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## **CHARLIE GROSSO'S *WOK THE DOG* WINS PX3 PUBLIC CHOICE AWARD**

LOS ANGELES -- Charlie Grosso has been awarded: Px3 2008 Public Choice Awards for Documentary Photography for her series *Wok the Dog*.

The "Prix de la Photographie, Paris" (Px3), strives to promote the appreciation of photography, to discover emerging talent, and introduce photographers from around the world to the artistic community of Paris. Winning photographs from the competition were exhibited in Paris and published in the Px3 Annual Book.

"Wok the Dog" began as the artist's exploration of her childhood fears and it is an examination of the commerce of meat, and how expediency and modernity can effect our connection to life. It looks at the market place and how our perception of food, our relationship with it is altered by the structure and presentation of the market. The series features images from markets around the world.

Grosso, who lived in Taipei until age eleven, explains, "Clean, brightly lit supermarkets didn't exist in Taipei in the early 80's. The markets were dark and full of pungent smells, the floors were slick with blood and water, and the sounds of caged and dying animals filled the space. Being three feet tall, I was afraid of getting lost in the crowd, taken by the butcher, caged, and sold."

"It wasn't until I turned eighteen and went back to Taiwan and back to those very same markets that made me so afraid that I came to see them for what they are," she added. "Wok the Dog' is about our mortality and the cost of our sustained lives, and it's about understanding the full karmic consequences of our dinner."

Grosso's work has been recognized by several well-known food writers, each commending her on her provocative photographs.

Steven Rinella, author of *The Scavenger's Guide to Haute Cuisine* said, "To say that Charlie Grosso's *Wok the Dog* is 'food photography' is like saying that Ansel Adams took pictures of big rocks. By illuminating the global human relationship to food, she makes

the farthest corners of the world seem somehow expansive yet knowable, bizarre yet right next door. These images are beautiful, technically perfect, and sometimes a little bit creepy."

"In her photographs of markets, Charlie reveals that many peoples still have a direct link to their food. They have instinctive, natural understanding of food and eating that is passed on from generation to generation, a culture of food," said Jennifer McLagan, author of *Bones: Recipes, History & Lore*. "Here in North America, we have so distanced ourselves from our food we no longer understand that meat comes from living animals. The consequences of this lack of knowledge are disastrous."

Warren Belasco, Professor of American Studies at the University of Maryland and author of *Meals to Come: A History of the Future of Food*, continued, "I do believe [Charlie's photograph's are] a powerfully compelling meditation on the boundaries we draw when it comes to deciding what to eat, as [she] force[s] us to take a stand on a question that we'd rather just avoid."

Charlie Grosso, a Chinese American woman with a male Italian name, was born in 1979 in Taipei, Taiwan. She was educated in Taipei until the age of 11. Grosso received her for formal education at University of Southern California receiving a BA in Theater Design. She was named honorable mention for EnFoco's New Works #11 and International Photography Award 2008 in Fine Art in the Professional category.

Images from *Wok the Dog* can be viewed online at <http://www.charliegrosso.com/>

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