

ASC Launches Documentary Award



▲ Hatidže Muratova is a Macedonian beekeeper who faces changing times in the documentary *Honeyland*. ◀ Cinematographers Fejmi Daut (left) and Samir Ljuma pose with their ASC Documentary Award.

34th
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AWARDS

“Documentaries are more important to our world today than ever before,” said Samir Ljuma, who shot *Honeyland* with fellow cinematographer Fejmi Daut. “I can’t express [enough] my feelings [of] gratitude to the ASC for opening the doors of their temple [to] documentary cinematography.”

These sentiments were part of the Macedonian cinematographers’ acceptance speeches for the inaugural ASC Documentary Award, initiated this year to recognize exceptional cinematography in non-fiction filmmaking.

Chaired by Jay Holben, the Documentary Subcommittee of the ASC Awards Committee brought this new honor to fruition. The subcommittee comprised Society members who are passionate about celebrating the art form, some of whom have photographed documentaries throughout their careers: Joan Churchill, Robert

Gantz, Michael Goi, Mark Irwin, Ellen Kuras, Charlie Lieberman, Stephen Lighthill, Don McCuaig, Steven Poster, Nancy Schreiber, Buddy Squires, Rodney Taylor, John Toll, Kees van Oostrum and Checco Varese — as well as associate members Bob Harvey and Suzanne Lezotte.

Honeyland, an intimate portrayal of a beekeeper working in a remote village of North Macedonia, was the Subcommittee’s selection — after numerous submissions from the Society’s active and associate members — as 2019’s best-shot documentary. The category’s other nominees were Evangelia Kranioti, for *Obscuro Barroco*, and Nicholas de Pencier, for *Anthropocene: The Human Epoch*.

American Cinematographer has a long tradition of documentary coverage dating back decades, and the magazine will continue to support this essential discipline in future issues. ◆