



London Lowdown What's On In The Capital

The sure shot of a teenage huntress

Photography Review Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize ★★☆☆☆

Once again, the judges of this annual prize have had the unenviable job of deliberating over some 6,000 submissions to arrive at 60 images that capture the landscape of photographic portraiture today.

Though an anonymously judged open submissions competition, the show is rather predictably dominated by professional and graduate talent, the winning shot entered by established photographer David Chancellor.

It's a beautiful portrait that is perfect in its composition. Taken from a series called Hunters, it shows 14-year-old Josie Slaughter from Alabama in a private African game reserve. Her horse is laden

with a dead buck while she appears regal, glowing beneath an ethereal light.

Elsewhere, the requisite images of pensive, hard-trodden-looking teens are included, and there's the odd celeb photo – including a marvellous picture of Charlie Watts – among the pack. But the boring and the predictable mingle with what's exciting in contemporary photography.

The second prize, for example, went to Panayiotis Lamprou for Portrait Of My British Wife – a stunningly intimate photo of his wife on holiday, bare from the

waist down, her expression relaxed, trusting, confident; while third prize-winner Jeffrey

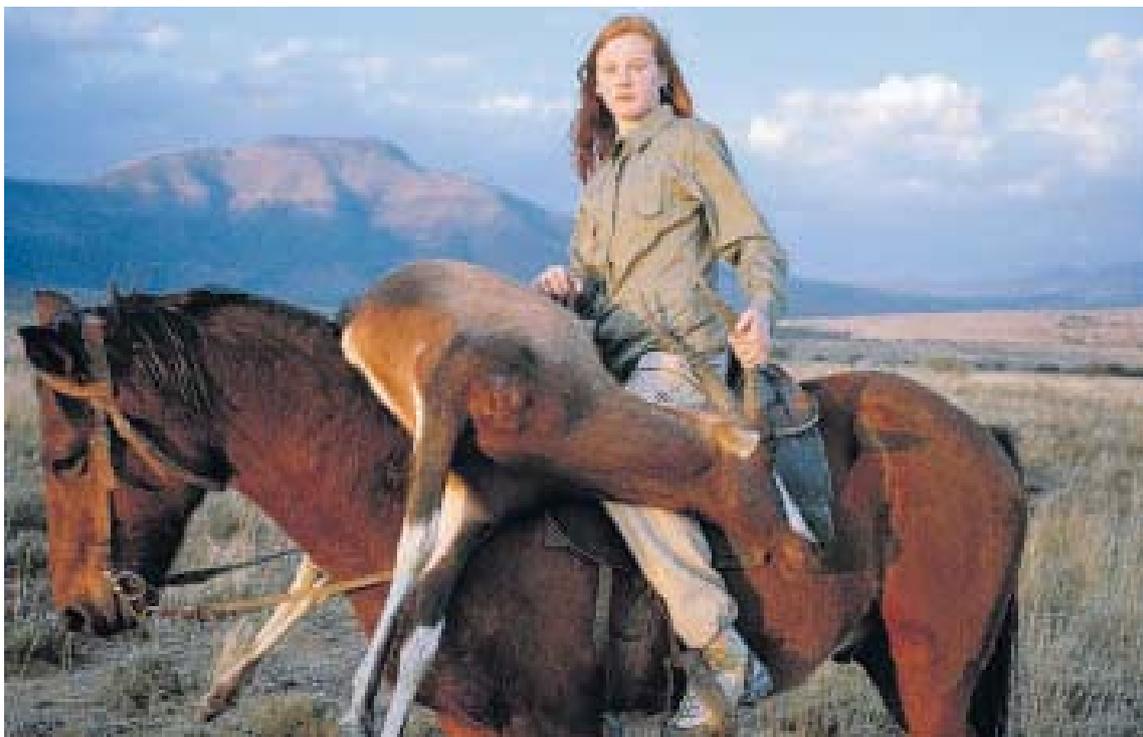
Stockbridge explored a neglected Philadelphia neighbourhood to capture twins on a stoop, their body language revealing a life of drugs and prostitution.

Almost all the images are part of a larger series or commission, making this a confident, super-slick collection. And though it may occasionally stray a little towards the safe and seen-it-before, it manages to be as much a reflection of photographic talent as it is a snapshot of the people of our times.

Zena Alkayat

Until Feb 20, National Portrait Gallery, daily 10am to 6pm (Thu and Fri until 9pm), £2. Tel: 020 7312 2463. www.npg.org.uk Tube: Charing Cross





My aim is true: *Huntress With Buck*, from David Chancellor's *Hunters* series

Picture: David Chancellor