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**Maine Media Workshops + College Announces  
Jon Henry as Recipient of 2020 Arnold Newman Prize, One of the  
Nation's Largest in the World of Photographic Portraiture**

*Provoking Timely Themes of Family, Socio-Political Issues, Grief, Trauma, and Healing Within the African American Community, Henry's Work Will Be on View at The Griffin Museum from October 1 through 23, 2020*

**ROCKPORT, ME** - The Arnold Newman Prize for New Directions in Photographic Portraiture is a \$20,000 prize awarded annually by [Maine Media Workshops + College](#) to a photographer whose work demonstrates a compelling new vision in photographic portraiture.

Henry's award-winning work entitled [Stranger Fruit](#) was created in response to the senseless murders of black men across the nation by police violence. According to his artist statement, "Even with smart phones and dash cams recording the actions, more lives get cut short due to unnecessary and excessive violence."

**About the Winner:** Jon Henry is a visual artist who works with photography and text. He is from Queens, NY and currently living in Brooklyn. His work has been published both nationally and internationally and exhibited in numerous galleries including [Aperture Foundation](#), [Smack Mellon](#), and [BRIC](#) among others. Known for the cultural activism in his work, his projects include studies of athletes from different sports and their representations. He was recently named one of [LensCulture](#)'s Emerging Artists for 2019, an En Foco Fellow for 2020 and he has also won the Film Photo Prize for Continuing Film Project sponsored by Kodak.

[In this series](#), Henry photographs mothers with their sons in their environment, reenacting what it must feel like to endure this pain. "The mothers in the photographs have not lost their sons, but understand the reality that this could happen to their family," Henry explains. "The mother is also photographed in isolation, reflecting on the absence. When the trials are over, the protesters have gone home and the news cameras gone, it is the mother left. Left to mourn, to survive." The title of the project is a reference to the song "Strange Fruit." Instead of black bodies hanging from the Poplar Tree, "these fruits of our families, our communities, are being killed in the street."

**About the Award:** The Prize is funded by the [Arnold and Augusta Newman Foundation](#) and administered by [Maine Media Workshops + College](#). The influential and revered photographer and educator, [Arnold Newman](#), enjoyed a decades' long association with Maine Media, where he taught numerous photographic workshops over the years. The [Arnold and Augusta Newman Foundation](#) has continued his legacy at the College, supporting scholarships, media production, a distinguished lecture series, and the prestigious Arnold Newman Prize in Photographic Portraiture, a cash prize of \$20,000 accompanied by an exhibition awarded annually to a photographer whose work demonstrates a compelling new vision in photography.

**About the Selection Process:** Selected by a jury of world-renowned photographers [Makeda Best](#) (Richard L. Menschel Curator of Photography at Harvard University), [Aline Smithson](#) (Los Angeles based visual artist, educator, and editor), and [Dan Winters](#) (award-winning portrait photographer, illustrator, filmmaker, and writer), each juror brought to the selection process a unique perspective guided by distinguished insight, analysis, and integrity.

The winner and finalists for the 2020 Arnold Newman Prize in Photographic Portraiture are invited to participate in a museum exhibition. The finalists this year include [The Talk](#) by Michael Darough, [Solar Portraits](#) by Rubén Salgado Escudero, and [Buttons for Eyes](#) by Priya Kambli.

**About the Exhibition:** [The Griffin Museum of Photography](#) will exhibit Henry’s award-winning work, as well as that of the finalists, from October 1 through 23. On October 8, the awards ceremony and reception will take place.

**About the Arnold & Augusta Newman Foundation:** Thanks to a generous gift of \$1.125M from the [Arnold and Augusta Newman Foundation](#), the largest philanthropic contribution in the history of Maine Media College, the resources from this permanent endowment will be used to cultivate and celebrate the photographic arts. “Arnold Newman had a profound influence on photographers in the latter half of the 20th Century,” noted Maine Media President Michael Mansfield. “That his legacy continues to shape conversations around photography, to support new generations of image makers – portraiture in the 21st century – is truly inspiring.”

For more information or to schedule an interview with Maine Media’s 2020 Arnold Newman Prize winner [Jon Henry](#), The Arnold and Augusta Newman Provost at Maine Media Workshops + College [Elizabeth Greenberg](#), or one of the jurors, please contact Raffi DerSimonian: **207.756.0916** or **press@mainemedia.edu**.

**About Maine Media:** Founded in 1973 as a summer school for photographers, [Maine Media Workshops + College](#) is now a not-for-profit degree granting institution offering more than 400 workshops, certificate programs, and master classes in the fields of photography, film, media art, printmaking, creative writing, and book arts, and serves nearly 2,000 national and international students annually on a 20 acre campus in Rockport, Maine.

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