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young  
photographers  
alliance

## **Five Scholarship Recipients Honored at First Young Photographers Alliance Awards Ceremony and Benefit Auction**

The Young Photographers Alliance (YPA) celebrated its first ever awards ceremony in style on October 13<sup>th</sup> in New York City. Over 150 people, including heads of stock agencies and industry organizations, renowned photographers, and other significant professionals in the world of photography witnessed the honoring of five promising students of photography, selected through the Worldstudio AIGA Scholarship Program: Julianne Jamora (School of Visual Arts), Khrystyna Chekhlyata (Pratt Institute), Bonnie Rae Mills (Academy of Arts University), Shannon Soule (Ringling College of Art and Design) and Nicole Nolan (Pratt Institute). A sample of their work may be found at [www.youngphotographersalliance.org/programs](http://www.youngphotographersalliance.org/programs).

The awards were kindly presented by masters of photography Mary Ellen Mark, Mark Seliger, and Fred Conrad, and industry leaders, Mark Randall from WorldStudio, and Lauren Wendle, VP/Publisher PDN.

A silent auction of over 100 prints culminated in an excited flurry of bidding towards the end of the evening, helping raise additional funds for YPA's programs, including mentoring, internships and educational programs. Prints were generously donated by esteemed photographers from around the world, including famous names such as Martin Parr, Stephen Mallon, Henry Horenstein, Jim Brandenburg, Jill Enfield, and Arthur Meyerson.

Perfectly illustrating why YPA exists are these emails from Shannon Soule and Bonnie Rae Mills, two of the award winners:

"I just want to say thank you for everything you have provided to me as a young photographer. YPA, just in its first year, is already a huge success. I feel confident in my photo abilities but I am very aware that succeeding in the industry is also about networking and having strong mentors. I feel so honored to have worked with YPA, to have guardians that really do care about my future. I can't wait to keep in touch and make this organization a lifetime commitment. It always astounds me that there are people who will throw blind faith into the young artists of today. I hope to be able to give back, to return this kindness when the time comes."

*Shannon Soule*

"Thank you so much for bringing me to New York, and choosing me for such a prestigious honor. I keep pinching myself expecting to wake up. You were all so kind, so generous, so accommodating... this has been a life changing experience for me. I am, most of all, grateful for meeting all of you, such kind, devoted people, who truly care about making the world a better, more beautiful place. It is a privilege to be associated with you, and I know we can do great work together in the future... I know YPA has a bright future, that I feel lucky to be a part of."

*Bonnie Rae Mills*

YPA invites support, financial and in kind, from anyone who cares about the future of photography and nurturing creative talent in young artists and communicators. For further information, please visit [www.youngphotographersalliance.org](http://www.youngphotographersalliance.org).

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## **Event photos**

Photos of the event are available to illustrate any article about the YPA:

<http://www.youngphotographersalliance.org/press-photos.php>

## **About the Young Photographers Alliance**

The Young Photographers Alliance (YPA), launched in spring 2009 by Jerry Tavin and Deborah Free, is a global community for young photographers to connect with the inspiration, resources and contacts they need to build successful and sustainable careers as the great artists and communicators of the future.

YPA's mission is supported by Executive Director Lynn Martin and an Advisory Board comprising Cathy Aron/PACA, Lynn Brantley, Patrick Donehue, Shannon Fagan/SAA, Sarah Fix, Ellen Herbert, Paul Melcher, Eugene Mopsik/ASMP, Erin Moroney, Richard Rabinowitz, Cathy Sachs/ASPP, Nancy Wolff, and Lanny Ziering.

YPA's corporate sponsors include AIGA, Alamy, Blend Images, Corbis, GD USA, Glasshouse Images, Gotham Imaging, Image Source, Induro, JanouPakter, MacGroup, Mezzacorona, PDN, Pictopia, Picturehouse Marketing US (now Visual Connections), TakeGreatPictures.com, and Worldstudio.

YPA is also supported by industry organizations ASMP, ASPP, BAPLA, CEPIC, PACA, and SAA.

For further details, please see [www.youngphotographersalliance.org/about](http://www.youngphotographersalliance.org/about).

Young Photographers Alliance, Inc. is a tax exempt organization pursuant to 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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