

PHODAR BIENNIAL 2017 – Entry form

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Serie: **Life is a Fact, Fiction or Truth in the villages of Tofalaria, deep in the Siberian taiga**

Russia, Siberia, Tofalaria, July 2016.

Siberia is full of places that are barely accessible even for locals. Tofalaria is one of them. This beautiful word refers to a small area in the Sayan Mountains west of Irkutsk.

The area has three tiny settlements: Alygdzher, Verkhnyaya (Upper) Gutara and Nerkha.

It is the only place in Russia inhabited by the Tofa (or the Tofalars), a small indigenous nation with a population of about 700 (seven hundred).

Located about 600 kilometers from Irkutsk, Tofalaria is covered with impassible taiga stretching over 20.000 square kilometers.

You can't take a train or a bus here, as only special off-road vehicles can make their way across this terrain. Alternatively, a MI-8 helicopter can take you to the villages, but it flies only four times a month when the weather cooperates, and with no more than 20 passengers on board.

It is incredibly difficult to get a ticket, as priority is given to locals.

Branislav Brkić, short photo biography

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Branislav Brkić was born in 1960 in the city of Valjevo, Serbia. He graduated from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Belgrade, where he still resides and works (www.absoft.rs).

He became interested in photography in 1977 and has taken part at over 400 group exhibitions in the country and abroad, receiving more than 150 awards. Branislav Brkić has had 29 personal exhibitions in Serbia and abroad.

In FIAP (International Federation of Photographic Art), he holds the distinctions Master FIAP, EFIAP/Silver and HonEFIAP.

In the Photo Association of Serbia, he holds the title Master of Photography.

He has been President of the Photo Association of Serbia since 2003.

He has a certificate EPSON Digigraphie for high quality printing of photos.

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