



2022-04-06

## Female art photographers take center stage at the Nordic region's largest photo festival

*On June 2.-12. 2022, Copenhagen Photo Festival, which is the largest photo festival in the Nordic region, opens up for reflection and play with the boundaries of photography in collaboration with galleries, museums and cultural actors in Copenhagen and Scania. The festival center is located at the artificial island Refshaleøen in Copenhagen, where three international female art photographers are among the highlights. With humor, diversity, and artistic finesse, they portray new aspects of common narratives of the media, society and history through the art of photography.*

On 2-12 June Copenhagen Photo Festival will for the 12th time open all over Copenhagen with three international women's lens-based art in focus. Hien Hoang, Alexandra Rose Howland and Krista Svalbonas won the Copenhagen Photo Festival's open call, and will exhibit at the festival center on Refshaleøen. Each of the artists blurs the boundaries between documentation and art, leaving a personal and highly topical impression.

### **Stereotypes, conflict zones and a highly topical depiction of escape**

Vietnamese Hien Hoang won in the category Framing Identity with the project *'Asia Bistro - Made in Rice'*. In her works, she confronts us with classic notions of Asian culture. In the Framing Society category, the Anglo-American artist Alexandra Rose Howland won for the project *'Leave and Let Us Go'*. Through collages of everyday images collected from the inhabitants of Mosul, she strives to unfold a more nuanced and diverse image of the war-torn region, which is often only known through the media coverage.

American-Latvian-Lithuanian Krista Svalbonas won in the category Framing Vision, which honors an aesthetic visionary project. With *'Displacement'*, she explores the history of her parents and grandparents. After Russia's invasion of the Baltic countries in the 1940s, they were driven into exile and housed in camps for displaced people in Germany. The project illustrates the unfortunate story of displaced people for whom

the idea of "home" is undermined by political agendas beyond their control. The war in Ukraine puts her historically investigative works in a frighteningly contemporary perspective.

### **The festival gathers Danish photography and puts a long-term focus on talents**

In addition to the three solo exhibitions, this year's festival highlights emerging talents and leading Danish photographers. According to Managing director Maja Dyrehauge Gregersen, it is important that the festival shows the audience the quality and diversity that the Danish photo scene has to offer.

"Copenhagen Photo Festival is the natural gathering place for leading actors within Danish photography. I am particularly proud that this year's festival presents many internationally oriented and entrepreneurial actors from the Danish photo and art scene. Amongst other, there will be exhibitions, a market for photo books, and activities from the Photojournalist education at DMJX, TOFU Collective, Fotogodsbanen from Århus, PhotoScope from Hillerød, Blankt Papir Press and many more", says Maja Dyrehauge Gregersen.

Another central part of the festival's work is to lift the Danish talent pool. At the festival, you can therefore once again experience Futures Nordic Talents, which presents the five photographers Iben Gad, Inuuteq Storch, Luna Scales, Oscar Scott Carl and Tine Bek. The Futures Nordic Talents initiative is a talent program that helps accentuate emerging Danish photographers. It is supported by the EU's cultural support program Creative Europe and runs until 2024.

### **Activities for photo enthusiasts throughout Copenhagen**

At the festival site at Refshaleøen, you can look forward to a sharp program of workshops, talks, music and guided tours, which will be held throughout the festival period. Here you can learn more about photography, play with the media's tools or just enjoy the festival atmosphere. There is also ample opportunity to experience the photographic media unfold throughout many of the art galleries, museums, and cultural institutions across Greater Copenhagen, for example at Fotografisk Center, Martin Asbæk Gallery, Alice Folker Gallery, NW Gallery, Banja Rathnov Gallery and Clausens Kunsthandel, together with Det Grønlandske Hus, Landskrona Foto og Galleri Format in Malmö amongst others. Copenhagen Photo Festival 2022 is currently supported by the City of Copenhagen, Det Obelske Familiefond and Creative Europe – the EU's cultural support program.

The final festival program will be updated continuously at [copenhagenphotofestival.com](http://copenhagenphotofestival.com)

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### **About Copenhagen Photo Festival**

On 2-12 June 2022, the Nordic region's largest photo festival kicks off for the 12th time. The festival is held in close collaboration with galleries, museums and cultural institutions in Copenhagen and southern Sweden. Every year established and budding Danish and foreign photographers contribute, and the festival is visited by approximately 55.000 people. The festival puts photography on the agenda under the three main pillars Framing Identity, Framing Society and Framing Vision through exhibitions, workshops, talks, portfolio reviews and social events.

## Profiles

### Hien Hoang

In 2014, Hien Hoang won her first photo prize, the Deutsche Jugendfotopreis, and since then, the Vietnamese photo artist has received nominations in everything from FUTURES Photography Talent to Hamburger Contemporary ArtGrant. This summer, you can experience her work at Copenhagen Photo Festival where her project *'Asia Bistro - Made in Rice'* will be exhibited. Hien Hoang's photographic art uses satirical contrasts to illuminate and challenge our understanding of stereotypes, clichés and the growing violence and discrimination against people of Asian descent in the West. She wants to create a reflective space where human's usual way of looking at the outside world can be provoked and challenged.

### Alexandra Rose Howland

Anglo-American Alexandra Rose Howland has lived in the Middle East for the past decade. Here, she has focused on creating works that challenge and expand the understanding of how geopolitics can be communicated. Alexandra Rose Howland is a former abstract painter and experiments with multidimensional works using images, found objects, interviews and video. At Copenhagen Photo Festival 2022, you can experience Alexandra Rose Howland's work from her time in Mosul: Everyday images in collages collected from the local Iraqis. Through the works, she tries to expand the understanding of how conflict can be portrayed resulting in a pictorial dialogue about a war-torn region of Iraq which is so much more than what the fighting shows.

### Krista Svalbonas

American-Latvian-Lithuanian Krista Svalbona's work is now more highly topical than ever. At the Copenhagen Photo Festival you can experience her work *'Displacement'* in which she via laser print adds text from letters from displaced people to images of German military buildings used as camps for displaced people after the World War II. In this way, she examines her family's background as Baltic-American emigrants who fled the Russian invasion after World War II. With the war in Ukraine, the works have gained frightening new relevance and puts the destructive nature of the war in perspective across generations – from the axis power of the 1940s to the invasion of the East in the 2020s. Krista Svalbonas has been awarded Baumanis Creative Projects and the Latvian Foundation Grant for *'Displacement'*.

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