

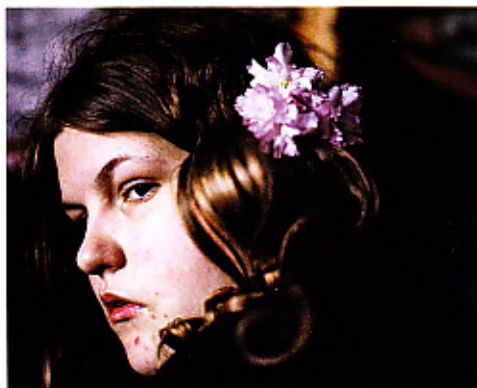
# Prix Virginia

LIZ HINGLEY

The inaugural **Prix Virginia** went to the young British photographer **Liz Hingley**; she was one of twenty finalists selected from 434 submissions received from 45 countries. The award comprises 10,000 euros in prize money, the publication of a portfolio in the *Le Monde M Magazine*, and an exhibition of the winner's work at the Espace Photographique at Paris's Hotel Sauroy.

The photo award, for female photographers the world over, was created by French artist and photographer **Sylvia Schilge** in co-operation with her non-profit organization Sylvia S. Works commissioned by advertising companies or magazines cannot be submitted. Also excluded are works previously exhibited in France. The **Prix Virginia** will be bestowed annually.

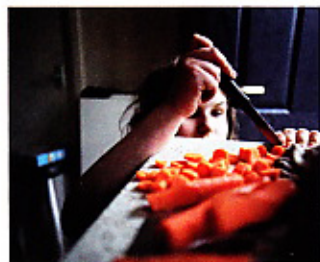
The work submitted by Liz Hingley, born 1985, introduces the viewer to the **Jones Family**, a family with seven children living in a council house in the industrial city of Wolverhampton, UK. The artist's intention was to "create a body of work, which speaks about the meaning – and experience – of genuine deprivation in a wealthy country." The parents were brought up in caravans, just like their parents before them; so, the move into this new, permanent home was steeped with symbolic meaning. Hingley was able to document the family's situation with a balance of proximity and cautious distance. Without lapsing into anecdote, with natural light and a confident sense of composition and colour, she allows the viewer to feel their difficult but never squalid daily life. "Through the story of one family, I sought to develop a subtle visual language, one that shows new ways of representing and understanding the realities of the intergenerational cycle of poverty in the developed world." Above all, the jury praised the "aesthetic and human authenticity and sensitivity Hingley brings to a socially charged subject." She photographed the family with care and respect, without giving them directives or judging their lifestyle.



Liz Hingley: Stacey's spring flower, Halloween outfit, Dad reading the paper in the summer, 2011 (from above)



Liz Hingley: Putting up the Christmas decorations, 2010 (left), Cutting carrots for Sunday lunch, 2011 (below)



Further information: [www.prixvirginia.com](http://www.prixvirginia.com), [www.lizhingley.com](http://www.lizhingley.com)