

EYCN Photochimica 2017
- Radioactivity -

150th birth anniversary of Marie Skłodowska-Curie

“**Radioactivity!**” was the theme of this year’s edition of Photochimica, the European photography competition for scientific photography. Since the final submission of photographs, we received 35 photos from 18 participants which were from 11 different countries. Such as: Austria, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, United Kingdom and USA.

This year's the photos were judged by a Jury composed of:

- *Science Team Members:* Hanna Makowska (Poland), Julian Dutzler (Austria), Maximilian Menche (Germany), Patrick Van Vliet (Netherlands), Yacintha Vermeer (Netherlands)
- *EYCN Board Members:* Alice Soldà – Chair of EYCN (Italy), Torsten John – Secretary of EYCN (Germany), Jelena Lazić (Serbia), Kseniia Otvagina (Russia), Victor Mougel (France)
- *Photographer:* Wojciech Bibel – Polish photographer, “Photography and Multimedia” on Faculty of Visual Arts, Academy of Fine Arts in Lodz (Poland). In 2015, Wojciech took part in the worldwide project called okowoko.org and realised that travelling and discovering other cultures is the most inspiring thing that could ever happen to him. He now takes on various roles for example, director of photography, editor and a photographer and his work takes him all over Poland. Apart from photography, Wojciech is a big fan of music and is an amateur composer.

Every photo had the potential to gain maximum of **120 points** (max 10 from each Science Team Member and from each EYCN Board Member – max 100 points and max 20 points from the Photographer).

After analysing the results, the Jury awarded 4 prizes (1st place, two 2nd places, 3rd place) and a Mention Award.

1st place: 104/120 points – Thomas Binns (USA)

Category: Photography in Chemistry (PC)

Title: "12.3"

Description: "Tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen consisting of one proton and two neutrons, has a half-life of 12.3 years. When sealed within a vial coated with a radioluminescent phosphor, the light produced due to tritium's beta radiation can be used to embellish keychains, illuminate exit signs, and frighten toy hazmat specialists."



2nd place: 92/120 points – Barbara Math (Austria)

Category: Photography in Chemistry (PC)

Titles: “Eating Radioactivity: Mushrooms”

Description: “After the Chernobyl disaster in 1986 an incredible amount of radioactive material was released. Certain plants such as for instance mushrooms absorb and concentrate radioactive Caesium 137. Nowadays, years after the explosion, the amount of Caesium 137 in mushrooms is still quite high.”



2nd place: 92/120 points – Dusan Kolarski (Netherlands)

Category: Photography in Chemistry (PC)

Title: "Our Universe"

Description: "Our chemistry laboratory is very often full of surprises. During the evaporation of the solvent, newly developed bioactive compound crystallized into a fascinating shape. Almost as a representation of the cosmos, this image shows a fragment of our 'universe' in which we create, live and play with science."

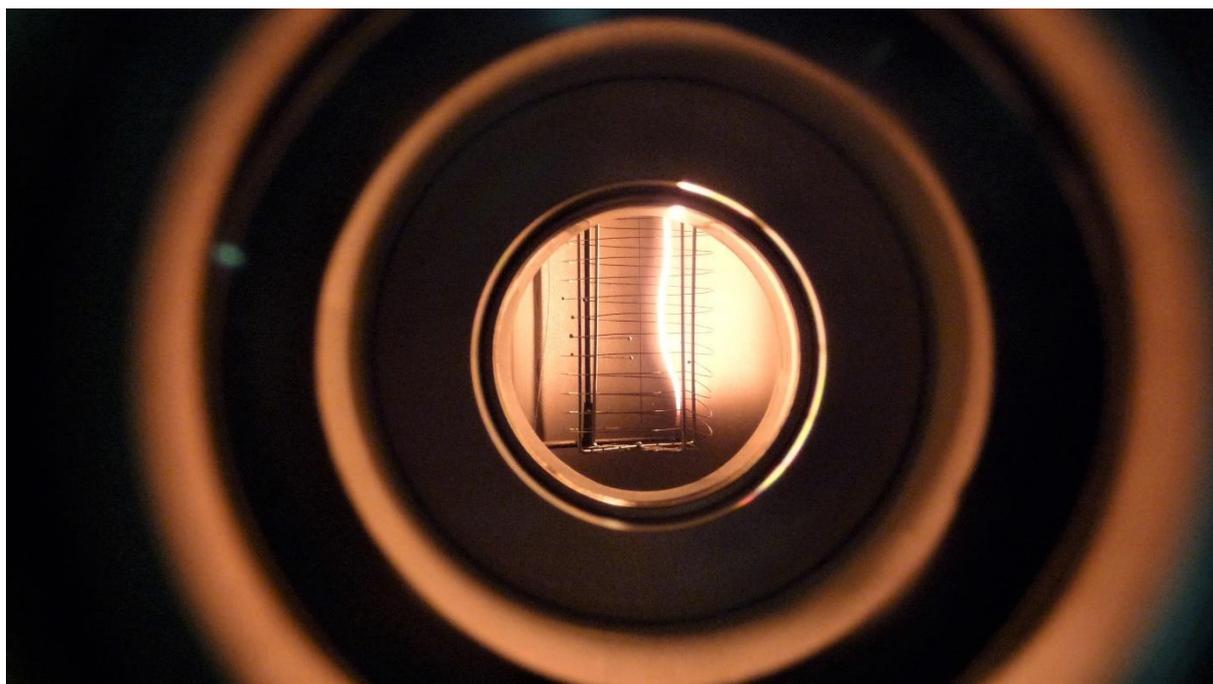


3rd place: 90/120 points – Sophie Carencó (France)

Category: Measurement Arts (MA)

Title: “Thou shall burn”

Description: “Chemistry is about making molecules, but also about isolating them from each other. Isolating radium from tons of rocks was Pierre and Marie Curie’s titanic work for years. Because radioactivity burns from the core of elements and breaks them apart, mastering space-deep vacuum was a key technology to create heavy radio-isotopes. Tonight at the synchrotron, bright lights of vacuum gauges remind me of Sun warmth and radioactive reactions at its core, of the cold and emptiness between Sun and Earth, and of the preciousness of the few molecules that gave me life.”

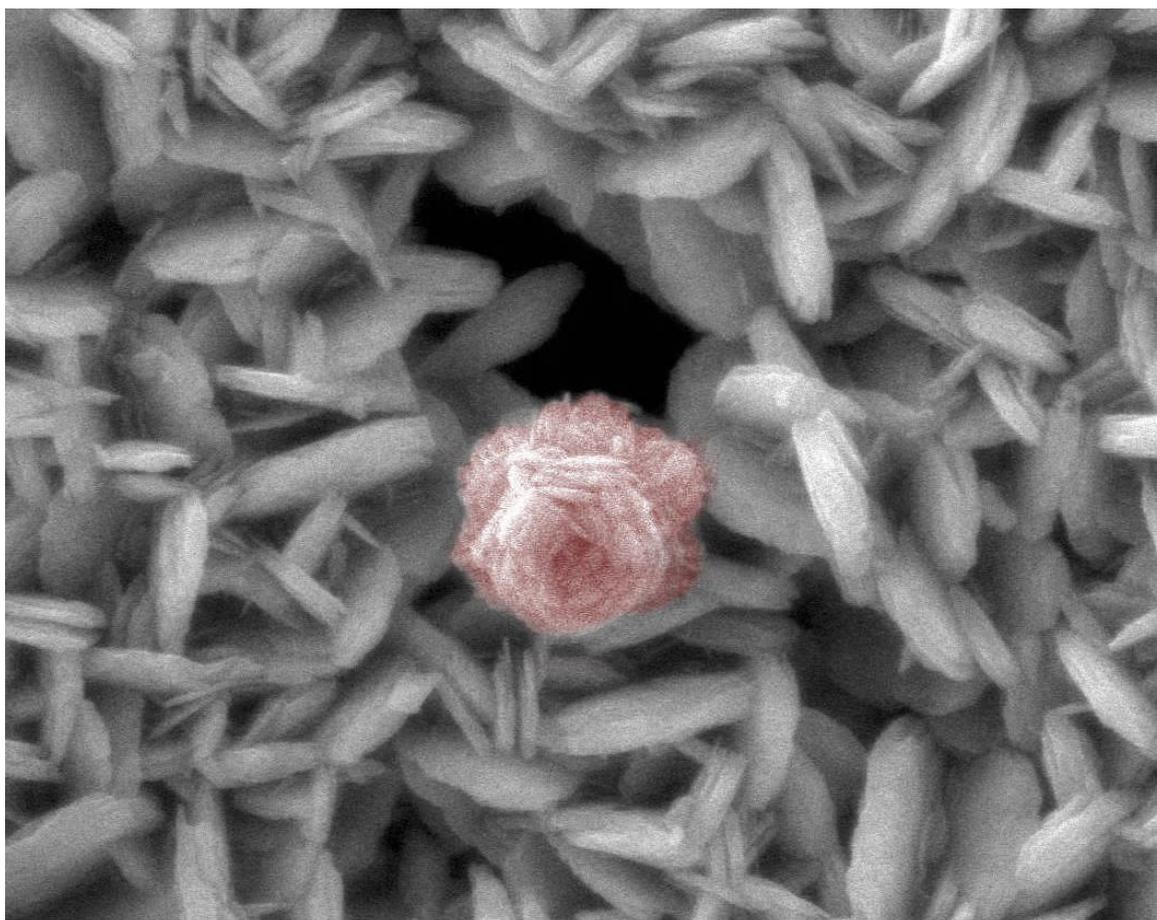


Mention Award: (20/20 points from the Photographer) – Leila Zouridi (Greece)

Category: Measurement Arts (MA)

Title: "Beauty and the beam"

Description: "The thermochromic rose of vanadium dioxide blooms once every now and then, depending on the experimentalists schedule and it is visible in high definition only under the "exiting" influence of the electron beam, of hard X-rays energy, produced by the electron gun of a scanning electron microscope. The purpose of our rose is to make energy consumptions of our buildings more beautiful looking scenery, by using its thermochromic abilities to smart-insulate our windows. This it can achieve due to its inherent thermochromism, by transitioning from a lower temperature IR transparent state to a higher temperature IR blocking state, reversibly. (Image has been edited in order to add the red hue on our rose)."



During the next month we will ask the EYCN delegates to choose the best photo out of the 12 that received more than 80 points by the Jury. That photo will be awarded with a Popularity Award.

The best 12 photos (which received more than 80 points from the Jury) will be printed in a 2018 calendar which will be prepared by the end of this year.

List of the final 12 photos:

No.	Name and Surname	Category	Title of photo
1	Thomas Binns (USA)	Photography in Chemistry	12.3
2	Barbara Math (Austria)	Photography in Chemistry	Eating Radioactivity: Mushrooms
3	Dusan Kolarski (Netherlands)	Photography in Chemistry	Our Universe
4	Sophie Carenco (France)	Measurement Arts	Thou shall burn
5	Leila Zouridi (Greece)	Measurement Arts	Beauty and the beam
6	Thomas Binns (USA)	Photography in Chemistry	Alpha Glow
7	Dusan Kolarski (Netherlands)	Photography in Chemistry	On the Stage
8	Liam Payne (United Kingdom)	Measurement Arts	Cauliflower field on graphite
9	Wojciech Zajaczkowski (Poland)	Measurement Arts	Birth of a diamond
10	Dusan Kolarski (Netherlands)	Photography in Chemistry	Palette of Molecular Photoswitches
11	Adam Kuczynski (Poland)	Measurement Arts	Galaxy of crystals
12	Adam Kuczynski (Poland)	Measurement Arts	Snowy night

The 1st exhibition took place in Warsaw during “Medicina-Scientia-Cultura” (www.msc2017.pl), an International Conference devoted to the achievements of Maria Skłodowska-Curie. The best 12 photos were shown with the name and surname of the authors, the title and the description of each photo.

We officially acknowledge the main sponsor of the 1st exhibition in Warsaw, the printing company AKME Spółka z.o.o., which printed and provided all 12 photos, the EYCN logo and Photochimica 2017 logos.

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