**Sébastien Van Malleghem wins Monography Series Award NIKON-BOZAR #3**

**The young photographer managed to win over the jury with his gripping series *Prisons*, for which he documented life in Belgian prisons over a period of several years.**

Sébastien Van Malleghem (°1986, Rosières) has really touched a chord with *Prisons (2011-2014)*. After his series *Police (2008-2011)*, for which he followed the comings and goings of the Belgian police as they went about their work, he decided it was time to focus on our Belgian prisons. The result of his years of toil is an **intense series in black and white**, which documents day to day life behind bars in a **revealing and authentic manner**. Van Malleghem focuses on what we don't want to see: the gaps in our legal system, in our country that considers ideals of justice and humanity of paramount importance. Once imprisoned, inmates are removed from society's gaze, and we collectively close our eyes to their lot.

The **multidisciplinary jury** selected this series with a lot of conviction, on account of the **immediacy** of the subject matter and its consequential execution. Van Malleghem approaches the inmates out of a **universal feeling of humanity**. His photographs express a **great deal of respect** and **concern** for his subject.

**Jury report**

Photographer **Hugues De Wurstemberger** likes to emphasise the humane aspect: **“**Van Malleghem's work shows us a harsh social reality which we don't want to know about. His photographs are more than just images, they tell a story.”

**Maarten Goossens** of Nikon also sees in Van Malleghem a modern version of traditional storytellers such as Jane Atwood: “His work bears witness to his great commitment and capacity for empathy.”

Author **Saskia De Coster** agrees: “The *Prisons* series is gripping, but not in a gooey way.”

**Jan Desloover**,head of photo editing at de Standaard, praises the choice of subject. “Where lots of photographers go looking for their subject in exotic locations, Van Malleghem has highlighted a relevant and current theme from his own country.”

Documentary maker **Hilde De Windt** agrees: “I think it's great how the *Monography Series Award* is able to give a forum to a Belgian photographer, about a Belgian subject, in a Belgian institution such as BOZAR. Everything about it makes sense.”

Finally, the jury also gave an honourable mention to photographer **Gert Verbelen** who was in competition with his *The Inner Circle of Europe* series. For this he spent a year travelling through the 18 Member States of the Eurozone and photographed the “centre” of each country, where he immersed himself in daily life. The great concept and its innovative, superior execution caught the jury's eye.

**The jury**

The award is presented for the third year running and for the occasion NIKON and BOZAR gathered a **multidisciplinary jury** to evaluate the photographers’ submissions: **Hilde Windt** (journalist), **Jan Desloover** (chief of the photography department De Standaard), **Saskia De Coster** (writer), **Hugues De Wurstemberger** (photographer)**, Maarten Goossens** (NIKON) and **Christophe De Jaeger** (BOZAR).

**The Monography Series Award NIKON-BOZAR**

The *Monography Series Award* recognises the work of a **Belgian photographer** (of Belgian nationality or residing in Belgium for at least one year) and gives him or her the opportunity to present a solo exhibition in the Centre for Fine Arts.

The winners of the former editions were Annemie Augustijns (2013) and Titus Simoens (2014).

**Practical information**

***Monography Series Award NIKON-BOZAR #3***

**Mount Song. Titus Simoens**

15.10 > 16.11.2014

BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts, Rue Ravensteinstraat 23, 1000 Brussels

Open: Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am > 6 pm (Thursday: 10 am > 9 pm)
Closed: Monday

**Tickets**: Free entrance

**BOZAR INFO& TICKETS**

[www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be/) **–** info@bozar.be **– 0032 2 507 82 00**

**PRESS CONTACT**

leen.daems@bozar.be - T +32 2 507 83 89 – [www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)

*Sponsors:*[*Nikon Belux*](http://www.nikon.be/)*|*[*Milo-Profi Fotografie*](http://www.milo-profi.be/)*|*[*ABN AMRO*](http://www.abnamro.be/)