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# Prix Pictet 4: Power




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## Synopsis

The Prix Pictet highlights photography on the crucial topic of global sustainability. Now in its fourth season, the current Prix Pictet delves into the theme of "power." While we have tapped into sources of power for travel, industry and our modern lifestyles, we are still largely at the mercy of the powers of nature. Technology and infrastructure can undergo total collapse in the face of storms, volcanoes, and earthquakes. Meanwhile political and social power can either tackle such challenges or become ways to exploit and tyrannize. This multi-faceted subject is portrayed with thought and artistry by the twelve exceptional artists shortlisted for this prestigious photography prize.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Prix Pictet chose "power" as the theme for this photo competition. The introduction, although not part of the photo collection, gets the notion off to a strong start, with commentary by Kofi Annan - secretary-general of the U.N. for nearly a decade. One might argue that other political figures have wielded greater political power, but I think that view lacks subtlety. The U.N. is where nations come together, working for their common good. The delicacy needed to navigate the divergent goals and hostilities expresses a different kind of power, as does the premise of hope in ongoing multi-national cooperation.The photos themselves carry equally mixed moods. An early one shows a sapling growing through the floor of a snowy, abandoned building - the power of nature to reclaim what man considered his own. Then, when you see that the building was abandoned because of the Chernobyl disaster, all the ambiguities come rushing in.Many images seem simpler at first - heavy

machinery, giant dams, trainyards filled with coal cars, and electric generation plants present power in raw form. Thinking through the consequences of fossil fuel power generation, though, different facts of power present themselves. Military and political power appear in many forms, often featuring the emerging power of groups (such as women) that have been denied it for far too long. The cover picture, plus others inside, capture the Deep Horizon oil spill in aerial photos of startling color and scale.Of all the pictures, though, two truly stand out for me. One shows a stark green canister against a black background - a landmine, looking as innocent as a flower pot, but holding explosive power as well as the power to take lives or change them forever. The most impressive, though, was a two-page spread, with a fully mature woman on one page and a ten-ish girl on the other. The first - is she at the peak of her power, perhaps heading some worldwide corporation? Or does this show the power of senility to steal her mind by inches? The girl, as close to the beginning of her life as the older woman is to the end of hers, seems, at first, powerless. Perhaps she is, at that moment, but she's also filled with potential of every kind, not least the power to create new human life.As always, teNeues has done a spectacular job of presenting these photos. Printing is crisp, with bold colors, and heavy, opaque paper isolates each image from the one on the back of the same page.I could go on even longer about many of the individual images, and have skipped many altogether, to keep this brief. This book deserves a lot more attention than I can give it here. I give it my highest recommendation.-- wiredweird.

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