

Prix Pictet photography contest winner captures the beauty and harshness of life in rural Rajasthan

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Gill took this image of a woman undergoing a medical examination and named it "Government Hospital, Barmer."



Gauri Gill was named winner of the 2023 Prix Pictet.



This image, named "Urma and Nimli, Lunkaransar," was taken in western Rajasthan as part of Gauri Gill's ongoing series "Notes from the Desert."



Gauri Gill captured this photo of "Sumri, Daughter of Ismail the Shepherd, Barmer."



Gill won the Prix Pictet with the series of photos that includes this image, "New Homes after the Flood, Lunkaransar."



This photo taken by Gill depicts Mir Hasan with his grandfather, Haji Saraj ud Din, the oldest member of the community, in his last days.



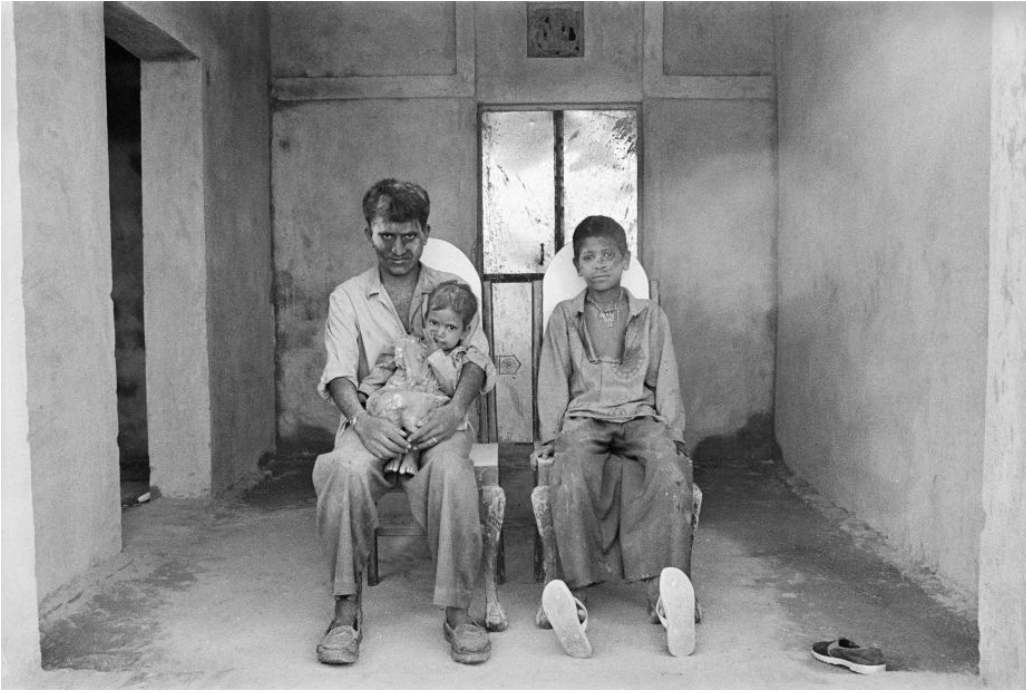
Gill engaged closely with the marginalized communities living in western Rajasthan.



Gill began taking the prize-winning series of photos in 1999.



This image is titled "Izmat, Barmer."



Gill captured this image of "Hanuman Nath with His Daughter and Hem Nath, on Holi Day, Lunkaransar."



The theme of this year's prize was "Human."

Gauri Gill's winning series of images from the 2023 Prix Pictet

CNN —

A child standing barefoot, seemingly playing with a bag over their head; an old woman sticking her tongue out during an medical examination; a family sitting in an empty room on Holi Day, staring into the camera; a girl hanging upside down from a tree, her head in another girl's hands.

For a portfolio that included these images captured in rural Rajasthan, Indian photographer Gauri Gill has won the prestigious Prix Pictet, a global award for photography and sustainability.

Striking photos capture the world's sustainability crisis

During her visits to western Rajasthan for the past 24 years, Gill said in a statement that she “witnessed a complex reality,” previously unknown to her as “a city dweller,” as she engaged closely with the marginalized communities living there.

“To live poor and landless in the desert amounts to an inescapable reliance on oneself, on each other, and on nature,” she added. “These fragments of shared experience now inhabit a large photographic archive called Notes from the Desert.”

First launched in 2008, the Prix Pictet photography award aims to capture and highlight issues of work on themes connected to sustainability. Each of its 10 editions has focused on a different facet of sustainability and this year's competition was themed “Human.”



This image of the Kötlujökull Glacier in Iceland was taken by Ragnar Axelsson in 2021. Ragnar Axelsson

Eleven other portfolios of work were shortlisted for the award. They included Ragnar Axelsson's series of photos depicting Inuit hunters and Nenet reindeer-hunters, whose ways of life are being threatened by the climate crisis, and Siân Davey's images capturing visitors to her back garden, all in various poses among the wildflowers.

Alessandro Cinque was also shortlisted for his images "chronicling the difficult coexistence between the indigenous Quechua people in Peru, their land, and the mining industry," he said in a statement.

Stunning shot of giant plasma arc scoops Astronomy Photographer of the Year 2023

By focusing on the "Human" theme, organizers of the award aimed to "foster a deeper understanding of our shared humanity and inspire meaningful conversations about the issues that impact us all," said Isabelle von Ribbentrop, Executive Director of Prix Pictet, in a statement.

The shortlisted photographs will be exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London until October 22 before being shown in museums around the world, including in Istanbul, Dublin, Bangkok and Stockholm.

A selection of the images can be viewed in the gallery above.