marketplace in a village in Gujarat. The Rabaris are an indigenous tribal caste of nomadic cattle, camel herders and shepherds that live in the northwest region of India, primarily in the states of Gujarat, Punjab and Rajasthan. Emroidery is a vital, living and evolving expression of the crafted textile tradition of the Rabaris. As far back as the group's collective memory stretches, Rabari women have diligently embroidered textiles as an expression of creativity, aesthetics and identity.

**JITUBHA JAM**





#### ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK TOWER, PRAGUE

The Astronomical Clock (Pražský orloj) is built into one side of the Old Town Hall Tower (Staroměstská radnice) at the Old Town Square. The clock dates from the 15th century. To fully appreciate its intricate construction, join the crowd in front of the tower to watch the procession of the Twelve Apostles: on the hour, every hour a trap door opens and Christ marches out ahead of his disciples, while the skeleton of death tolls the bell to a statue of a defiant Turk. Below the Astronomical Clock are 12 medallions with the signs of the zodiac, added by Josef Manes in 1865.

DEBDUTTA CHAKRABORTY





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**BIDYUT GOSWAMI**

#### **HOLI IN VRINDAVAN**

Holi, the Festival of Colour, is a Hindu spring festival and is celebrated in India since a very long time. The Banke-Bihari Temple in Vrindavan is one such place to enjoy the festivities as it hosts a week-long Holi celebration here. Vrindavan Holi is played with coloured water and gulal (a form of colour made using organic substances like flowers and kesar). Priests sprinkle colours on everyone using buckets, water guns, etc. and the whole atmosphere becomes more lively with music (bhajans) in the background as people dance to the tunes and enjoy the colors.





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#### **STRAHOV LIBRARY, PRAGUE**

The origin of the collections in the Strahov Library goes back to the 12th century, when the Premonstratensian monastery was founded there. The development of the library was interrupted several times through the centuries. After 1950, the library was incorporated into the Memorial of National Literature. The Strahov Library contains over 200,000 volumes, including over 3,000 manuscripts and 1,500 first prints stored in a special depository.

**DEBDUTTA CHAKRABORTY**





AMITAVA CHANDRA

#### GAJAN FESTIVAL

Devotees march through the village with painted faces and armed with traditional weapons like swords, tridents, harpoons etc., (resembling the demoniac aides of Lord Shiva) and dance to the traditional beats of drums as they collect alms from door to door in a village in West Bengal. Gajan is a festival celebrated during the year-end and is based on the vernacular (Bengali) calendar. Gajan spans around a week and people observe this festival to collect new energy for the ensuing new-year. One of the central themes of this festival is to derive satisfaction through pain, devotion and sacrifice.





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#### CITY OF BRIDGES, PRAGUE

As the Vltava River meanders through the historic town, it is crossed by a series of bridges, each of which have their own cultural or architectural charm. From the famous Charles Bridge and the historic Legion Bridge to the Art Nouveau Čechův Bridge and the modern Troja Bridge, there are some distinctively beautiful and unique bridges in Prague. It is said that there are over three hundred bridges in the city. Eighteen of them span across river Vltava, and hundreds of other lead over many smaller rivers and brooks, and valleys.

DEBDUTTA CHAKRABORTY





#### **PULAKELLI DANCE DURING ONAM**

On the fourth day of Onam celebrations (Nalaam Onam), performers painted like tigers and hunters in bright yellow, red and black dance to the beats of instruments like Udukku and Thakil in Thrissur district of Kerala. Pulikkali is a recreational folk art from Kerala. It is performed by trained artists to entertain people on the occasion of Onam, an annual harvest festival, celebrated mainly in the Indian state of Kerala. Literal meaning of Pulikkali is the 'play of the tigers'; hence the performance revolves around the theme of tiger hunting.

**AMITAVA CHANDRA**





DEBDUTTA CHAKRABORTY

#### CHARLES BRIDGE, PRAGUE

Charles Bridge is the most famous bridge in Prague, which began construction in 1357 under the auspices of King Charles IV, and completed in the beginning of the 15th century. But it wasn't known as Charles Bridge until 1841. It was originally called the Stone Bridge or the Prague Bridge. The bridge replaced the old Judith Bridge built 1158–1172 that had been badly damaged by a flood in 1342. Named after King Charles IV, for hundreds of years it was the only structure connecting the two banks of the Vltava River. Nowadays it's a popular place for a romantic walk at sunset, when lanterns light up the stone walkway.





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Contest closes on 15 January

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**MONIDIPTA SAHA**

**FIRE AND DEVOTION**

Agni (fire) plays an important role in various aspects of the Hindu Tradition. It is both the creator and destroyed of life, and those that follow the Hindu tradition recognize this fact through several of their rituals and practices. A devotee is seen during a ritual where fire ignited by the burning of camphor is symbolic of how the ego should melt along with the camphor so that the soul could become one with the supreme.



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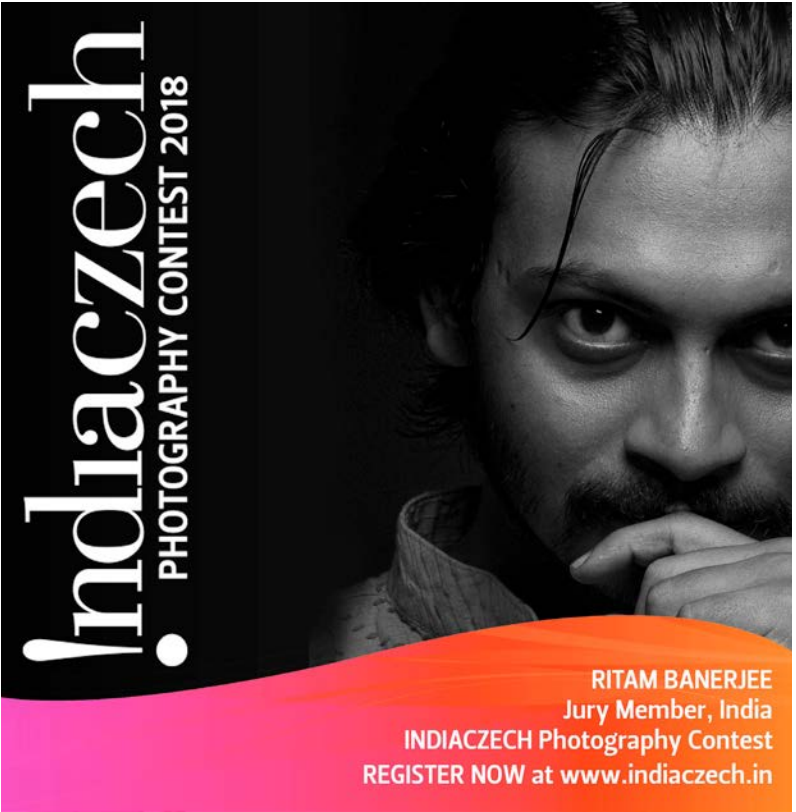


GRAND JURY



**JANA AŠENBRENNEROVÁ**  
Photojournalist, Czech Republic

Jana Ašenbrennerová is a Czech photojournalist based in the US. She studied directing and screenwriting at Film Academy in Písek and later journalism at San Francisco State University. She has worked with nonprofit organizations to document their humanitarian efforts in different parts of the world, including Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Rwanda, while also pursuing her own independent projects. She regularly works in the Czech Republic—frequently in Southern Bohemia, where she originates. She contributes her work to publications worldwide. Jana leads international student expeditions for National Geographic and currently completing her graduate degree in visual anthropology at San Francisco State University. Her work has received numerous awards including World Press Photo, National Geographic Photo Contest, Czech Press Photo, China Press Photo, and others.



**RITAM BANERJEE**  
Photographer, India

Based out of Mumbai, Ritam has always believed in not confining to a single space. Shooting extensively across categories—travel, photojournalism, advertising, interiors, portraits, automobiles, fashion and food—he has always sought inspiration and challenge in variety. From capturing the blazing dome of the Taj Palace Hotel when Mumbai was under siege in 2008 to documenting the placid course of the middle and lower Ganges, Ritam has framed things as disparate as spas and slums, ketchup and cars. Over the last decade, Ritam has worked with corporates and publications across continents. He is also associated with the global agency, Getty Images. Apart from stills, Ritam shoots commercial AVs, and has worked as the cinematographer for a feature film. He has also been in the news for his theme-based calendars and his exhibitions.



**VICKRAM SINGH BAWA**  
Photographer, India

Vickram turned pro much later in his life than most photographers, on a journey filled with many opportunities, trials and tribulations. As a photographer Vikram has won multiple awards from Masters Cup, Prix de la Photographie Paris, The International Color Awards, The Spider Awards, Asian Photography Most Influential Photographer Award, PIEA Award and many more. Luerzer's Archive has included him in the list of 200 Best Advertising Photographers for the year 2010-2011. Vickram was the first Indian photographer who promoted 3D photography and gained popularity at a very early age. He has worked with many popular fashion magazines and provided his amazing piece of photography for magazines like Femina, Elle, Verve, etc. He has worked with leading Indian celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan, Shahrukh Khan, Akshay Kumar and many more. He has also worked for some of the leading corporate brands like Godrej, Dove, Coca-Cola to name a few. A keen and forceful talker Vickram has written for news papers like Mumbai Mirror. He has also co-hosted car shows, gadget shows, reality shows and presented many other TV shows.





#### **SUDHIR JOHN HORO**

Communication Designer, India

Sudhir John Horo co-founded IdeaWorks Design & Strategy Pvt Ltd – India's only communication design firm that specializes in place-branding and public diplomacy projects. Since the formation of the firm, Horo has worked on Brand India promotions at various international platforms like the World Economic Forum, Davos; UN General Assembly, New York; European Parliament and others and has also played a key role in the promotion of UK and France in India through UK. Creating Tomorrow and Bonjour India campaigns respectively. Horo is an alumnus of the National Institute of Design and has also helped some of the leading companies in India develop their corporate identities.



#### **JATIN KAMPANI**

Photographer, India

A decade on from his professional debut, he became the first Indian photographer whose work was selected to be on the cover of Lurzer's Archive, a magazine that publishes works of excellence in advertising from around the world. Successively, over the last two years he has been featured in Archive's special edition of '200 Best Ad Photographers Worldwide'. He has bagged many awards for his notable work in photography. Included in Kampani's repertoire are outstanding advertising campaigns that he executed for clients like De Beers, World Gold Council, Marriott Incorporated, ITC, L'Oreal, Motorola, Bacardi, Seagram's India, ESPN, Pepsi, Canon and Sony to name a few. Fashion has been his middle name for sometime now, having crafted some feted wonders for publications like Elle, Marie Claire, L'Officiel, GQ, Grazia, Hello, OK, People and Verve. Kampani's body of work also includes portraits of a number of distinguished individuals. Her Highness late Rajmata Gayatri Devi, Amitabh Bachchan, Sachin Tendulkar, KV Kamat, Shahrukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Hritik Roshan, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma are a few of those whose finer details Kampani has captured through his lenses.

[www.jatinkampani.com](http://www.jatinkampani.com)



#### **VANDANA KATARIA**

Film maker, India

Vandana Kataria graduated from the National Institute of Design in the field of film and visual communication. Since then she has directed numerous commercials, music videos, and corporate films. She has also worked as a production designer on Bollywood feature films 'Detective Byomkesh Bakshy', 'Shanghai', 'Oye lucky! Lucky Oye!' for which she also won a film fare. In 2016 she was selected to be part of the Berlinale Talent Campus. She has directed India's first music video shot on the iPhone – music video for rap sensation Divine's 'Jungli Sher'. Vandana is now making her debut as a feature film writer and director with 'Noblemen' – a boarding school drama that is a spin on Merchant of Venice. She is also set to direct her next with RSVP Production.



#### **BÁRA PRÁŠILOVÁ**

Photographer, Czech Republic

Bára is a photographer, art director and creative conceptualist based in Prague and London. Her work remains on the borderline of commercial and fine art photography. Her clients appreciate her signature style combining absurd humour, alarming beauty, playfulness, mild cruelty as well as her persistent passion for perfection. Both her free artwork and work on commission have been exhibited all over the world and many of them awarded international prizes. Clients that have hired Bára to create photographs or entire campaigns are for instance Vitra, Ikea, The Czech National Theatre, Newsweek magazine and other.

[www.baraprasilova.com](http://www.baraprasilova.com)





**MARTIN RAK**  
Photographer, Czech Republic

Rak is part of a new movement in Czech photography that focuses on ethereal images of landscapes. He's won several important awards, including an EISA (European Imaging and Sound Association) award, a Sony World Photographer Award and an International Photo Awards IPA for his Waiting for Winter image. Rak has an impressive social media following and his images often have a surreal feel that makes them look almost like paintings.  
[www.martinrak.cz](http://www.martinrak.cz)

**MICHAL THOMA**  
Photographer, Czech Republic

Michal is a graduate of Charles University in Prague. He has written and photographed for the last ten years. Many of his articles from his travels in Asia – Nepal, Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Turkey – have been published in Czech journals. He is the co-author of The Story of Tea (2002) and Beneath The Himalayan Range (2005). A collection of his photographs from India named Chaiwallahs has been exhibited in several places of the Czech republic. Since 2003 Michal Thoma has been travelling to Asian countries quite regularly.

[www.michal.thoma.cz/en/m](http://www.michal.thoma.cz/en/m)

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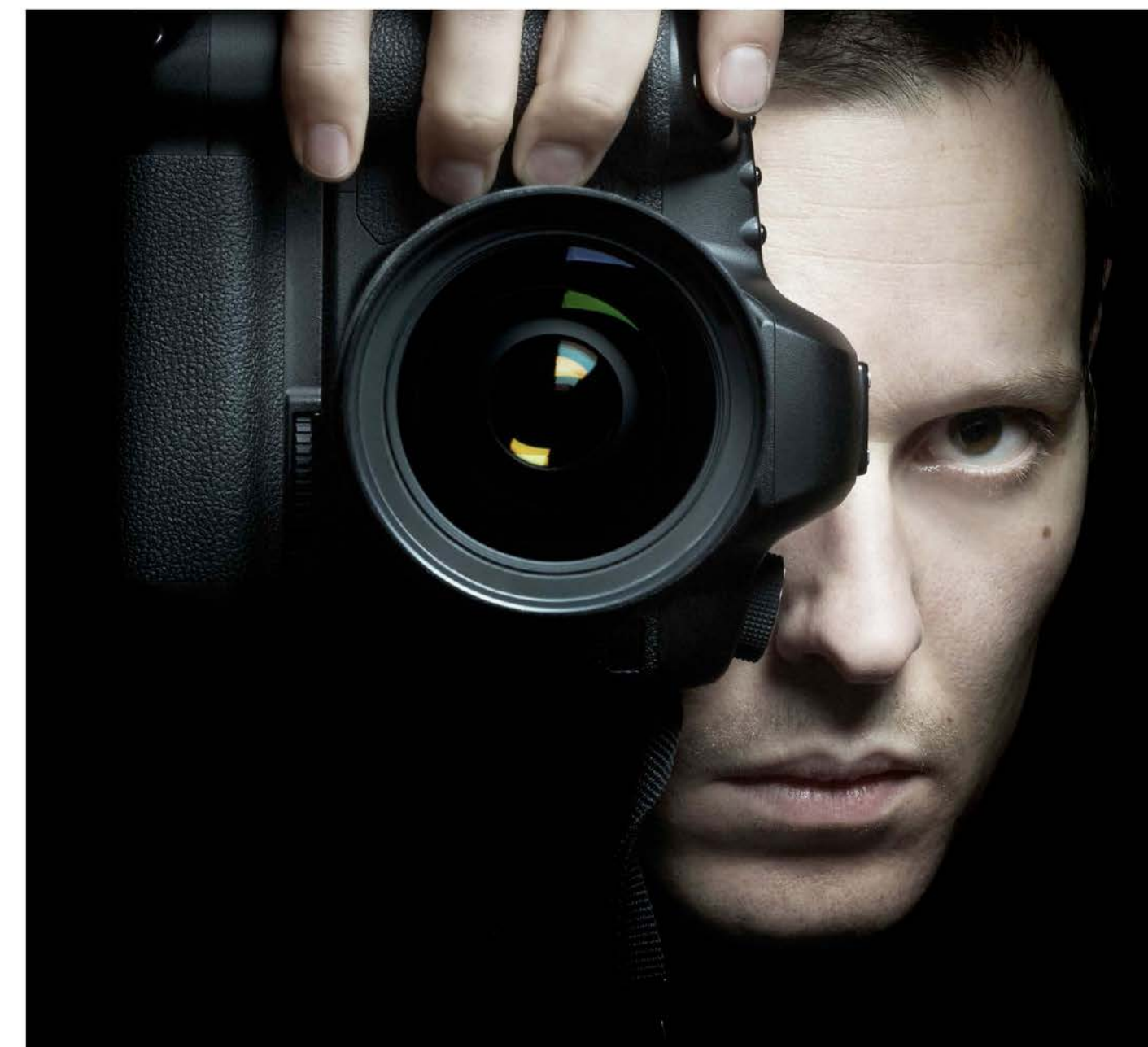
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