

INFORMATION TO THE PRESS

The Erna and Victor Hasselblad Foundation was founded in accordance with stipulations in the will drawn up by Mr. Victor Hasselblad, Doctor of Engineering, and his wife Erna, and signed on July 20, 1980. The first foundation grants were distributed on November 18, 1980, and the enclosed speech states the beneficiaries and the distribution of the funds. The information contained in this press release is at your immediate disposal.

On behalf of the Erna and Victor Hasselblad Foundation

Evald Karlsten

/by direction/

November 1980

Introductory address by Mr. Einar Josefson, Chairman of the Board of the Erna and Victor Hasselblad Foundation.

The Erna and Victor Hasselblad Foundation was created on July 20th, 1978, according to stipulations laid down in the last will and testament of Dr. Victor Hasselblad and his wife Erna.

The main objective of the Foundation is, and I quote, "to promote the scientific teaching and research in the field of natural science and photography."

A further task for the Foundation is to present an annual or biennial award and (I quote again) "a prize for photography and additionally a gold medal to a person of outstanding merit. The medal shall be called the Erna and Victor Hasselblad Medal."

The Foundation's Board of Directors, of which I am the Chairman, felt it would be appropriate to emphasize the Foundation's photographic roots as it starts its activities in earnest with its first grant and first award of the photography prize and medal.

In the view of the Board, the best way to achieve this end was to award a grant of 500,000 Swedish Kronor to the country's only established scientific research and teaching department in the field of photography, i.e. the Department of Photography at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, for the purchase of specific equipment, and to award the photography prize of 100,000 Swedish Kronor plus the Hasselblad Medal (sculptured by Professor Eila Hiltunen, Helsinki, Finland) to Dr. Lennart Nilsson.

The aforementioned Department, Institute, and people hardly need any introduction. However, for those desirous of additional information, I take pleasure in referring them to the sources available here today.

Prof. L.O. Hendeberg, Head of the Department of Photography at the Royal Institute of Technology, will tell you a little more about the photographic research and teaching objectives the grant is expected to realize.

The Foundation's Board of Directors is deeply grateful for the opportunity to award the first photography prize to Dr. Lennart Nilsson. His name is renown for astonishing photographic achievements in words and pictures that have reached millions of people

throughout the world. Dr. Nilsson will be only too happy to answer any questions you may have.

Prof. Eila Hiltunen from Helsinki, Finland, has created remarkable sculptural works all over the world. Her artistry encompasses a wide field; from monumental sculptures such as the "Sibelius Monument" in Helsinki, the "Palm Grove" in the Shahanshahi Park in Tehran, plus other statues and sculptural groups for the hank of Finland, the Helsinki Town Hall, UNESCO in Paris, NASA in Huntsville, Alabama, U.S.A., the Saudi-Arabian Ministry of War in Jiddah, the Olympic Stadium in Montreal, etc., to sculptural miniatures for medals. Her efforts in the latter field have also been crowned with success. Eila Hiltunen has honored us with her presence at this press conference and has graciously consented to answer your questions.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Lennart Nilsson, Honorary Doctorate from the Royal Caroline Institute.

PUBLICATIONS:

Liv i hav ("Life in the Sea"). Marine fauna photographed on the Swedish west coast. Published in Sweden, England, and the United States.

Myror ("Ants"). Published in Sweden. A major picture story in Life Magazine and major foreign picture magazines.

Sweden in Profiles. Published by the Swedish Institute. Portraits of 67 leading Swedes, e.g. members of the Royal family, financiers and industrialists, scientists and humanists, artists and politicians, in their natural environment.

Ett barn blir till ("A Child is Born"). Published in about 15 languages. The pictures were also published in Life Magazine, and the world's foremost magazines. A TV film was made on the same subject. The film has been shown in most countries in the Western world.

Se människan ("Behold Man"). A description of the human body, photographed using many different types of photographic instrument plus specially made lenses and other technical devices. Published in 15 languages. Featured in Life Magazine and the world's largest and most prominent magazines.

Så blev du till ("How You Began"). Book which allows children to follow the development of Man. Published in many languages.

At the beginning of the 1950's and 1960's Lennart Nilsson published a book on ore for LKAB, a book on wood processing for Munksjö AB, a book to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Swedish State Railways, and one for the National Power Administration.

In addition, many of his picture stories have been published on commissions from Life Magazine and the other major magazines. These stories have dealt with medical subjects, wildlife and nature subjects taken with special lenses, as well as with famous personalities.

A major picture exhibition on human reproduction has been on tour in the U.S. and Canada for four years and is still circulating. Another photo show on hypertension is on display at universities and museums in Europe, North America, and South America. It is usually opened by the Swedish mission in each new country. It was produced in collaboration with the Research Department of Boehringer Ingelheim where Lennart Nilsson has worked on a number of projects during the past 5 years, including work on diabetes, cancer, stomach disorders, and the formation of blood clots.

For several years, Lennart Nilsson has been preparing a book dealing with the body's defence mechanisms. It describes the body's way of protecting itself against bacteria and viruses, plus Man's environmental pollution (including tobacco and alcohol abuse). The book is to be distributed internationally.

Two years ago he began working on an international TV film on human reproduction. It is being shot using a completely new technique and specially made lenses. It is due for completion at the end of 1980 and will be shown by leading TV companies throughout the Western world.

Lennart Nilsson has also collaborated with leading scientists at the Royal Caroline Institute and Royal Caroline Hospital in order to document the effect of environmental pollutants on live human cells and the transformation of normal cells into cancer cells. At Lennart Nilsson's initiative, a foundation has been laid for a research department at the Royal Caroline Institute. Here time-lapse photography will be used to monitor live cells, which have been in contact with various environmental pollutants. It will be possible to study why a normal cell changes into a cancer cell under the influence of pollutants.

It will also be possible to study cells and different organs using sweep electron microscopy, which provides a highly magnified view of the surface structure of cells (cell membranes). There is considerable international interest in this field.

The Department for Photographic Documentation at the Royal Caroline Institute is to record medical events on film and with the electron microscope, thereby contributing to the further development of medical photography and acknowledging the widespread interest in this field.