

## THE SUNDAY TIMES



## Gold goes to...

The Sunday Times

29 April 2012 8:0

fter 10 long years, the Saatchi Gallery is once again embracing photography as an art form writes Hazel Pfeifer. To tie in with their new Out of Focus exhibition, which features the work of 38 boundary-pushing artists, they've joined forces with internet giant Google to find the world's finest student snappers.

The Google Photography Prize was hotly contested with almost 20,000 entries from 146 countries. The work of the 10 finalists went on display in the Saatchi Gallery on April 25, and the winner was announced this week. Swedish photojournalism student Viktor Johansson, 24, scooped the top prize for his arresting series documenting Christoffer Eskilsson, Sweden's top male 10m diver in action (see below). His prize is a working trip to the destination of his choice with a professional photographer.

Saatchi Gallery director, Nigel Hurst, commented: "Viktor Johansson has chosen to show us an alternative view, one that we are not used to seeing from sport photography in the media. Instead of glamorous action shots of an athlete in competition, he has produced photographs that focus on the long, lonely hours of repetitive training that it takes to excel in your field."

The Google Photography Prize and Out of Focus runs from April 25 – July 22 2012 at London's Saatchi Gallery

All images: Viktor Johansson





