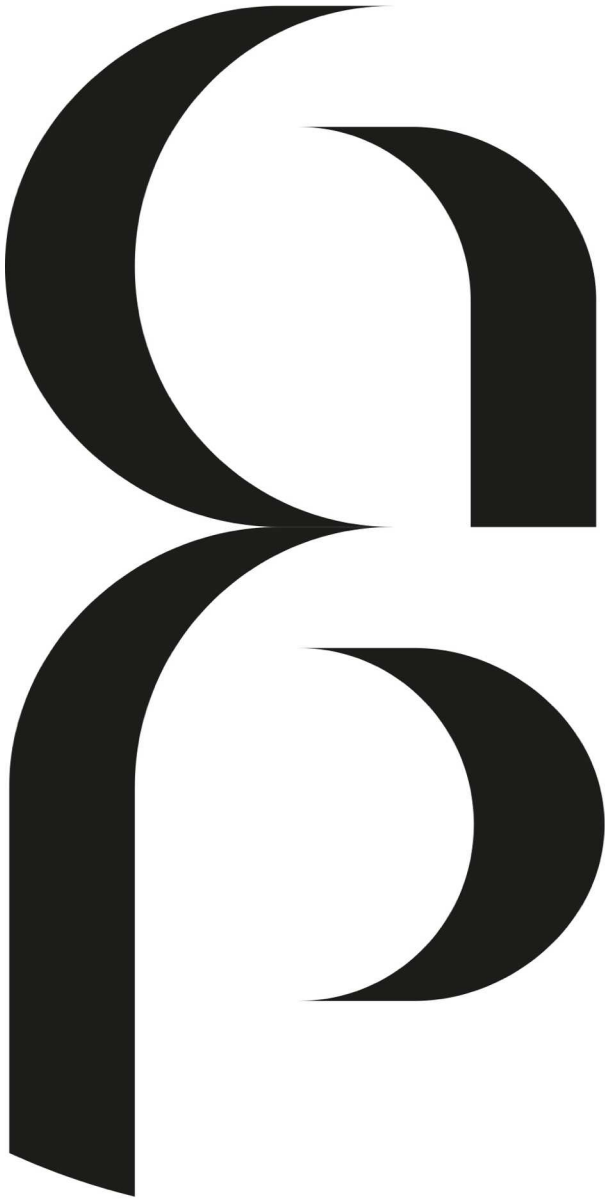




2025



CRITICAL EYE
Portraits From The Street



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The KLPA PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE established in 2009 is an annual international photography competition seeking the very best entries on contemporary photographic portraits by emerging and established photographers worldwide. 2025 edition exhibition venue @ Hin Bus Depot, George Town, Penang from 6 - 21 September, 2025.

Front cover © JUDITH SHIEH KRASINSKI USA - Green People

Introduction

A Valued Judgment

I am excited to present the winners and finalists of the 17th edition KLPA Portraiture Prize, and this year, the physical exhibition will take place at Hin Bus Depot in the heart of George Town, on Penang Island. The 35 main category finalists will be accompanied by the Under 25 Student Category winners and the Zontiga KLPA Malaysian entries prize.

Street photography is extremely popular in Malaysia and countless photowalks have been organised over the last few years, but we hardly see their fruits in galleries. To redress this, CRITICAL EYE : Portraits In The Street open call was created to showcase the best street portraits as determined by our selected panel of judges. A first for KLPA with a street-based theme.

The brief of CRITICAL EYE challenged street photographers to photograph what they see in front of them with a keen and discerning eye. More than a fleeting scene or a casual snap, capturing engaging portraits in public spaces especially of strangers can be most challenging, and just as skilfully executed as the best studio set-up. It often takes courage for novice photographers to raise the viewfinder up to their eye and confront a stranger. Good pictures require a keen eye, patience and skill, with a little luck thrown in.

The jury were unanimous when they awarded the first prize to Judith Krasinski's striking image of the Comic Con lady titled Green People. The portrait captured from a low angle looking upwards reveals a clear blue sky framing a brightly painted green face. Coupled with her direct stare and raised arm shielding her eyes

from the sun, this image evokes many clichés and yet creates a successful street portrait that is iconic and striking.

Second prize was awarded to Haneul Lee's mundane image of a man enjoying his drink at a cafe in Kyoto. Clearly an office worker, presented an endearing pose so often overlooked but occurring countless times every day in cities all over. This portrait is part of a wider social documentary project of middle aged men and questions their roles in contemporary society, perceived ideals and assumed responsibilities.

Johan Khoo's black and white group portrait of a Chinese family by the Star Ferry terminal in Kowloon slightly mimics a 60's vintage photograph. The boys patterned jumpers are familiar to many, whilst the camera phone gives away the modernity of the scene. The jury were won over by the side glance and stare from the boy as he leaned on the railing and the scene is made ordinary with the man's interaction with the other boy and the girls diagonal stance. A brilliant composition made with all the necessary elements coming together in a street photograph.

I would like to thank all the jury members for their skilful selection as well as the other category winners. I am pleased that the Student Category attracted many portraits of a high standard and thank all to all the photographers who participated in the open call and your continued support for KLPA.

Steven Lee, Founder Director
KLPA

2025 Prize Winners

JUDITH SHIEH KRASINSKI

USA

1st Prize USD\$2,000

Green People

HANEUL LEE

South Korea

2nd Prize USD\$1,000

B-3452TH

JOHAN KHOO CHONG PENG

Malaysia

3rd Prize USD\$500

Student Category U-25

HARRY HO ZI LE Malaysia

Curious Gaze

IULIA DIMA Romania

Gentleman with a hat

VICTOR LIANG YUCHENG China

Independence Day

Zontiga KLPA2025 Malaysian winners

YUJI HAIKAL Red Persistence

ANDREW CHEW Carnival, Eindhoven

SEAN LIEW HONG HOOI Giving Blessings

Jury 2025



ANNICE LYN

Annice Lyn is a former national figure skater turned documentary photographer, known for capturing compelling stories and being the first and only Malaysian female photographer accredited for both the PyeongChang 2018 Winter and Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics.

She serves as the creative director for Anntopia Studio and holds the position of Canon Malaysia EOS Youth Ambassador (2018-2022) and EOS Master 2023. A laureate of the Southeast Asia Women of the Future Award 2020, she co-founded Women Photographers Malaysia, fostering an inclusive culture through visual storytelling.

Her internationally recognised work includes photographing the cover for TIME Magazine's April 2021 issue, artwork by Malaysian artist Red Hong Yi, and being listed in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2021.



CAROL KOERTING

Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Carol Körting worked as a freelance photographer before studying photo editing at the Ostkreuz Schule für Fotografie in Berlin, Germany. She has served as photo editor for the renowned Leica Fotografie International Magazine (LFI) and its online platform for over a decade, during which time she has produced and edited countless photographic projects.

As a professional portfolio reviewer, Carol was part of a team of jurors at numerous photography competitions. In addition, she gives talks, workshops and presentations on photo editing.

Photo Credit: Rick Burger



CHIA AIK BENG

Aik Beng Chia's photography, rich in subtlety and texture, created layered images that deeply connect with viewers. He captures unnoticed moments from daily life in Singapore and in his travels, shedding light on overlooked yet emotionally impactful scenes.

Known as ABC in the community, he authored *Tonght The Streets Are Ours* and *SingKarPor*, along with numerous self-published zines since 2010. He has collaborated with brands like Apple, Ricoh, Fujifilm and Leica, with his internationally recognised work exhibited and published worldwide.



MARIKA CUKROWSKI

Marika works in the Curatorial Affairs Team at World Press Photo, specialising in production. Over the past five years, she has travelled with the World Press Photo annual exhibition to locations around the world, taking part in events about photojournalists and press freedom. She studied at the University of Toronto and the University of Amsterdam, focussing on identity and nationalism. She is based in Amsterdam.



MUHD. HIDAYATULLAH

Muhd Hidayatullah is a Kuala Lumpur-based documentary and humanitarian photographer, as well as a documentary filmmaker. With 10 years of experience as a humanitarian photographer for AusRelief, he has documented critical global crises, including the exodus of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, the aftermath of the earthquake in Turkey, the lives of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, the displacement of Yemeni refugees in Djibouti, the tsunami recovery efforts in Palu, and the cataract surgery project in Lombok.

Holding a bachelor's degree in Architecture, Hidayatullah brings a unique perspective to his work, crafting intimate and thoughtful narratives with his subjects. His photography and films highlight cultural diversity, craftsmanship, and the beauty of everyday life, capturing timeless moments through a lens of authenticity.



LAU WEN HUAT

Lau Wen Huat is the founder and director of Zontiga, guiding its growth into a hub for photographers and storytellers. Combining strategic insight with creative vision, he has developed Zontiga into a thriving photography space, a respected photo lab, a curated bookstore and publishing house dedicated to visual arts.



API HUSIEN

Api Husien is a multifaceted artist who excels in a range of creative disciplines, including poetry, playwriting, acting, directing, and photography. He has authored several books of poetry and photography, and his work has been showcased in exhibitions across both Malaysia and Indonesia.



1st

JUDITH SHIEH KRASINSKI

USA - Green People, 2024

@judith_krasinki



New York City's Comic Con convention always draws a colourful group of attendees. Many of them put a remarkable degree of attention into making sure their cosplay outfits are as close to the official character as possible. And why not? It's rare that adults get the opportunity to parade around a city street dressed like a superhero or their favorite animated character.

"I spotted this particular woman a block away from the convention center. When she noticed me crouched below with my camera pointed up at her, she gave me a wary look. I snapped the shot. Thankfully, she didn't hold that expression for very long. Her guardedness quickly faded when she realised I was in on "the joke," attempting to document the larger-than-life figure into which she had transformed herself and put out for public display. The next frame I took shows a green-faced woman framed against a New York City skyline, hand over her mouth, laughing."

Judith Shieh Krasinski is a street and portrait photographer based in the Philadelphia area. She is drawn to capturing split-second moments that showcase the hidden stories, humour, and unconventional beauty that exist in the everyday world. Her work often highlights the spontaneous, yet compelling interplay between humans and the public landscape. Street photography is her means of searching for the proof of the divine in the midst of the mundane.

HANEUL LEE

South Korea - B-3452TH, Kyoto, March 2023

@bluebleubleubleu

I usually take portraits of Ajeossis—middle-aged men commonly seen on the streets of Korea. This photo (B-3452TH) was taken in 2023 in Kyoto, Japan, when I happened to encounter this man by chance.

Ajeossi figures are everywhere in daily life—as fathers, office workers, and ordinary men. However, we rarely stop to reflect on who they are. Society tends to define them through fixed ideas and social conventions. I began this project with the desire to challenge those assumptions.

What I found particularly interesting is how this idea of Ajeossi is also culturally and linguistically present in Japan as Ojisan. The man in this photo was wearing typical "salaryman" clothing, but in a way that slightly broke the expected rules. I was drawn to that subtle contradiction and captured it in this moment.

'Boomers' is a project capturing strangers that are middle-aged men and older. They are often categorized as 'Ajeossi', a term for a middle-aged man in Korean. The moment they are labelled as an 'Ajeossi', they are no longer viewed as individuals, but as this idea of a group of old men. The word 'Ajeossi' is not used for pinpointing a certain man, but for those who seem to arbitrarily fit in this quintessential idea of a man in their 40-60s. These men I have met were rather uninhibited than those in other age groups, expressing their egos in a transparent way without being bound to how others would see them. Frankly, they were too unique themselves to be pigeonholed as 'Ajeossi'.

Then, who are they? What are the things that they are into? This project has started from these questions and the curiosity of mine. The materials of their clothes, the patterns on the fabric and their choices of accessories altogether tell us how much they don't care what others would think of them. Those wrinkles on their faces, the facial expressions and the confident poses tell us their stories in a mysterious way. "Boomers" is a subjective piece of work of mine that emotions are heavily involved. It's the record of emotions that gradually change as I get to build a relationship with each man of a generation and observe the charms and originalities that each person has.

2nd

Haneul Lee uses photography as an interface for exploring various modes of relationships between herself and others. She is intrigued by how our transition into the digital era has impacted photography and is constantly studying linkages between images and the world we live in. She is particularly interested in the emotions that arise from encounters with strangers. Her projects exploring these themes include Strangers—where she documented about 400 people—and Boomers.



3rd

JOHAN KHOO CHONG PENG

Malaysia - Kowloon scene, 2024
@jojoboy

I used to work in Hong Kong in the early 2000s and as such, I love walking around areas I used to visit with camera in hand. The Waterfront by Tsim Sha Tsui always is a great place to see locals and tourists alike and this morning, just as I was walking to the Star Ferry terminal, I spotted a curious boy with his family playing by the elevated viewing deck by the ferry terminal. As I was observing them, the boy looked up, and I framed his 'critical eye' with his brother, sister and father in the background.

Johan Khoo is a Kuala Lumpur based travel and street photographer. He has been taking photographs since his teens, but became more serious about street photography in the last 15 years or so. He has not entered many competitions, and is in the process of curating a photo book.







DAVID CALLINAN

USA

@larrydavey_

*Chasing the Past
Boston 2025*

A candid portrait of a timeless character, captured in stride as I stepped into his path, framed against the iconic Paramount Theatre in downtown Boston.

David Callinan is a barber based in the North Shore area of Boston, Massachusetts. Outside the shop, he dedicates his free time to street photography and street portraiture—both practiced with the same passion he brings to his craft behind the chair. He uses the surrounding area as his canvas, capturing what the city offers in the everyday.



ADILKHAN TEMERGALI

Kazakhstan

@microwave300mhz

Everything in its right place.

People symbolise their era. We accept others as they are — old or young, no matter what form they wear. We know your story. We know there are no straight paths. No matter what lit the way — from communism to free markets, from slogans to a sense of justice, from dreams of freedom to the shadow of despotism — we are still walking, still hoping to live.

Just remain a symbol of your era. We will meet you with sincerity and without judgment. Because in the end, there are no winners or losers — only those who endured.

Adilkhan is a street photographer from Astana, Kazakhstan.



ANKA GUJABIDZE Georgia

@ankagujabidze

Georgian Kwaidan, Tbilisi, 2024

Due to the current political situation in Georgia—where Russia seeks to tighten its grip and the ruling Georgian Dream Party executes its agenda—resistance has become an uphill battle. As protest fatigue sets in, I turn to images that summon supernatural forces, seeking to channel powers beyond the tangible to challenge oppression. Drawing inspiration from Kwaidan, ancient ghost stories that unveil hidden truths, she explores the spectral and the unseen as a way to confront the present, invoking spirits of defiance, history, and reckoning.

Anka Gujabidze is a visual artist based in Tbilisi, Georgia. For 17 years, she worked as a professional photographer, specialising in documentary, conceptual, and portrait photography, before recently transitioning into filmmaking. Her first film, Temo Re (2024), is a black-and-white photo montage that tells the haunting story of a struggling actor turned delivery man, worn down by exhaustion and the brutal inequalities of life in Georgia's capital.

Anka holds an MA in Photography from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (KASK), Ghent, Belgium (2011-2013), and a BA in Animation from the Theatre and Film University, Tbilisi, Georgia (2006-2010). Her work has been exhibited in Tbilisi and internationally, appearing in several anthologies.



ANNA BIRET France
@annabiret

Friendly connection, Japan 2024

Two women in a café, immersed in conversation over breakfast, caught my attention. Sitting on the terrace with my tea in hand, I watched them with quiet fascination. There was something captivating in their gestures, their expressions—an unspoken rhythm in the way they engaged with each other. The scene felt intimate yet universal, a fleeting moment of connection unfolding before me, framed by the soft morning light.

I was born in Soviet Poland where I found my calling in spatial perception and geometric patterns in architecture. After finishing my studies in architecture, I moved to Paris, where I have lived ever since.

I discovered street photography in November 2018, during a workshop by Maciej Dakowicz in Myanmar. It was the first spark that ignited a whole series of trips. I respect people, I don't want to attack them. I don't use flash, ever. My presence is accepted, why I don't know. I adapt to the scene, I try to keep natural expressions. I do candid street photography, simplifying the chaotic mess of life with a sense of beauty, to bring out a bit of mystery. I feel like something magical is happening with me, with the world around me as I take pictures. I can't explain... the need to create... I love spontaneous encounters that can only happen in the street. Street photography requires a lot of concentration. It's an instant hunt that requires another look.



**ANTON
BOSSENBROEK**
The Netherlands
@anton__photography

Lady in onesie pyjama,
Embalenhle township,
Mpumalanga, South
Africa, 2024.

Anton Bossenbroek (b. 1980) is a French-Dutch lens-based visual artist who splits his time between the Netherlands and Canada. With over 20 years in technology-driven industries, including three formative years in oil and gas, Anton brings a dual perspective as insider and observer to his photography. He began exploring photography in 2010, committing to it full-time in 2021.

Anton's work examines the intersections of global industrial systems, transformed landscapes, and affected communities. Using photography alongside AI tools, satellite imagery, and archival research, he uncovers the often-unseen impacts of industrial infrastructure, exploring how production and consumption shape physical and cultural environments.

*His artistic journey has been shaped by mentorships with Susan Meiselas, Matt Black, Stacey Kranitz, and Ron Jude. Anton's work hangs in private collections and has two exhibits coming up in 2025. In 2025, he will release his first zine, *Upon Arrival* (working title), continuing his exploration of industry and its hidden impacts.*



ADAM BIRKAN
USA
@adambirkan

Aim-on and her
pomeraniam Chogoon,
in the Chinatown area
of Bangkok, 2024

"Sincere Portraits of Thai People" seeks to deconstruct and subvert the pervasive and reductive visual narratives perpetuated by Western media. This body of work disrupts the colonial gaze and challenges the viewer to engage in a more equitable and inclusive visual dialogue. Each portrait serves as a seemingly radical act of representation, centering the agency and authenticity of Thai individuals who have often been exoticized in foreign visual culture. All photos made with medium format film.

Adam Birkan is a freelance photographer and visual storyteller. He has been named one of Magnum's 30 Under 30, PDN 30. He has a Bachelors of Science in Visual Communication from Ohio University and has lived and worked in Asia for the past 10 years, focusing on long term, and short term projects. His personal work often takes a macro view of social and economic issues.



CAI XUAN CHONG Malaysia
@thisseanchai

*Volunteer firefighter,
Georgetown, Penang, 2024*

A portrait taken during Hungry Ghost Festival. A volunteer firefighter controlling the fire after a Taoist ritual of burning an effigy of a deity.

Cai Xuan Chong is a photography enthusiast from Malaysia.



CHRIS YAN USA
@chrisyan1981

Face

In China, many women protect themselves from the sun in summer. I saw a lady on the street wrapping herself tightly, she only showed a pair of eyes, and looked a little fierce.

Chris Yan, born in Beijing, China in 1981, is an accomplished photographer and Creative Director. After earning a degree in art and design from the Communication University of China, Chris gained extensive experience working with top international advertising agencies like Dentsu, JWT, and Leo Burnett. Is a senior creative director who has won more than 60 international and local creative awards. In 2013, he founded his own company to create and design advertisements for well-known brands such as BMW, Rolls-Royce, M&M's, and Dove.

At the same time, he began to blend commercial design with his passion for photography, focusing primarily on humanities and street photography. Over the past decade, Chris has photographed extensively across different countries. His work has received significant recognition, being frequently featured as Mastershot by the Leica LFI Gallery, and has been featured in Photo VOGUE many times. Chris has earned numerous awards, including the grand award, the Street Photographer of The Year at Paris International Street Photo Awards, a gold at the Tokyo International Foto Awards, a gold at the Budapest International Foto Awards, and Top5 Jury Selection at the IPA.



DARREN LAI
 Makaysia
 @justdarrenlai

The Commute, 2025

I captured a commuter's expression enroute to work as the LRT train door closes shut on him on a sunny morning during peak hour.

Darren has delved into street photography for almost 7 years since 2018 and uses photography during his spare time to try to capture the extraordinary within the ordinary from all walks and places of life around him.

Three of Darren's previous photographic projects were selected for public exhibition in the Kuala Lumpur Photography Festival (KLPPF) editions held in 2019, 2021 & 2022, all of which were exhibited by FJM Street Photography Malaysia, Malaysia's very own local street photography community.

Darren is currently based in Kuala Lumpur, but originally from Miri, Sarawak and has been studying and working in Kuala Lumpur for almost 13 years.



ERNESTO CABRAL DE LUNA

Mexico

@abrokeniris

*Vendedora de Globos, Atlixco,
Mexico, 2024*

A woman stands engulfed by a tidal wave of colorful balloons she is selling at the annual Huey Atlixcayotl fair in Atlixco, Puebla, Mexico. Alongside vendors selling candy, kites, and toys, balloon sellers are a common sight in town squares and parks across the country. While the designs of the balloons have changed over time—often influenced by American pop culture—the vibrant displays remain a familiar and nostalgic presence in public spaces.

This photograph was taken on the final day of my two-month homecoming trip,

Ernesto Cabral de Luna is a Mexican lens-based artist working in Toronto. Utilising both analog and digital processes, he merges experimental techniques with sculpture and installation, printing onto unconventional and manipulated surfaces to emphasize the multi-dimensionality and materiality of the image.



FELIX VOLLMANN

Germany

@felix.vollmann

Maria

I saw Maria beneath the humming lights of a supermarket, while I wandered the aisles with my newborn sleeping gently in a stroller, and my camera slung around my neck like a familiar companion. She caught my eye immediately—wrapped in fur, her lips a vivid red, moving with such grace it seemed she hovered just above the ground. I felt the urge to ask for her portrait, to capture that fleeting elegance. But with my child beside me, I hesitated. Still, I told myself: if she leaves the store, I must ask. So I waited and photographed her when she emerged.

Felix's photography explores and practices the capturing of people in the spaces that define their daily surroundings to document social landscapes. It is his experience of the stories that unfold before his lens that his work tells of. The objective is not to tell his subjects' stories – they are their own – but to reflect how his gaze is shaped when meeting people in the context of their societies. Trust is the basis of his work, and he actively avoids reproducing eurocentric patterns he grew up with. He works through a participatory approach informed by ongoing readings of Frantz Fanon, James Shikwati, Dambisa Moyo, Natasha Kelly, Vanessa Vollmann, and Michelle Dizon & Viet Le.



GIUSEPPE CARDONI Italy

Portrait in the crowd, Foiano della Chiana, Arezzo

Photographed at the Foiano della Chiana Carnival, one of the oldest carnivals in Italy.

Giuseppe Cardoni was born and lives in Umbria, Italy. He is the co-author, with RAI journalist Luca Cardinalini on the photographic book "STTL La terra ti sia lieve" (Ed. DeriveApprodi/Roma, 2006). With Luigi Loretoni, he published in 2008 the photo book "Miserere", in 2011 "Gubbio, I Ceri" and in 2014 "Kovilj" (Ed. L'ArteGrafica).

In 2014 he published "Boxing Notes"(Edizionibam) reportage on the world of boxing.

Giuseppe has dedicated himself for some years to the photography of musical events, he is co-author of the book "I colori del Jazz" (F Motta Editore, 2010) and in 2019 he has published the photo book "Jazz Notes" (BAM Stampa Fine Art by Antonio Manta). In 2020 he published "Life and Death - Mexican Rhapsody". In 2021 he published "Passion for Sport, in 2023 "In and out of the ring" and Metropolitan Fragments (89Books). He has exhibited his work in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Italy and abroad and has been award winner or finalist in many national and international competitions.



GREG MO
France
@gregmophoto

*Smiling shadows,
Phnom Penh, 2024*

A young girl with a big, bright smile runs in front of a brightly lit wall in a Phnom Penh market. Her expression, together with the drawn face on the wall, creates an interesting and mysterious connection, adding depth to the image.

Born in Paris in 1981, Greg Mo is a photographer specializing in street photography and conceptual photographic practices.

Greg has published several books on Cambodia and Laos, and his work has been featured in publications such as CNN, France 2, Stern, Le Monde, Le Figaro, Vice, and Geo Magazine. His series Tonle Soap was exhibited at the photo festival Les Rencontres d'Arles in 2023 and at the Angkor photo festival in 2025.

A specialist in street photography, Greg Mo has been teaching philosophy and photographic approaches through workshops since 2023 and also taught at Studio Image, the Phnom Penh Photography school.



IAN FLANDERS

Anywhere But Here Photography
Australia

@ceasefirenowphotography

Born and raised in Sydney Australia, Ian is a self-funded freelance photographer using his camera to understand the world around him. Ian focuses on long-term story telling photography.

Sydney Mardi Gras Parade, 2025



**JAVIER
ARCENILLAS**
Spain
@javierarcenillas

*Dreams, Madrid
2024*

With temperatures around 43°C in Madrid, a child sleeps in his father's arms, waiting to cross the street.

Javier Arcenillas is a photographer and photoeditor. A graduate in Evolutionary Psychologist by the Complutense University and coordinator of the documentary school area PICA.

He has won many prizes, including ArtsPressAward, Kodak Young Photographer, European Social Fund Grant, Euro Press of Fujifilm, FotoPress, UNICEF, Sony World Photography, POYI, POYILatam, Fotoevidence, Gomma Grant, Eugene Smith Grant, Getty Images Grant, PDN, World Press Photo, Lucas Dolega.

In 2013 entered the dictionary of Spanish photographers and has 5 books published, "City Hope" on the satellite cities that populate the landfills of Latin America, "Welcome" that tells the story of the Rohingya refugees of Myanmar in the Kutupalong camp and Sicarios, UFOPRESENCES in 2018. In 2016 La Fabrica published a Photobolsillo within the Photographers Spanish collection. In 2024 he published LATIDOAMERICA on violence in Central America.



**JAVIER
ARCENILLAS**
Spain
@javierarcenillas

*Eye. Tunisia, 2024
Train in Cartago,
Tunisia.*

His most complete news articles outside Spain can be read in Time, CNN, IL Magazine, Leica Magazine, Der Spiegel, Stern, Esquire, GEO, El Mundo, PAPEL, VICE News, L'Espresso, Zazpika, Primera Linea, El País Semanal, Planeta Futuro, Libero, Gatopardo, El Confidencial, El periódico de Guatemala.



JOSÉ SARMENTOS MATOS

Portugal

@josesarmentomatos

*Tife's at Abbey Wood,
London 2024.*

Tife, 20 years old, poses for a portrait at Abbey Wood Station while waiting for the Underground Elizabeth Line Train to Central London. Tife lives in Abbey Wood and can now easily commute to central London much faster than before. The Elizabeth Line, recently finished, connects the extremes of Greater London in less than 30 minutes and is having a big impact changing the social and economy landscape of London. Abbey Wood, London, UK. August 16, 2024.

José Sarmiento Matos, born in 1988, is a Portuguese documentary photographer based between London and Lisbon.

He focuses his work on medium/long-term projects and has published his work in media outlets such as The New York Times, Washington Post—with whom he frequently collaborates—New Yorker, and Newsweek, among others. Sarmiento Matos also frequently collaborates with Bloomberg, Le Monde, LA Times, Liberation, HBO, and HISTORY Channel.



JUSTIN TAY REN ZHI

Malaysia

@justin_trz

*Schoolboy from Gulmit,
Pakistan 2024*

A young schoolboy I met while exploring the village of Gulmit. He and a group of friends had been following me in quiet curiosity, their eyes fixed on my every move. He quickly stood out among them due to his striking blonde hair and piercing green eyes. When I asked to take his photograph, he agreed without a word. At first expressing an awkward uneasiness, then a somewhat distant sadness, then finally with a huge grin while pulling silly faces. All the time he never uttered a word.

Justin Tay is a commercial and travel documentary photographer from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Not one to be boxed in by labels, Justin sees himself merely as an individual who enjoys making photographs.

Justin's work is driven by a relentless curiosity, with an innate desire to experience and make sense of the world around him. For Justin, photography is a way of life that brings about a peaceful purpose. His photographs are made for no other reason than his desire to make them, and his desire to live a life worth remembering.



TANAKORN SAETIA

Thailand
@kawntia

Untitled, Songkhla, Thailand, 2025

I took this photo on King Bhumibol Memorial Day

Tanakorn is a street photographer base on Songkhla, Thailand.



KIMBERLY FLYNN

USA

@starlightartconsultancy

Hey, Take Our Picture! From 'See Me' series.
Galway, Ireland, 2023.

Kimberly Flynn's most recent series, *See Me*, illustrates the moments that tend to be missed while most go on with their day. Her work suggests the value of slowing down and seeing your surroundings. Flynn realised if you watch a child they look at everything that surrounds them, they watch people walking by, walk slower, and take in their surroundings. Adults tend to have their heads down or checking their phone.

The artist's *See Me* collection showcases people and locations nationally and internationally drawing on the comparison of subject matter. The series title *See Me* derives from the irony of the artist not being seen as she photographs her environment of those who are passing by.

Kimberly Flynn (American, b. 1985, Boston, MA) is a Savannah, Georgia based travel photographer whose work has taken her to national and international artist residencies where she was inspired to create the new series See Me. Flynn is the author of Businify Your Art Life which is to help other artists with the business side of their art and Abstracted Distractions: teetering between here and gone which showcases her work from the past twenty years.

Her work has been part of numerous national and international exhibitions and has accompanied many writers' work in printed publications. She has had the pleasure of being on the other side of being an artist and has juried and curated several exhibitions. Flynn has also served as Board Treasurer for local Savannah Art Nonprofit.



MATIN HASHEMI

Iran

@matin__photo

Reza with a prosthetic leg, Ardabil, Iran 2024.

Reza Ardeshir, a para-building bodybuilder, has participated in competitions with a prosthetic leg.

Matin Hashemi was born in 1998 in Tabriz, Iran. As a child, I was interested in art, including calligraphy. In 2016, I was accepted to Tabriz University of Islamic Arts in the field of multimedia. I have been photographing since the second year of university and at the age of 19. I depict everyday events and people's lives. I am a freelance photographer, and worked with several foreign and Iranian agencies and domestic news agencies. My interest is visual storytelling. My qualifications include Bachelor of Multimedia and Master of Computer Arts from Tabriz University of Islamic Arts.



MI LU

China

@shanghai.milu

Sweet dream, 2024.

This is a special glass, from the inside you can see the outside, but from the outside you can hardly see the inside. The child is playing in front of a single-sided glass, his face pressed against the glass for self entertainment, and he is immersed in his own world without reservation.

Mi Lu is a street photographer from Shanghai and the leader of the L2 photography community in Shanghai.



MIKIO HOSHINO Japan
@hoshino_mikio

Charming and bold, Ginza 2025

When I was a child, I loved playing with light.

I remember how fascinated I was when I used a plastic folder to reflect sunlight, making parts of the classroom glow white. Shifting the angle made the light move like a living creature, and I became completely absorbed in it.

Growing up, I eventually found a new toy: the camera. Now, instead of a plastic folder, I play with light through photography. The girls of the city are beautiful. They have a refined, sophisticated aura — dressed in stylish clothes, highlighted by trendy makeup. While they usually appear cute, I am drawn to capturing the moments when unexpected shadows cross their faces, revealing expressions that hint at something deeper and unseen. Reflected in the glass and steel of the city, they seem like actresses performing on an urban stage.

Charming and Bold. I want to shine a light on their unique charm on the stage we call the street.

Mikio Hoshino started taking portraits on the streets of Tokyo around 2020. He specialises in dynamic photographs and effects of light and shadow.



VENGADASALAM MURUGAM

Singapore

@mvenga

Characters in Light, Japan 2024

As if drawn by the same hand, man and character merge in light and shadow. In the flow of the everyday, a passing figure becomes part of the calligraphy of the street — transient, yet recorded.

Vengadasalam is a street photographer from Singapore, chasing a half-remembered dream.



PRIYANSHU SINGH

India

@priyanshusingh.27

*The Stare, Dharamshala,
India, 2024*

People stand outside the residence of Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, after receiving blessings in Dharamshala, India.

Priyanshu Singh is a 23-year-old self-taught photographer based in Delhi, India. His work is characterised by a bold, enthusiastic approach that aims to capture impactful and thought-provoking images. He discovered his passion for photography in 2019 and has since been exploring the city of Varanasi, one of the world's oldest living cities, to find interesting subjects and frames.

Currently doing fellowship with Reuters, Priyanshu is seeking to broaden his skills and enhance his capacities as a photographer. His primary genres include street and documentary photography, and his work has been exhibited in various international festivals, including the 24 hour project in Finland and the London Street Photography Festival. He was recently awarded third place in the Portrait category of the Indian Photo Festival International Photographer of the Year Award.



RUDY SUJANTO

Indonesia

@rudy.sujanto

Skin Contact, Jakarta, 2024

An unshirted stall keeper posed with the mannequins under his charge at an outdoor clothing outlet in Jakarta. The term "skin contact" was from the winemaking world and I used it as a double entendre for the way the stall keeper's skin is in contact with the mannequins'.

Rudy Sujanto is a street photographer by default because he's a city dweller who doesn't have the pretensions to get exotic landscapes or wildlife shots from faraway lands. His haunts are the alleys in his city, the sidewalks thronged by the people, and the colourful façades of the streets lit up by morning sunlight.

He is a full time street photographer after retiring from the IT industry in 2023.



SUSANNE GREETHER
USA
@susannegrether

Devotion, 2025

In the vastness of Kumbh Mela, surrounded by the chaos of life and devotion, I witnessed a moment that felt suspended in time. This young boy, draped in the sacred colour of renunciation, closed his eyes as if to listen to something only he could hear. The noise, the smoke, the thousands of prayers faded — and for a heartbeat, there was only him, his breath, and something greater. In his stillness, I saw the essence of what so many seek but few find: a quiet meeting with the divine.

Susanne Grether, a German street photographer based in New York City, developed a deep love for India and Southeast Asia during her student years in Germany. Later, she studied at the International Center of Photography (ICP) in New York, where she discovered her passion for street photography. She blends her love for both, capturing daily life at home and during her travels. Susanne has participated in numerous international workshops, refining her craft. Her work has been featured in curated exhibitions worldwide, showcasing her unique perspective on urban life and the human experience through the lens of street photography.



TAMATI TE OKA
New Zealand
@tamati45

*Unimpressed, Tokyo,
2024.*

On a busy Tokyo train, the gentleman briefly looks up from his phone. Unimpressed yet undeterred, he decides to continue scrolling.

Born in New Zealand, I began my photography journey as a sports photographer, capturing the dynamic moments of athletes in action for six years. This foundation in fast-paced photography honed my skills in timing and composition, setting the stage for my transition into architectural and real estate photography. This shift allowed me to explore the structural beauty of buildings and spaces, refining my eye for detail and lighting.

Now, I have embarked on a new chapter, combining my passion for travel with photography. I spend my days wandering the world, camera in hand, capturing the streets and landscapes of diverse cultures in black and white.



BRANDON RALPH
USA

@brandonralph

*First snow
Brooklyn 2025*

My journey began on Long Island, NY where I grew up on welfare in a middle class neighbourhood raised by a single mother. She insisted that I see America as a place of opportunity and possibility. After losing both parents at the age of 18 & 19 I was forced to drop out of NYU and begin a career in marketing, shortly thereafter I co-founded Code and Theory in 2001 which has become one of the largest creative & digital first agencies.

It was this juxtaposition of my upbringing which included personal loss and professional development that deeply informed my journey into what I am calling The American Experiment, which aims to explore the constantly shifting culture in America. My work presents a vast and varied look at the country, and allows the viewer to reexamine the myriad incarnations of patriotism as well as day to day life in America.



BRANDON RALPH
USA

@brandonralph

*Window in Time,
New York, 2025*

My images and sculptures present a sense of timelessness as one looks both into the future and into the past. The end result is a collection of moments that will sometimes be separated by years, or, equally divergent, separated by state lines. When they are viewed together, it gives one a look at the landscape and cultural themes during a time in our nation when the idea of what makes one an American is a topic of heated debate.

The work has been globally awarded, shown internationally, In 2022 I became an ambassador to the Leica brand and the book was recently selected to be sold at the MOMA.



TOBY BINDER

Germany

@tobybinderphotography

*Andy from the series
"Youth of Belfast", Belfast
2024*

Toby was born in Esslingen in 1977 and studied at the State Academy of Fine Arts in Stuttgart. As a socially committed documentary photographer he focuses on underprivileged and marginalised communities in long-term projects. He often takes the perspective of young people.

Toby's work has been awarded internationally, e.g. with a Sony Award in 2025, a Gomma Grant and LensCulture Award in 2020, the Zeke- and Felix-Schoeller-Award in 2019, the Philip-Jones-Griffiths-Award in 2018, the Nannen-Preis in 2017. The same year he received an Honorable Mention at the UNICEF Photo of the Year just as again in 2021.

His work is published by Stern, die Zeit, the Guardian, Le Monde, the Washington Post, National Geographic, Greenpeace Magazin, Amnesty Journal, Neue Zürcher Zeitung and others

In 2019 his first photo book "Wee Muckers" was published by Kehrer.



VLADIMAR KHOREV

Russia

@vladi_khorev

Characters, Taipei 2024.

The "Characters" series by Vladimir Khorev captures the essence of Wanhua District in Taipei, focusing on passers-by near the historic Longshan Temple. Using glass street fencing as an artistic method, Khorev creates semi-surreal images that evoke a deep emotional resonance. His approach emphasises the unique quality of natural light to convey intimate, almost portrait-like moments of people detached from the chaos of the city.

Born in Moscow in 1981, Vladimir Khorev is a graduate of the Moscow State Institute of Culture and a professional Argentine tango dancer. His journey took him from Buenos Aires to international tango festivals before settling in Taipei in 2017. Khorev's passion for photography began in 2019, and he now focuses exclusively on urban photography, capturing everyday life through a lens that highlights light, color, and geometry.

Student Category



VICTOR LIANG YUCHEN
China
@realimvici

*Independence Day,
Putrajaya, Malaysia 2024*

This photo was taken during a rehearsal for Malaysia's Independence Day. The two soldiers, dressed in vibrant uniforms, mirror the bright colors of the ambulance behind them. While ambulances typically suggest urgency and seriousness, the matching tones between the vehicle and the soldiers' attire create a light and celebratory atmosphere, capturing the spirit of the day.

Victor Liang is a photographer from China who specializes in street and documentary photography.

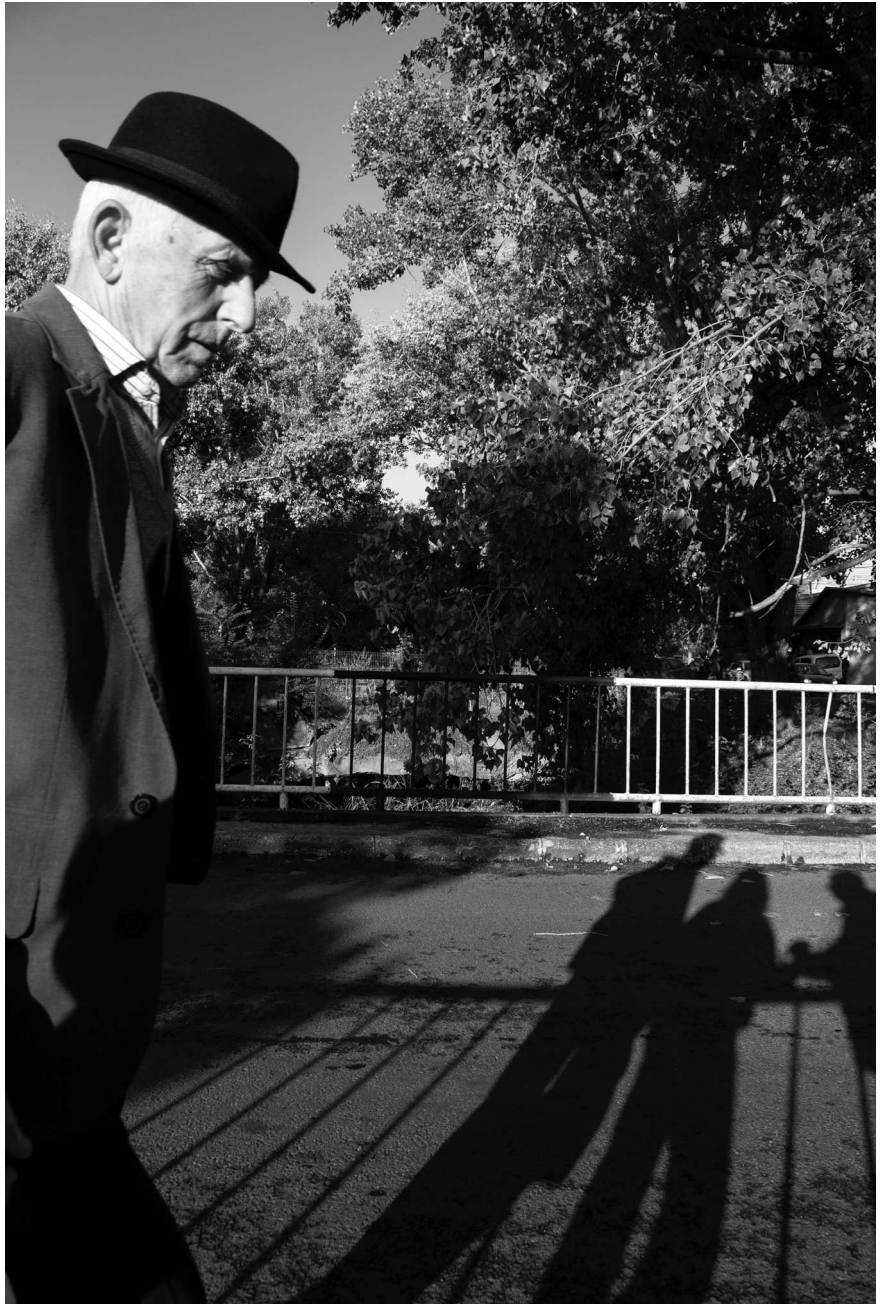


HARRO HO ZI LE
Malaysia
@hharryhho

*Curious Gaze,
Bangkok 2024*

This candid street portrait, taken on the streets of Bangkok, captures a fleeting heartbeat of childhood. A young boy on a bike glances back, his wide-eyed expression suspended between curiosity and wonder. As if, just for a moment, the world had stopped to meet his gaze.

Harry Ho, a student from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is a freelance photographer, collaborating globally with individuals, content creators, and organizations.



IULIA DIMA
Romania
@iuliadima

*Gentleman with a hat,
Ploiești, Romania,
October 2024*

Diagnosis of scoliosis Giving up dancing Seeing me, her younger sister dancing freely I wonder what my sister was thinking I don't know what my sister thinks about her life of dancing in pain. But, I see beauty and strength in her.

Zontiga KLPA Prize for Malaysian Entries



YUJI HAIKAL

@yujihaiikal

*Red Persistence,
Syntagma Square,
Athens, Greece, 2024.*

“She leaned on a red Vodafone booth. Her jacket matched the color. Her eyes locked onto my lens—strong, serious, and unbothered. Behind her, two men chatted on a bench. She didn’t belong to their world. She was in her own.”

A self-taught photographer from Johore, Malaysia, Yuji Haikal started his artistic journey in 2007. While his academic background lies in Information Technology, his passion for capturing moments and telling stories through his lens has always been self-driven. Drawing influence from iconic photographer Jim Marshall, Yuji aspires to create timeless images that resonate across cultures.

In 2024, Yuji achieved remarkable recognition at the International Photography Awards (IPA), winning Book Photographer of the Year and first place in the Self-Published Book category for his debut photobook, Why Aren't You Taking Photos Anymore? The book, a heartfelt dedication to his late father, reflects his journey back to photography.



ANDREW CHEE

Carnival, Eindhoven, 2025

"I had an hour to roam the streets late at night; it was lively, crowded, and quite hard to separate from the crowd. I got a lot of standard 'event' images, but this one stood out; a quick on the street, fun photo to look back on."

Andrew is a photographer from Malaysia. My parents used to ask me to try and randomly join some competitions or take photos for my school. So Photography was an off and on thing.

But a break from all that led me through some of my own growth and experiences. Now, I'm learning, Learning to take photographs that I enjoy. Photos for myself. And I'm in my own way. I'm back.



SEAN LIEW HONG
HOOI
@photoculturetravelogue

*Giving Blessings,
Sri Varasithi Vinayagar
Shrine,
Penang, 2025*

Swami Deva, who runs the Sri Varasithi Vinayagar Shrine, blesses a devotee after performing prayers, in Penang, Malaysia, 2025. Swami assists devotees in performing prayers to the deity of the shrine.

Sean Liew is a photographer from Malaysia who focuses on street and cultural/religious events. Based in Kuala Lumpur and Penang, I am passionate about capturing the moment and focused on street and cultural/religious events; my works are mostly on candid moments, vibrant traditions, and the subtle beauty of people in everyday life.

With an eye for detail and an appreciation for diverse cultures, I seek to preserve moments that reflect human connection, faith, and heritage. Whether it is the bustling streets of a city, a solemn religious ceremony, or a joyous festival, my images aim to evoke emotions and share untold stories.

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