



Helsinki, April 2021

## EXHIBITION & PRESS INFO

[Nordic Village / Helphoto x Pelt Fotofestival 2021](#)

Exhibition from June 6-September 30

***Nordic Village* becomes a touring exhibition. 12 Nordic visual art projects will be exhibited at the biennial *Lens op de Mens* at Fotofestival Pelt in Belgium.**

*Nordic Village* is a talent platform fostered by Helsinki Photo Festival to support emerging Nordic photographers. The platform engages visual artists from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland to showcase their works to a broad audience.

The program includes exhibitions and educational activities with experts and artists from the Nordics, inviting photo enthusiasts of all ages from any gender, race or class.

In 2021, the Art Park at Hanaholmen – Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre will act as the host for Nordic Village exhibitions. The group exhibitions, both in Finland and Belgium are curated by Rafael Rybczynski.

A Nordic seminar with distinguished visual artists, gallerists, photography teachers, photo editors and book publishers will be organised on August 27, 2021.

Helsinki Photo Festival ry, is a non-profit association, created to disseminate information about photography and visual media and to attract and maintain interest in them in Finland and abroad.

Helsinki Photo Festival brings a new art experience to the Finnish capital. Curated photography exhibitions can be discovered 24/7 in public spaces. Every year, the festival selects 50 open call winners from all over the world. The contest is judged by a jury of leading experts. The festival's theme in 2021 is Fearless.

## ARTISTS FROM FINLAND

### HENRI AIRO

Keep Swimming

[www.cargocollective.com/Henriairo](http://www.cargocollective.com/Henriairo)

**Open call finalist: Theme Love 2018, Nordic Village, Helphoto**

#### *PROJECT DESCRIPTION*

*"Floating only leads one to the meaningless inevitable."* Henri Airo

*Keep swimming* is a poetic autobiographical account of being a young adult in the modern age. It dwells in that feeling of floating, without direction, towards an inevitable, yet familiar future. I constantly witness around me directionless, floating individuals. Visibly fine yet lacking a clear direction. Functioning without truly knowing themselves. Not working towards their dreams or ambitions. Slowly drowning in the folds of time. The work consists of symbolic self-portraits.

#### *AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY*

Henri Airo (b. 1996 in Helsinki, Finland) is a visual artist working with photography. His personal work revolves around visually presenting perspectives on social phenomena. In addition to his artistic practice, Airo is teaching photography at the HEO Institute of Further Education. As a freelance photographer his works were published by Finnish newspapers Helsingin Sanomat and Ylioppilaslehti.

#### **Solo Exhibitions:**

- 2019 Land of Significance, Gallery Uusi Kipinä, Finland
- 2018 Observations Regarding Finnish Collective Memory, Museum Militaria, Finland

#### **Selected Group Exhibitions:**

- 2020 Kosminen Salon, Kosminen Art Space, Helsinki, Finland
- 2020 Generation 2020, Amos Rex Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland
- 2019 Kuala Lumpur Photoawards, ILHAM gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2019 Showoff 2019, Krakow Photomonth, Cracow, Poland

- 2019 Searching for Beauty, Photofestival Lenzburg, Switzerland
- 2019 My Mortality is Killing Me, Mariankatu 23, Helsinki, Finland
- 2018 Nordic Village, Helsinki Photo Festival, Helsinki, Finland
- 2017 Yö, Gallery Kalleria, Helsinki, Finland

**Education:**

- 2016 - 2021 Lahti Institute of Design and Fine Arts, Finland: BA, Photography
- 2019 Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem: Exchange studies

**Grants:**

- 2020 Project Grant, Finnfoto Ry
- 2020 Working Grant, Olga and Vilho Linnamo Foundation
- 2020 Project Grant, Kauno Ry
- 2019 Project Grant, Föreningen Konstsamfundet

**Curating:**

- 2019 Post Mortem, Gallery Uusi Kipinä
- Curated exhibition with works by the artist Jukka Male as part of a 7 person team

**Publications:**

- +380 x 46 Published by LAMK (2019), Edition 150, Zine with 8 other photographers
- Yö 2018 Self-published (2017), Edition 1200, Photobook / calendar with 13 other photographers

**Artist Talks:**

- 2020 Helsinki Photo Festival
- 2019 Krakow Photomonth
- 2018 Helsinki Photo Festival

## **SVANTE GULLICHSEN**

Fearless

[www.svantegulichsen.com](http://www.svantegulichsen.com)

### **Open call finalist: Theme Anarchy 2019, Helphoto**

#### *PROJECT DESCRIPTION*

Emerging Finnish talent Svante Gullichsen will be exhibiting a set of new works in the Nordic Village 2021. The works were shot in Lapland during spring the same year and present a new set of self-portraits in the rough northern winter landscape.

#### *AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY*

Svante Gullichsen (b.1994) is a Helsinki-based photographer. Svante's works are mostly self-portraits taking place in archipelagic and rough natural environments. His style varies from strong Nordic and mystical atmospheres to warm and insightful expeditions. At the very core, Gullichsen's work is presenting mental health issues through the relation between human and nature as well as the fundamental relation between darkness and light. Svante's first solo exhibition *Hangin on* received a lot of positive attention in the media.

#### **Upcoming exhibitions:**

2021 "Luontoretki" group exhibition at Nastolan Kesänäyttely

2021 "Fearless" solo exhibition at Helsinki Photo Festival | Nordic Village | Hanaholmen

#### **Selected exhibitions:**

2021 "Hanging on" solo exhibition at Valokuvakeskus Nykyaika

2021 "Shadow in Light" group exhibition at Galleria Kookos

2019 Helsinki Photo Festival

2018 Generation'18 group exhibition at Jyväskylä art museum

2017 Generation'17 group exhibition at Amos Anderson art museum

#### **Awards & Nominations:**

2019 Helsinki Photo Festival | Theme Anarchy | Best image winner

2019 Helsinki Photo Festival | Theme Anarchy | Open call winner 2019

2018 Vila talent awards Finnish finalist

2018 Momondo Open World awards finalist

#### **Publications:**

2020 Helsinki Photo News | Seminar with Elina Brotherus and Svante Gullichsen

## **MARJA SALEVA**

He is so obsessed with me

[www.marjasaleva.com](http://www.marjasaleva.com)

### **Open call finalist: Theme Love 2018, Helphoto**

#### *PROJECT DESCRIPTION*

*He is so obsessed with me* is a personal story about a single woman around her forties. The ongoing project started in 2011. The photos are reflections of feelings and experiences. They show the pleasure and the pain, the mess and the glitter. The original work consists of more than 3000 images and text. *He is so obsessed with me* exists in two versions: a Photobook (2013) and an Online Story (2017) / [www.heissoobsessedwithme.com](http://www.heissoobsessedwithme.com) .

The work plays with the real and the imagined. The photos are originally documentary, whereas the title character, the “He”, is imaginary. The work is based on the flow of images, repetition and fragmented stories. The main character and her daily actions form the frame for the book. The book begins intimately, showing an extremely private act. The online work rambles around the questions of causality, chance and choice. The viewer has to interact with the narrative, arriving at crossroads where he/she has to choose which way to go. Anything can happen. Imagine.

#### *AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY*

Marja Saleva (b. 1975) is a Finnish photographic artist living and working in Helsinki. She studied photography at the Turku Arts Academy and graduated in 2013. Before that she finished her Master’s Degree in Social Sciences at the University of Turku in 2001. Saleva has had a number of solo exhibitions in Finland. Her works have been exhibited in several group exhibitions abroad, including Frankfurt Book Fair and The Month of Photography Festival in Denver US in 2019 & 2021. In building images she often applies collage techniques together with different kinds of digital manipulations. In 2019, Saleva was shortlisted for the Fotografia Europea Prize. In 2020, by PH Museum (Woman Photographers' Grants). In 2018, she was given a Honorable Mention at the Landskrona Portfolio Review and London International Creative Competition.

#### **Education:**

2013 Bachelor of Arts, Photography, Turku Arts Academy, Turku, Finland

2001 Master of Social Sciences, University of Turku, Turku, Finland

**Upcoming Solo exhibitions:**

- 2022 \*Unnamed, Hippolyte Studio, Helsinki, Finland
- 2021 Medium Sweet Yellow Cocktail With Flirting Flowers And Solid Expectations, Rajatila, Tampere
- 2021 Surprise Paradise Disco With King Size Flowers And A Black Swan, Huuto, Helsinki, Finland

**Selected Solo Exhibitions:**

- 2020 Playing Like A Flower In A Red Sea While Building A Long New Dress (Family Album), Northern Photographic Centre, Oulu, Finland
- 2018 A Room With Cozy Memories, Creepy Calculations For The Future And Some Pizza, Oksasenkatu 11, Helsinki, Finland
- 2017 Publications He is so obsessed with me -online-work (Part II)
- 2013 He is so obsessed with me -photobook (Part I)

**Selected Group Exhibitions:**

- 2021 Month of Photography, Denver, USA
- 2019 Month of Photography, RedLine Gallery & Alto Gallery, Denver, USA
- 2018 Brighton Photo Biennial, UK
- 2018 Helsinki Photo Festival, Finland
- 2018 Fringe Arts Bath -festival, Real/Unreal, UK
- 2017 Online Gallery/OURS Magazine, Through Rose Colored Lenses
- 2017 Fotopub-festival, Book Market, Slovenia
- 2015 Unseen Book Market, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2015 Athens Photo Festival, Athens, Greece
- 2015 Fringe Arts Bath Festival, Bath, UK
- 2014 H Book Show, Doomed Gallery, London, UK
- 2014 The Foto39 Exhibition, Christmas Steps Gallery, Bristol, UK
- 2014 Frankfurt Book Fair / Finland. Cool, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2014 Tallinn Fotokuu, Estonia
- 2014 Arles Photography Festival, France
- 2014 F Book Show, Tokio, Japen
- 2013–2104 Summerschool, TR1 Kunsthalle, Tampere, The Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland

- 2013 I'm12, Gallery Huuto, Helsinki, Finland
- 2013 Allurement of Light, Lahti Art Museum, Finland
- 2012 The Realm of Arts, Imatra Art Museum, Finland
- 2012 I'm not writing any story, Photographic Centre Peri, Turku, Finland
- 2011 2000 & 11 Self-Portraits, The Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland
- 2011 Photographic Centre Peri, Turku, Aboa Vetus & Ars Nova, Turku, Finland

#### **Awards etc.**

- 2020 Fotografia Europea Prize
- 2019 shortlist
- 2013 The Best Book Covers, Finnish Book Art Committee

#### **Grants:**

- 2020 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 2020 Finnish Cultural Foundation
- 2019 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 2018 Greta and William Lehtinen Foundation
- 2017 Frame
- 2017 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 2014 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 2013 National Council for Photographic Art
- 2013 Arts Council of SW Finland

## **ARTISTS FROM SWEDEN**

### **JENNY ROVA**

Älskling a self-portrait through the eyes of my lovers

[www.jennyrova.net](http://www.jennyrova.net)

**Open call finalist: Theme Love 2018, Nordic Village, Helphoto**

#### *PROJECT DESCRIPTION*

ÄLSKLING a self-portrait through the eyes of my lovers Jenny Rova's intention is to make a self-portrait made by other people. Their way to experience Rova would stay in the foreground. She was asking her ex-boyfriends and lovers to give her all the pictures they

took of her during their relationship. The pictures Rova got were from a twenty-five years period of time. The first photo was done when she was nineteen, the last one in 2018 when Jenny turned forty-five. The series contains fifty-five photographs and has nine different authors. Rova presents the pictures in chronological order. The work can be seen as biographical work, telling about a part of my life, but it's also an indirect portrait of the photographer, the partner behind the camera. An aspect that is interesting to Jenny is the special way of looking at each other when you are in love. These pictures can be seen as an attempt to capture closeness and attraction between two people within a photograph.

#### **AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY**

Jenny Rova born in Uppsala 1972. Lives in Zürich since 2001. Works between Sweden and Switzerland.

#### **Education:**

2001-04 ZHDK University of Arts Zürich, major in photography, with honours  
1998-00 FAMU Academy of Performing Art Prague, major in photography, BA

#### **Upcoming Solo exhibitions:**

Oct 2021-Feb 2022 Center de la photographie de Mourgins, France  
16 May - 19 Sep 2021 Zur Kraft unserer Wünsche und Begehren Vögele Kultur  
Zentrum, Switzerland  
20 Nov-12 Dec 2021 Photolux Festival, Lucca, Italy

#### **Solo exhibitions:**

2020 ÄLSKLING A self-portrait through the eyes of my lovers Sune Jonsson Centrum för  
Dokumentärfotografi, Västerbottens Museum, Sweden  
2017 ÄLSKLING Gallery Breadfield Malmö, Sweden  
2016 Wannabe (with Roman Mader) Colemine Winterthur Switzerland  
2016 R som i fågel (with Tony Kristensson), Teatergalleriet, Kalmar, Sweden  
2016 Emma Wir, Gallery Breadfield Malmö, Sweden  
2013 Mono no aware R75 Kunstraum, Zürich, Switzerland  
2009 Jenny Rova, Station 21, Zürich, Switzerland

#### **Selected group exhibitions**

2020 All the time that came before this moment, Kunst Raum Riehen, Switzerland



- 2019 Lianzhou Photofestival, Lianzhou, China
- 2019 Probabilité: 0.33 Musée Nicéphore Niépce, Chalon-Sur-Saône, France
- 2019 Love in the time of the internet, Kunstraum Walcheturm, Zürich, Switzerland
- 2019 Fotografia Europea Festival Reggio Emilia, Italy
- 2018 SITUATIONS/Follower Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland
- 2018 Festival Images Vevey, Switzerland
- 2018 Helsinki Photo Festival, Finland

## **SEBASTIAN SARDI**

Black Diamond

[www.sebastiansardi.com](http://www.sebastiansardi.com)

### **Open call finalist: Theme Love 2018, Nordic Village, Helphoto**

#### *PROJECT DESCRIPTION*

It is an apocalyptic landscape. There are huge man-made craters everywhere that make up the visible landscape, the ground is burning, and a vast area is oozing of toxic gases, fires and smoke. In all of this people are digging in the soil with their bare hands. Coal is mined everywhere in Jharkhand, India, and large parts of it are sorted by hand. The locals call it; "Black Diamond". There is a fragile balance between nature and mankind. A sense of discomfort is felt in the slow but seemingly unavoidable struggle towards the collapse of nature. The human inability to break patterns is painstakingly visible in these photographs, as we knowingly keep on extracting the ground beneath our own feet. Sebastian Sardi began his work on photographing mines in 2008 after reading an article on how mining-related injuries and deaths are systematically covered up by many authorities. Black Diamond is a close (self-)portrait of the people who work with extracting coal from the ground, as well as an exploration of our dualistic human nature and how one-self relates to the outside world while being a part of it.

#### *AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY*

Sebastian Sardi was born in 1983 in Stockholm, Sweden. At the age of 22, he started taking classes in analog photography at the Peoples University in Stockholm. In 2009 he moved to Denmark to study photography at Fatamorgana, the Danish school of art and photography. In 2011 he received a Bachelor's degree in Art History and Visual Studies. He published his

first photobook "A Cirkusz" in 2012. His second book "Black Diamond" was published on Kehrer Verlag in 2019. Sardi lives and works in Malmö and Copenhagen.

## **MARCUS GUSTAFSSON**

Vibrant Days

[www.marcusgustafsson.se](http://www.marcusgustafsson.se)

### **Open call finalist: Theme Anarchy 2019, Nordic Village, Helphoto**

#### *PROJECT DESCRIPTION*

Filled with the feeling of having the whole world in the palm of your hand while simultaneously feeling it slip through your fingers. You want to freeze time but all you do is push forward, and fill your life with all that it has to offer. But it's in the moments in between when the uncertainty of where you are headed hits you. You are suddenly filled with doubt yet it's still easier to just keep going, telling yourself you are still young.

Marcus Gustafsson was 20 years old when he took the first images of this series. The pictures are of the people around him, they are his friends. We are all searching and craving for experiences. We are drawn to each other, joined together in this context because we are in the same stage of life. Parties, relationships, boredom, sex, anxiety, love, friends, sorrow and encounters. Everything that we have had the opportunity to experience and also been forced to live through. This project is about Gustafsson and it's about us. He will always remember these vibrant days.

#### *AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY*

Marcus Gustafsson's photography is a straight forward "point-and-shoot" kind of style, creating images of the people close to him. It's more about him trying to capture what he feels than what he sees. Marcus is exploring people around him from his own subjective view with the human connection being central in his work. His images are as much about himself as it is about the people he's photographing. *"My photography is about a constant seeking, a search for a sense of context. In this search I meet people and through these encounters, some sort of identification arises. Meetings that become pictures."* Gustafsson says. In 2013 he moved to Stockholm, and there he has continued photographing what inspires him the most, his friends, which made him pick up the camera in the first place back

in his hometown, Gnesta.

**Education:**

Aug 2010-Jun 2013 BA in Photojournalism at the Mid Sweden university.

**Selected Group Exhibitions:**

2013 - Galleri CFF (Centrum för fotografi) in Stockholm, Sweden.

2014 - Gnestaplanket in Gnesta, Sweden.

2015 - Gnestaplanket in Gnesta, Sweden.

2016 - "The artist is broke" exhibition and auction in Berlin, Germany.

2018 - Shortlisted for the Athen Photo Festival

2019 - Shortlisted for the Athen Photo Festival

2019 - PiriPiri darkroom collective in Stockholm, Sweden.

2019 - Helsinki Photo Festival in Helsinki, Finland.

2019 - Planket Sthlm, Stockholm, Sweden.

2019 - Siilk Gallery in Athens, Greece.

2019 - Salong CFF (Centrum för fotografi) in Stockholm, Sweden.

2020 - Shortlisted for Copenhagen Photo Festival

**Publications:**

2020 - PiriPiri, issue #1, a collective zine, self published.

2021 - Down here together, zine published by Fail Books.

## **ARTISTS FROM DENMARK**

**BIRGITTA STEEN**

Affection

[www.basz.dk](http://www.basz.dk)

**Open call finalist: Theme Love 2018, Nordic Village, Helphoto**

*PROJECT DESCRIPTION*

Affection between humans.

## *AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY*

### **Education**

- 1961 Brossard, Paris, France
- 1962-63 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA
- 1964 Academy of Art, San Francisco, USA
- 1965 Gerlesborg School, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1966-68 Konstfack, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1969-71 HKS, (Högre konstakademiet) Stockholm, Sweden

### **Scholarship & Scholarships**

- 1981 The Artists' Committee's project grant, Sweden
- 1991 Århus Stiftstidende "Artist of the Year", Denmark
- 1991 Handelsbanken's Artist Prize, Denmark
- 1996 The Ministry of Culture's committee for the illustrated Danish book

### **Censored exhibitions**

- 1971 Konstfræmjandet, Stockholm - Ørebro - Gothenburg, Sweden
- 1973 Design Center, London, UK
- 1976 Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1983 Helligåndskirken, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1984 Kunstnernes Sommerudstilling, Tistrup, Denmark
- 1990 Kunstnernes Påskeudstilling, Århus, Denmark
- 1990 Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1991 Århus Kunstbygning, Denmark
- 1994 Gallery 12, DR TV2, Denmark
- 2008 Sofiero, Helsingborg, Sweden
- 2010 Dunkers hus, Helsingborg, Sweden
- 2017 Hillerød Art Fair, Denmark
- 2018 Annaborg Watercolor Museum, Hillerød, Denmark
- 2018 Helsinki Photo Festival, Finland
- 2018 Edsvik Art Gallery, Sweden
- 2015-19 AaGalleriet Frederiksværk, Denmark
- 2019 Siena Photo Festival, Italy
- 2019 Gallery Blæst, Nibe, Denmark

**Separate exhibitions:**

1980 Art & Industry, NY, USA  
1987 and 1989 Brille Galleriet, Aarhus, Denmark  
1987 Women's Museum, Aarhus, Denmark  
1989 Kunstnernes Hus, Aarhus, Denmark  
1990 Bistborno Gallery, Malmö, Sweden  
1992-94 Galleri en Garde, Aarhus, Denmark  
1995 Gimsinghoved, Struer, Denmark  
1996 Culture Festival Lofsdalen. Sweden  
1997-2001 Jernigan Wicker, fine arts, San Francisco, USA  
1997 Markovitch Gallery, London, UK  
1999 Sundström, Berlin, Germany  
2007 Odd Port Gallery, Kronborg Castle, Helsingør, Denmark  
2008-2019 Kældegalleriet, Torup, Denmark

**Collective exhibitions**

1991-2019 Kunstbiblioteket, København  
1993 MJC, Arbois, France  
1999 Scandinavian School, Waterloo, Belgium  
2000 Gallery Galschiøt, Odense, Denmark  
2001 Palæfløjen, Roskilde Kunstforening, Denmark  
2009 Opera Gallery, Budapest, Hungary  
2014 Arken, Copenhagen, Denmark  
2014 Gallery Strandkasernen Helsinki, Finland  
2014 Emil Cedercreutz Museum, Harjavalta, Finland  
2015 ECWS IV Iberoamericano Biennial, Llacá, September 15, Spain  
2018 Parallax Art Fair, London, UK

**Photo Books**

Aarhus a living city  
Bachelor dormitory - a hidden world  
Nozzle source

## LAURA BISGAARD KROGH and ANDREAS HAUBJERG

A Question of Honor

[www.andreashaubjerg.com](http://www.andreashaubjerg.com)

**Open call finalist: Theme Trust 2020, Nordic Village, Helphoto**

### PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

On a deserted road in Jutland, Denmark stands a house with an unknown address. The authorities call the residence a "Safehouse", even though it mostly looks like an ordinary home. It is a secure residence, with surveillance cameras and tinted windows in the kitchen that faces the court. All of this has the purpose to protect a group of teenage girls who have been living in the shadow of their family that has exposed them to threats, violence and suppression. The girls live here because of honour-related conflicts. They were not familiar with this concept before fleeing their families and moving into Safehouse Jylland. But they do know how it feels. The authorities define it as conflicts that occur within close family relations and where the conflicts result from the perception that the honour of the family has been violated. The girls in these families are at risk of forced marriage or abusive punishment in the form of incarceration in the home or physical violence. In the most extreme cases, they can be in danger of honour killing. The honour-related girls are torn between the fear of negative social control at home and the love for their family. At Safehouse Jylland they endeavour to create an identity of their own and to live a fairly ordinary teenage life. All girls in this series are anonymous for safety reasons.

How this story relates to trust: The people you trust the most in your life are often your family. For the girls in this story that trust has been violated and taken away from them. This story is about regaining trust in yourself. When you are at the center of an honour-related conflict, the fundamental trust in your family, in yourself, and the world around you has been broken down. *"In the safe houses, we have experienced firsthand that the girls can rebuild the trust in themselves and reclaim ownership of their own destiny. We are honoured and proud that the girls have shown us their story. As photographers, this is the greatest trust you can receive."* Laura Bisgaard Krogh & Andreas Haubjerg

### AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Laura Bisgaard Krogh and Andreas Haubjerg are Danish photojournalists based in Aarhus and Copenhagen, Denmark. They are currently doing their BA in Photojournalism at the Danish School of Media and Journalism. Through in-depth visual storytelling, they create personal stories on issues regarding human rights and living conditions, with a focus on

youth and identity. Their collaborative work shows a personal and rare view into the lives of at-risk children. Working with integrity, they have a strong code of ethics that protects the children in their stories. Together they have created a personal visual language that shows the identity of their subjects. *“Laura Bisgaard Krogh and Andreas Haubjerg chose the exact right balance between melancholy and poetry, that gives us very emotional pictures and respect for the photographed so that they don’t come across as victims. Respect is, all things considered, the keyword. Here you acknowledge and see a group of people, whose identity you have to hide at the same time. So even though the pictures are anonymous, we still feel them a lot, because they are not photographed, but felt.”* (Statement from jury members of the Danish Picture of the Year, 2019)

## ARTISTS FROM ICELAND

### MARIA KJARTANS

Connection

[www.mariakjartans.com](http://www.mariakjartans.com)

### Open call finalist: Theme Love 2018, Nordic Village, Helphoto

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Iceland is known to be quite an energetic place with all its magnificent forms of nature. Maria Kjartan explores the connection humans make with nature. She really likes to explore childhood innocence when you were 8, that fearless love for life and the connection to surroundings. Kjartan loves people and nature, especially when they come together. All these different energies can be found within one place or a being she describes as truly amazing. The photographs were shot in 2018 and are part of the Connection series.

#### AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Icelandic born artist María Kjartans graduated with her MFA from Glasgow School of Art in 2007. Since then she has been living and working in London, Glasgow, Paris and now most recently in Reykjavik, exhibiting her photography and video art around the world. María has won the Signature Art Award in London and the IdeasTap / Magnum Photographic awards for her photography projects and was nominated as the winner in Open call at Helsinki Photo Festival. Alongside doing visual art María is the co-founder of Vinnslan which is a collective of Icelandic artists who create and curate interdisciplinary art projects. María’s works are presented by ARTELLITE & Degree Art Gallery in London.

*“As much an explorer as a photographer, Maria’s fascination and obsession with life cycles and events, across cultures, dominate the subject matter of her pieces and drives her to visit often remote and unusual locations. The results are bewitching insights and stories that*

*present the viewer with a captivating sense of discovery, honesty and empathy for her subjects.*" Elinor Olisa, director at DegreeArt Gallery London

## **ÓMAR SVERRISSON**

Artists are full of air

[www.rvkportraitsbyomar.tumblr.com](http://www.rvkportraitsbyomar.tumblr.com)

**Open call finalist: Theme Love 2018, Nordic Village, Helphoto**

### *PROJECT DESCRIPTION*

*Artists are full of air* was taken at a music art performance in Reykjavik. All portraits depict popular actors and artists. Sverrisson wanted to show how artists blow up their self-esteem and self ego "like a balloon" every time they have a performance or exhibition.

### *AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY*

Ómar Sverrisson (b. 1977) is a self-employed freelance photographer and visual artist living and working in Reykjavik, Iceland. Ómar has been taking photos since the age of 10, however, he has no formal education in photography. Ómar Sverrisson's work spans from film design and photographic work for Icelandic music bands to editorial and visual advertising content for the number of newspapers and magazines in Denmark and Iceland.

## **ARTISTS FROM NORWAY**

### **SVITHASETH**

Unrest

[www.svithaseth.wordpress.com](http://www.svithaseth.wordpress.com)

**Open call finalist: Theme Love 2018, Nordic Village, Helphoto**

### *PROJECT DESCRIPTION*

*"The unrest vibrates. It lifts me up and throws me down. My gaze recognizes it from a long distance. In nature and culture. In everything and in us all."* Janne Amalie Svit

The membrane between order and chaos is thin, *Kofi Annan* wrote in the preface to Prix Pictet's exhibition catalog for the exhibition «Disorder». These words impressed Svit as this



was her worldview. These words gave Svit an insight into what her own unrest is about, her worries about a world that seems colder and more careless than preferred. Svit feels that this membrane Annan described is fragile and should be treated with silk gloves. The unrest is concrete, but also abstract. It contains concern for the earth's future and polarization, but also the feeling of not being a good enough mother or a fellow human being.

### *AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY*

SvitHaseth is an artist duo of two dedicated photographers, Janne Amalie Svit and Merete Haseth. They both graduated with a Bachelor of Art Photography from Kent Institute of Art and Design in England. After graduation they have worked as professional photographers doing commercial work and teaching. Under the name SvitHaseth, they will work both as an artist duo and produce individual artworks. SvitHaseth have won Helsinki Photo Festival's 2018 open call with their dystopian tale of Laura. The Unrest series is a newer body of work created in 2020-2021. In her practice as a photographer, Janne Amalie Svit investigates themes like dystopia, superstition, belonging and «The Human Condition». Svit's photography is to load the gaze and take a step aside from everyday life to look into areas from my immediate life, but also the universal aspect of being a human being. Her work is a combination of documentary, staged photography and digital collages.

### **Publication:**

Nov 2020 "Quarantine 2", Uncertain States Scandinavia, Lens based newspaper.  
May 2020 "Quarantine Issue", Uncertain States Scandinavia. Online edition.

### **Solo Exhibitions:**

June-Sep 2021 Solo Show, Saga Photographic Center, Norway  
Nov 2019 Solo show, "Home", Sienna  
April 2017 Solo Show "Laura", Levanger Kunstforening, Norway

### **Group Exhibitions:**

June-August 2020 Øyna landskapshotell, November 2019, Norway  
November 2019 Doc 10, Trondheim, Norsk Fotofagskole, "Disorder", Norway  
Summer 2018 "Laura", Helsinki Photo Festival, Finland  
August 2018 "Laura" Preus fotomuseum, Norway  
Nov 2016 Mile Arts Pavilion, Uncertain States Scandinavia, London, UK  
Sep 2014-Dec 2016 Scandic Bakklandet hotel, Trondheim, "Dreamscapes", Norway  
July 2014 Betty Blue pop up art bar, one day exhibition and bar, Norway

June 2014	Friisgården, Ramberg / Lofoten, Norway
2011-2016	JKE Design, Levanger, Norway
2013-2014	Rica Baklandet, Norway
Jan 2013	Café de Concert, Oslo, "Image Troopers", Norway
July-Aug 2010	Norveg, Rørvik, Norway

## **STIG MARLON WESTON**

1 to 1

[www.weston.no](http://www.weston.no)

### **Open call finalist: Theme Love 2018, Nordic Village, Helphoto**

#### *PROJECT DESCRIPTION*

Weston is taken up with how everything humans do leaves a mark, often both physically and emotionally, and the way a photograph can be the recording instrument of this. Weston wanted to photograph the closeness between a couple of lovers and how they consist of two separate individuals who at the same time keep on crossing into each other's personal space, and through this form a working unity. These are photograms on film, photographs made without a camera. The film is placed on the floor in a darkened room before it is covered with a sheet and a couple enters the makeshift bed. The love in the pictures have been captured as shadows leaving a physical mark while the lovers were in direct contact with the film. Both, film and the resulting prints are true to life size, and in the scale ratio of 1:1. The pictures are made in pairs, as two separate pieces of film that fit together. They are shown digitally stitched together with a gray frame. In real life they are printed on two separate sheets of satin cloth and hung next to each other. In exhibitions they have been presented as slightly crumpled sheets hanging with clothes pins from a washing line. The sheets are made as sublimation prints on satin textile, which means they stay soft to the touch and are durable and machine washable. They can be hung outdoors, although as with any photographic print, they run the risk of losing colour if exposed to strong direct sunlight for long periods of time.

#### *AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY*

Stig Marlon Weston (b. 1974) is based in Oslo, Norway. He shares his time between his own practice as a photo artist, running the studio collective CYAN studio and working as a commercial photographer. Focusing on process-based and philosophical photography Stig

uses cameraless techniques and analog processes to make his pictures become unique proofs of a truth unseen by human eyes. He wants to connect the subject closer to the image and aims to encourage the viewer to reflect on what they expect to see and understand in a photograph. His work has been exhibited in many countries. Also, Stig curates and organizes exhibitions and photography events with other photographers' works.

### **Background:**

member of FFF – Norwegian Association for Fine Art Photographers

- 2014 Workshop in daguerrotype with photo conservator Jens Gold – Preus National Museum of Photography
- 2002 Participant at the artist collective “Dostoprimeščastelnosti” in Berlin, an Independent course by the department of art at the Berlin-Weissensee university
- 1998- Founder and manager of CYAN studio, gallery and darkroom photography collective
- 1996 Workshop in digital imaging with artist photographer Lavasir Nordrum
- 1993-95 College of photography, Strommen and Stokmarknes - Norway

### **Selected Exhibitions:**

- 2021 Copenhagen Photo Festival - Denmark
- 2021 Blaker Skanse, Viken - Norway
- 2019 “Summer Reminiscence”, Gallery Oscar, Akershus - Norway
- 2018 “Croisière au Cercle polaires, Etè.1929”, Maison Losseau, Mons - Belgia
- 2018 “Grove”, Baerum Arthall, Akershus - Norway
- 2018 “Divinations”, Shoot Gallery, Oslo - Norway
- 2018 “Grove”, Lorenskog Art Society, Akershus - Norway
- 2016 “Moments”, Hole Artcenter, Buskerud - Norway
- 2013 “Grove”, Baerum House of Culture, Akershus - Norway
- 2013 “Moonlight”, SAGA photocentre, Trondelag – Norway
- 2012 “Magnetic Truths”, Artists Wanted/SeeMe, New York City - USA
- 2011 “Sampling Nature”, A und V Galerie, Leipzig - Germany
- 2005 “Shoreline”, Galleri Pontoppidan, Oslo - Norway
- 2004 “Summer Reminiscence”, Galleri Elenor, Oslo - Norway
- 2002 “If these walls could talk”, Dostoprimeščastelnosti, Berlin - Germany

2000 "Natural", The Millenium Conference, Oslo - Norway

### **Selected Group Shows:**

- 2021 Østlandsutstillingen, State regional exhibition, travelling - Norway
- 2020 Alternative Process Competition", Soho Photogallery, NYW - USA
- 2019 "It came from the north", Jakarta WTC - Indonesia
- 2018 "Nordic Village", Helsinki Photo Festival, Helsinki – Finland
- 2018 "Summer market", Shoot gallery, Oslo - Norway
- 2018 Uncertain States Scandinavia Annual, Nordic Light Festival, Kristiansund - Norway
- 2018 Norwegian Photographers", Stockholm Art Week piQmo gallery, Stockholm - Sweden
- 2017 "#BliHus", City Hall gallery, Oslo - Norway
- 2017 "Inside the Shadow", Arthouse, London - England
- 2017 "APDA" Kyoto – Japan
- 2016 Society of Scottish Artists Annual, Royal Academy, Edinburgh - Scotland
- 2015 "Scientificious", Manifest gallery, Cincinnati - USA
- 2015 December salon, Shoot Gallery, Oslo - Norway
- 2014 Awards show, Galleri Ramford, Oslo - Norway
- 2013 "Playground/District 12", Galleri Vulkan, Oslo - Norway
- 2012 "Using Photography", Dortmund Künstlerhaus, Dortmund - Germany
- 2012 Day of Photography, juried exhibition, Preus Photomuseum, Vestfold - Norway
- 2012 State Autumn Exhibition, House of Artists, Oslo - Norway
- 2011 "Rituals of Recreation", Te Photographic Angle, touring exhibition - England
- 2009 "Limbo", Galleri Maria Veie, Trøndelag - Norway

### **Selected Commissions, Awards, Grants and AiR:**

- 2020 Grant – Project support, Te Savings Bank Foundation DNB – Norway
- 2020 Award – Nominated for slo Open Honorary Award - Norway
- 2019 Grant – Project support, Free Speech Foundation – Norway
- 2019 Award – Professional Press Photo Award - Norway
- 2018 Grant – Regional Cultural Support - Norway
- 2018 AiR - Labverde Artist Residency, Amazonia - Brazil
- 2018 Grant – Art Centers of Norway production grant – Norway
- 2018 Purchased – FERD art collection
- 2018 Grant - Norwegian Photographers Association - Norway
- 2017 AiR - Can Serrat Artist Residency, Katalonia – Spain

2017 Grant - Norwegian Photographers Association – Norway  
 2016 AiR - Can Serrat Artist Residency, Katalonia - Spain  
 2015 Award -Working Artist Photography Award - USA  
 2015 Grant – Norwegian Photographers Association - Norway  
 2014 Commission - ICART, cruise ship - Norway  
 2014 Award - Galleri Ramford Awards Exhibition, 1.prize - Norway  
 2014 Grant - Oslo municipality cultural innovation - Norway  
 2013 Commission - Art Consult hotel – Germany  
 2013 State Art Grants – miscellaneous grant - Norway  
 2011 Grant - Norsk Fotografisk Fond - projectsupport - Norway  
 2011 Award - Grand Prize Winner, Te Focus Project - Artist Wanted/SeeMe - USA  
 2005+07+08+16 Commission – Norwegian Nurses Association ofces - Norway  
 2004 Commission - Berlin Radisson SAS hotel – Germany

**Selected Publications and other related activities:**

2020 Book - “I didn’t read your hints” with Meggan Gould book, self published  
 2020 Workshop teacher + portfolio reviewer at Helsinki Photo Festival  
 2020 Interviewed - Analog Forever Magazine #2 and Lenscratch Blog  
 2019-20 Member of Jury - "Romeriksutstillingen" - Regional exhibition - Norway  
 2019 Book - featured in book “100 Norwegian Photographers”, Hatje Cantz Verlag  
 2019 Workshop teacher, portfolio development at Apertura Centro Imagen, Malaga - Spain  
 2019 Speaker at Helsinki Photo Festival, Nordic Seminar  
 2018-20 Workshop teacher, cameraless photography, Einar Granums’s Art School - Norway  
 2018-20 Head organizer of CYAN folio portfolio reviews, Norway's largest - Norway  
 2015-17 Curator for Present Art, web gallery for Norwegian Photography – Norway  
 2014 Workshop teacher - darkroom, Art Studies at NISS – Norway  
 2011/13 Member of Jury, "Photographer of the Year", Foto.no - Norway  
 2009-17 Workshop teacher photography, Oslo People’s University - Norway  
 2012 Member of Jury - Professional Photographers Association Annuals - Norway