

# British Journal of Photography

ESTABLISHED 1854



# Ones to Watch

CURRENT ISSUE  
NOT TO BE  
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# Ones to Watch

Monochrome documentary, bright staged shots, edgy collage, images found in porn – this year's 15 Ones to Watch have vastly different approaches. What they have in common is a singularity of vision and practice. Many come from multicultural backgrounds, and some have endured intensely difficult periods of war and forced migration. These experiences have only sharpened their distinctive styles, something we consider when selecting emerging photographers for our annual talent issue, now in its 13th edition.

Take Saad Eltinay, who lived through mass protests and a change of regime in Sudan; for him this revolution was as much in mind and spirit as it was in governance: "It wasn't just a political revolution, it was personal and existential. It was about how you relate to the world, about power and what can be said, and that includes arguing for aesthetic freedom."

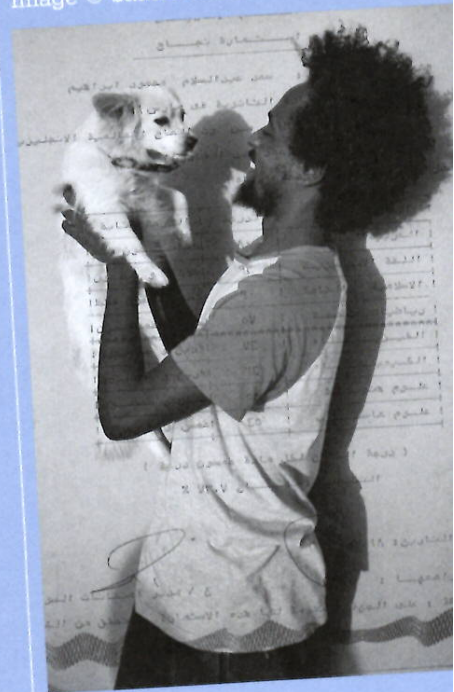
Like Eltinay, many of these Ones to Watch are questioning the medium, whether decolonising picturing people (Imane Djamil) or applying sheer resourcefulness to image-making (Vuyo Mabheka). As such their work suggests fresh perspectives, from a generation growing up surrounded by photographs and more networked than ever before.

"We suppress thinking about the future out of fear of what awaits us; absurd videos and memes are a response to the chaos surrounding us," comments Ones to Watch nominee Michał Maliński. "The longer you stay somewhere, the closer it seems. Fiction can at some points become the truest reality. By photographing and reconstructing scenes observed on the internet, I create a kind of 'post near documentary' because it concerns a new, contemporary reality."

**Diane Smyth**  
Editor

# 1

Image © Saad Eltinay.



**Saad Eltinay**  
Sudan

Born in 1995, Saad Eltinay lived in Khartoum until 2023, when military conflict forced him and his family to leave. He is now living in Paris on a one-year residency at the Cité Internationale des arts in the centre Marais district. Eltinay's images of Sudan's 2018 protests were published internationally and exhibited at Artforum, but he says his work is concerned generally with power and its misuse.  
Pages 48–53

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# 2

Image © Kolavolé Atcho.



## Sènamì Donoumassou

Benin

Sènamì Donoumassou experiments with light, often using photosensitive paper in her work. Born in Benin, in 2022 she was the first recipient of the James Barnor Prize, an award which "supports photography talents in the African continent or wider African diaspora". She has had shows and residencies at Institut Français and Le Centre in Cotonou, Benin, and Villa Saint-Louis Ndar at the Institut Français in Senegal. Pages 54–59

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# 3

Image © Myles Bailey.



## Ibrahim Azab

United Kingdom

London-based artist and curator Ibrahim Azab shifts between sculpture, performance and photography to consider process, perception, materiality, and the relationship between the subconscious and reality. Graduating from Arts University Bournemouth in 2017, he is currently a visiting lecturer at London College of Communication, and has exhibited at Seen Fifteen, HOME by Ronan McKenzie, South Kiosk and the Royal Academy of Arts. Pages 60–66

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# 4



## Varvara Uhlik

Ukraine

Raised in Dnipro, central eastern Ukraine, Varvara Uhlik studied at Jagiellonian University, Kraków, and the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, before moving to London, where she is pursuing an MA at the Slade School of Fine Art. Uhlik is currently unable to return to her hometown, and her work explores feelings around this fact as well as the legacy of her childhood, which she describes as inflected with Soviet-era values. Pages 68–73

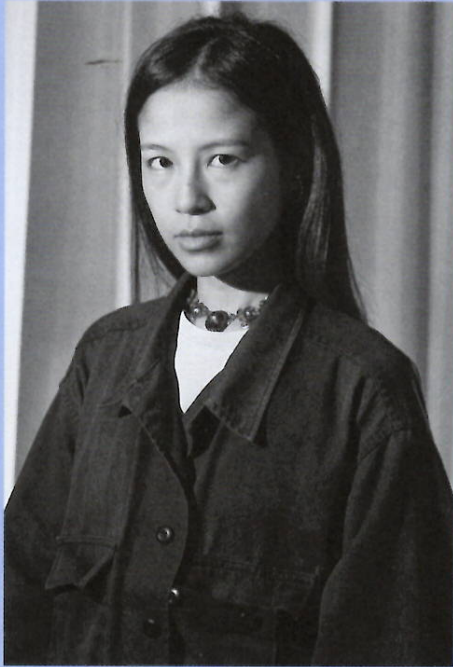
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# 5

Image © Raphaël Lugassy.



## **My-Lan Hoang-Thuy** France

Based in Paris, My-Lan Hoang-Thuy graduated from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in 2018. She has published four books and in 2023 exhibited her work at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie. Hoang-Thuy was born in 1990 in Bourg-la-Reine, a suburb just south of Paris, but says her work is influenced by her Vietnamese heritage, her interest in the history of photography, and the women's magazines she grew up with.  
Pages 74–79

# 6



## **Teva Cosic** Australia

Drawing on her Swedish and Croatian heritage, Teva Cosic explores identity and the construction of social, cultural and emotional connections. Her work was recently on show in the PHOTO 2024 International Festival of Photography in Melbourne and Victoria, and won the Perth Center for Photography IRIS Award in 2023. Cosic was born in 1994 in Australia, and pays respect to the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, acknowledging that their sovereignty has never been ceded.  
Pages 80–85

# 7



## **Farhana Satu** Bangladesh

Farhana Satu has studied at the University of London, Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, and Danish School of Media and Journalism. Born in Bagherat District, she is based in Dhaka and works closely on assignments for organisations such as Drik Picture Library and Unicef. Satu's images cover topics such as climate change, the environment and contemporary urban life, and have been shown at DOK19 in Norway, Angkor Photo Festival and, most recently, NGV Triennial in Melbourne.  
Pages 86–93



# 8



## **Hashim Nasr** Sudan

Born in 1990 in Khartoum, Hashim Nasr studied dentistry but taught himself photography. Forced to leave Sudan in April 2023 after the outbreak of fighting, Nasr is now based in Alexandria, Egypt, where he is exploring the consequences of being a refugee. Nasr's work is staged and rooted in his interest in Surrealism and conceptual art; rather than documenting his experiences, he says, he hopes to explore their emotional impact.

Pages 94–101

# 9

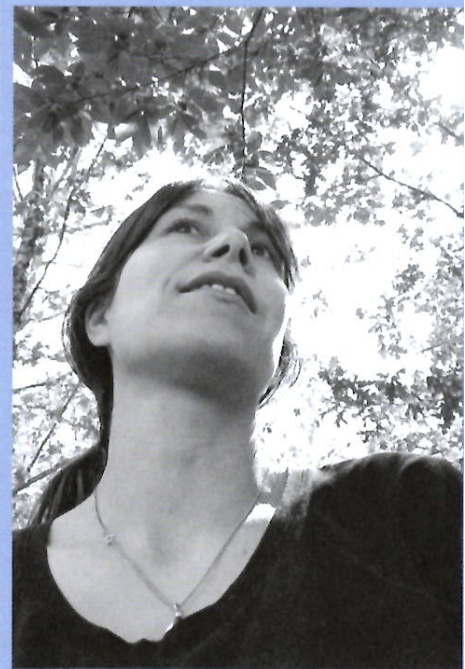


## **Karice Mitchell** Canada

Karice Mitchell is a lecturer at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, and a photo-based installation artist who uses found imagery and digital manipulation to explore the representation of the Black female body in pornography and popular culture. She received her BFA at York University in 2019, and MFA at the University of Waterloo in June 2021, both in Canada. Mitchell lives on the unceded and traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Pages 102–107

# 10



## **Bandia Ribeira** Spain

Bandia Ribeira graduated with a degree in political science, but went on to study documentary photography at University of South Wales, Newport, and visual arts at Universidad de Almería, Spain. She works on long-term documentary projects, and in 2023 was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to research and make work in the US. She opted to create new images in California's Central Valley, revisiting the locations in which Dorothea Lange photographed migrant farm workers in the 1930s.

Pages 108–114

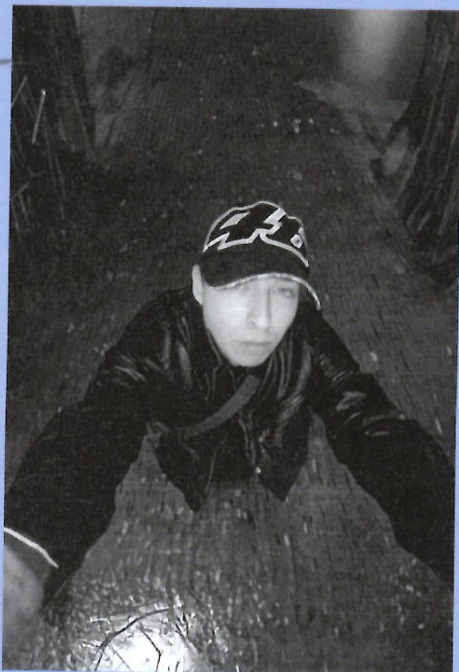
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# 11

Image © Michał Maliński.



## **Michał Maliński** Poland

Born in 1997, Michał Maliński studied graphic arts at the Kraków Academy of Fine Arts and now makes work across media, including photography, painting and sculpture. While finishing his studies, he experienced the pandemic, a global environmental crisis, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine; rather than be tempted to hide away online, he was inspired to create new work about viral videos. Maliński also shoots magazine editorials, and co-founded the Szaber collective and gallery, and Progrefonik web portal. Pages 116–123

# 12

Image © Devashish Gaur.

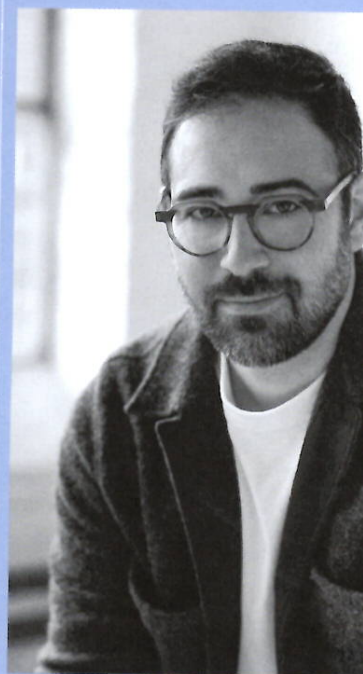


## **Devashish Gaur** India

Combining old images found in family albums, archives and vintage shops with screenshots, photocopies, his own pictures and even painting, Devashish Gaur's interdisciplinary practice explores domesticity, distance, intimacy and identity. Gaur was born in 1996 in Delhi, and became interested in photography as a teen; he studied journalism and communication before moving in more experimental directions. His work has been shown at Photoink Gallery, Delhi, and Al Hamriyah Studios, UAE, and published by Aperture Foundation, IMA, Japan, and *Art in America*. Pages 124–131

# 13

Image © Carina Skrobecki.



## **Rafael Soldi** Peru

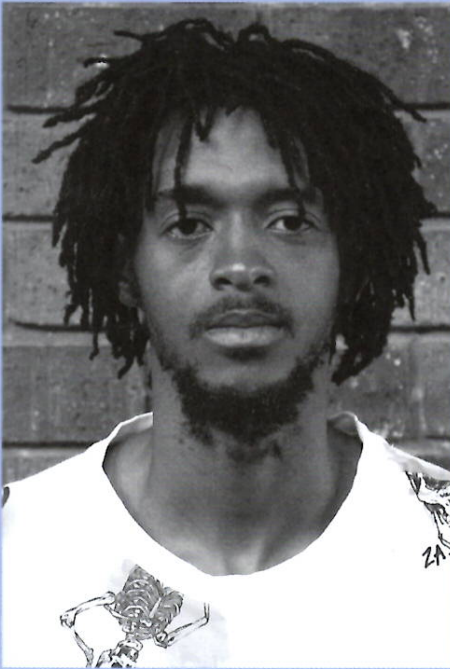
Rafael Soldi is a Peru-born artist and independent curator based in Seattle (unceded Indigenous land of the Coast Salish peoples). He uses video, photography, installation, text and performance to reflect on masculinity, language, immigration, violence and memory, informed by his queer Peruvian identity. Soldi holds a BA in photography and curatorial studies from the Maryland Institute College of Art, and has shown work at the Getty Museum of Photography, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo and CLAMP. He is also co-founder of the Strange Fire Collective. Pages 132–139

### **Contributors**

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# 14



## Vuyo Mabheka South Africa

Vuyo Mabheka was born in 1999 in Libode, Eastern Cape, and was introduced to photography in 2017 through the Of Soul and Joy photo initiative in Buhlebuzile Secondary School. He studied at the Market Photo Workshop and is now represented by Afronova Gallery in Johannesburg, which exhibited his work during Paris Photo in 2023. Central to Mabheka's approach is the concept of 'umkokotelo', a colloquial word describing reinvented structures in South African townships. Pages 140-147



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# 15



## Imane Djamil Morocco

A self-taught visual storyteller, Imane Djamil was born in Casablanca in 1996. She experiments with new approaches to documentary driven by her frustration at dehumanising western approaches. She has exhibited at Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, PHotoESPAÑA, the biennale in Bamako, and the Sharjah Biennial, and worked with *The New York Times*, *M le Magazine* and Reuters. In 2020 she co-founded the KOZ Collective with photographers M'hammed Kilito, Yasmine Hatimi and Seif Koussate. Pages 148-155

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