

FORBIDDEN STORIES

DON'T MISS!

"Killing the journalist won't kill the story." This powerful message lies at the heart of **Forbidden Stories**, an international network of journalists committed to continuing the work of silenced reporters. Founded in 2017 by Laurent Richard, who spent years reporting from conflict zones and under oppressive regimes, Forbidden Stories protects and perpetuates the investigations of threatened or killed journalists. As Richard explains, "Our nonprofit organisation protects the work of threatened journalists and pursues the investigations of those silenced. In the face of increasingly organised enemies of the press, collaboration is our strength." The message is clear: Killing a journalist will only amplify their story. Forbidden Stories ensures that critical information reaches the public and aims to deter crimes against journalists, safeguarding the press in exposing corruption, organised crime, and human rights violations.

One notable effort is the Bruno & Dom Project, where over 50 journalists from 16 news organisations have continued the work of **Bruno Pereira and Dom Phillips** on the Amazon (see the article by Barbara Trionfi on page 124)—ensuring their story lives on despite their tragic murders.

Killing the journalist won't kill the story

Learn more about the Bruno & Dom Project here:



ANYTHING TO SAY?

Projects

"Anything to Say?" is a travelling bronze monument dedicated to the principle of free expression. Unlike traditional statues fixed in public spaces, this **work by Davide Dormino** journeys from city to city, encouraging reflection and engagement with its message. The sculpture features **Julian Assange, Chelsea Manning, and Edward Snowden**—figures renowned for exposing war crimes and human-rights violations through the WikiLeaks platform, actions that have had significant global repercussions.

The idea, developed by author and journalist **Charles Glass** and brought to life by Dormino, explores the role of public art in prompting reflection. The three figures are depicted standing on chairs, representing the courage required to act in the face of personal risk. A fourth chair remains empty, symbolising an invitation for the public to consider their own willingness to stand up for their beliefs.

Since 2015, "Anything to Say?" has been exhibited in cities such as Berlin, Paris, Geneva, Sydney, and London, offering viewers a chance to reflect on the importance of free expression and the personal costs associated with speaking out. The empty chair challenges onlookers with a poignant question: If you had something important to say, would you be willing to stand up, and what price would you be prepared to pay?



THE BRUNO AND DOM PROJECT
INVESTIGATING THE PLUNDERING OF THE AMAZON

PROMPTOGRAPHY

German artist **Boris Eldagsen** made waves in the photography world when he used AI to create an image that won the 2023 Sony World Photography Award—only to reveal later that it wasn't a photograph at all. By rejecting the award, Eldagsen sparked a debate about the ethical and artistic challenges posed by AI. "AI isn't a threat," Eldagsen told The Guardian. "I love photography, but I've realised they're not the same. One is writing with light; one is writing with prompts." He views AI not as a dehumanizing force, but as a liberating tool that breaks down material and financial barriers. However, Eldagsen also warns of AI's potential dangers, especially to democracy and photojournalism, in an era rife with fake images. He proposes a traffic-light system to label images as authentic, manipulated, or generated, but he emphasizes that this is only part of a much larger conversation about forcing distinctions between photography and AI-generated images. Giving the intersection a name, Eldagsen says, would be a start: "promptography".

Learn more about Eldagsen's image series PSEUDOMNESIA (Fake Memories), 2022—ongoing:



Read the interview in The Guardian, "AI Isn't a Threat.", by Zoe Williams:



Boris Eldagsen, "PSEUDOMNESIA | The Electrician", promptography, 2022, courtesy photo edition berlin

People

For more insight into his work, watch: "The Political Economy of the Media: A Critical Perspective"



A CHAMPION OF ETHICAL JOURNALISM

Lois V. Teodoro (d. March 2023) was a leading Filipino journalist, editor, and academic who was deeply committed to ethical journalism and press freedom. As a former dean and professor at the University of the Philippines Diliman, Teodoro was known for his incisive critiques of the media's susceptibility to political and corporate influence in the Philippines. He was a staunch advocate for journalism that serves democracy and social justice. Teodoro's legacy lives on through his role as the founding Chairperson of Altermidya, a network of independent media organizations that amplifies the voices of marginalized communities. Despite facing significant challenges, including threats and harassment from both state and non-state actors, Altermidya remains a respected platform for independent journalism, recognized for its commitment to ethical standards, transparency, and journalistic integrity. In an era where media freedom is increasingly under siege, Altermidya stands as a testament to Teodoro's enduring legacy in the fight for free and fair journalism.

