



For Immediate Release

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VII Photo announces change of structure and new additions to the VII Mentor Program

DISSOLUTION OF THE VII NETWORK

As it approaches its tenth anniversary **VII Photo Agency** (New York & Paris) is pleased to announce the broadest structural changes since its foundation in 2001. **VII** will enlarge its core membership giving all members equal access to the agency's services and offering clients full-service support for all photographers on the **VII** roster.

Taking effect in October 2011, the **VII Network** will be dissolved and the name discontinued. All the photographers currently in the **VII Network** have been invited to submit applications for membership of **VII**. Applications will be reviewed in September and the new structure implemented by October.

Ron Haviv, one of the founders of **VII** comments, "In the three and a half years since the **VII Network** was initiated we have been delighted and inspired by the energy and quality of work from our new colleagues. This year marks the tenth anniversary of **VII's** formation and it is a perfect time to fully embrace a new generation of curious and enterprising **VII** photographers who will help us steer the agency into the future."

THE VII MENTOR PROGRAM

The Mentor Program will not be affected by these changes and participating photographers continue their two-year contracts. **VII** will continue to rotate new photographers into the program as the contracts expire and departing photographers will have the option to apply for membership at that time.

VII is pleased to announce the arrival of two new photographers in the Mentor Program: **Chi Yin Sim** (China) and **Mikolaj Nowacki** (Poland).



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VII



Biography

Chi Yin Sim is a photographer based in Beijing. A fourth-generation overseas Chinese, Sim grew up in Singapore. She studied history and international relations at the London School of Economics as well as political science.

Sim is especially interested in social issues and is currently working on projects in China. Her work has been published in The New York Times, the International Herald Tribune and the Los Angeles Times.

Sim was a journalist and foreign correspondent for Singapore's national daily, The Straits Times, for nine years where she contributed both written and photographic content before leaving at the end of 2010. She reported on labor migration in Southeast Asia early in her career and has completed a book of photographs and essays on female Indonesian workers, to be published by the International Labor Organization in 2011.

In 2010, she was one of three photographers awarded a Magnum Foundation scholarship for a summer program in "Photography and Human Rights" at New York University. Sim also did stints at both Magnum Photos New York and the International Center of Photography. Sim will be mentored by Marcus Bleasdale.

www.simchiyin.com



© Chi Yin Sim/VII Mentor Program



Biography

Mikolaj Nowacki was born in Wroclaw, Poland in 1972. He is a graduate of the University of Wroclaw, where he obtained a law degree in 1997. Nowacki then began Ph.D. studies, pursuing a doctoral thesis that examined environmental aspects of International Space Law. However, Nowacki renounced law and discontinued his studies to focus on his other passion, photography.

From 2004 to 2006, he worked full-time as a photojournalist for the most influential Polish daily, Gazeta Wyborcza. During this time he also worked with the daily, Polska The Times, and Finland's national newspaper, Helsingin Sanomat. Nowacki also published his photo reportages in the Polish editions of National Geographic, National Geographic Traveler, Newsweek and the Polish weekly magazine Polityka.

Since 2006, he has participated in many photography workshops with National Geographic photographer Tomasz Tomaszewski. And in 2010, he participated in a workshop with Kent Kobersteen, former Director of Photography and Senior Editor at National Geographic. Nowacki will be mentored by Antonin Kratochvil.

www.mikolajnowacki.com



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ABOUT VII PHOTO

VII derives its name from the number of founding photojournalists who, in September 2001, formed this collectively owned agency. Designed from the outset to be an efficient, technologically enabled distribution hub for some of the world's finest photojournalism, **VII** has been responsible for creating and relaying to the world many of the images that define the turbulent opening years of the 21st century.

Current members are Marcus Bleasdale, the Estate of Alexandra Boulat, Ron Haviv, Ed Kashi, Gary Knight, Antonin Kratochvil, Joachim Ladefoged, Christopher Morris, James Nachtwey, Franco Pagetti, Stephanie Sinclair and John Stanmeyer.

ABOUT THE VII NETWORK

The **VII Network** expands the ideals and journalistic mission of **VII** to include important photographic work by selected non-members. This collection of talented photographers permits **VII** to continue to support its clients throughout the world in meeting the demand for high-quality, in-depth reportage and contemporary issue-based stories which provide a critical photographic perspective of the world around us.

Current photographers are Lynsey Addario, Jocelyn Bain Hogg, Eric Bouvet, Andrea Bruce, Stefano De Luigi, Venetia Dearden, Jessica Dimmock, Tivadar Domaniczky, Adam Ferguson, Ziyah Gafic, Ashley Gilbertson, Benedicte Kurzen, Seamus Murphy, Maciek Nabrdalik, Tomas van Houtryve and Donald Weber.

ABOUT THE VII MENTOR PROGRAM

The **VII Mentor Program**, a new initiative conceived by **VII** members, seeks to provide professional development for emerging photographers whom the members consider to be the brightest new talents in the industry. After being nominated by a **VII** member, each selected photographer will work with a senior member of **VII** for two years to build and polish necessary skills and to expand his or her own professional practice.

Current photographers are Tanyth Berkeley, Giovanni Cocco, Agnes Dherbeys, Giulio Di Sturco, Peter DiCampo, Don McNeill Healy, Mikolaj Nowacki, Ilana Panich-Linsman, Chi Yin Sim, Anastasia Taylor-Lind and Erin Trieb.

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