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Heavenly art



Photographers **Nicolas Lefaudeux, Shuchang Dong and Zhipu Wang**

THESE three enchanting images showcasing the simple beauty of space have taken top prizes in this year's Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition, organised by the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London.

The image shown top left was taken by Nicolas Lefaudeux, who won in the category Our Moon. Called *Beyond the Limb*, it shows the subtle crescent of Venus rising above the horizon of the moon.

Shuchang Dong was the competition's overall winner for his picture, *The Golden Ring* (top right), taken during an annular solar eclipse in June 2020. Dong captured this rare and fleeting shot from Ali, Tibet, as the sun, moon and Earth aligned. Annular eclipses occur when the moon moves in front of the sun, but appears smaller than our star, resulting in a bright ring of light.

At the bottom of the page is *Family Photo of the Solar System* by 15-year-old Zhipu Wang, who won the Young competition category. Wang created this composite image of the planets in the solar system (except Earth), framed by the sun and moon.

The winning images will be exhibited at the National Maritime Museum in London from 18 September. ■

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