

Open Nights Festival Vol.10
09-19 Οκτωβρίου 2025

ύδωρ^{H2O}

Λογοτεχνική Γωνία - Μύλος του Παππά - Wisedog

εικαστικά, φωτογραφία, performances, residencies,
προβολές, διαλέξεις, ποίηση, workshops



ΔΗΜΟΣ ΛΑΡΙΣΑΙΩΝ
ΑΝΤΙΔΗΜΑΡΧΙΑ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ



φωτογραφία
photography

Σε έναν κόσμο που υφίσταται ρα-
γδαίες περιβαλλοντικές αλλαγές, το
νερό αναδεικνύεται ταυτόχρονα ως
σύμβολο κρίσης και ανθεκτικότητας.

Το 10ο φεστιβάλ Open Nights προ-
σφέρει μια πλατφόρμα διαλόγου
— έναν χώρο όπου καλλιτέχνες επι-
στήμονες και κοινό μπορούν να στο-
χαστούν πάνω στην παρουσία του
νερού στη ζωή μας. Καλεί έτσι σε μια
ανανεωμένη επίγνωση των σωματι-
κών, συναισθηματικών και οικολογι-
κών του διαστάσεων.

Το φεστιβάλ τιμήθηκε με το EFFE
Quality Label 2024–25 από τον Ευ-
ρωπαϊκό Οργανισμό Φεστιβάλ.

Ρούλα Καραφέρη

*Χορογράφος
Καλλιτεχνική Διευθύντρια
του Φεστιβάλ Open Nights*

In a world undergoing rapid
environmental change, water
emerges as both a symbol of crisis
and resilience.

The 10th Open Nights festival offers
a platform for dialogue—a space
where artists, scientists, and the
public can reflect on the presence
of water in our lives. In this way, it
calls for a renewed awareness of its
physical, emotional, and ecological
dimensions.

The festival has been honored with
the EFFE Quality Label 2024–25 by
the European Festivals Association.

Roula Karaféri

*Choreographer
Artistic Director of the
Open Nights Festival*

1. Vera Barkalova

(Ρωσία/Γεωργία - Russia/Georgia)

“Obscurity”

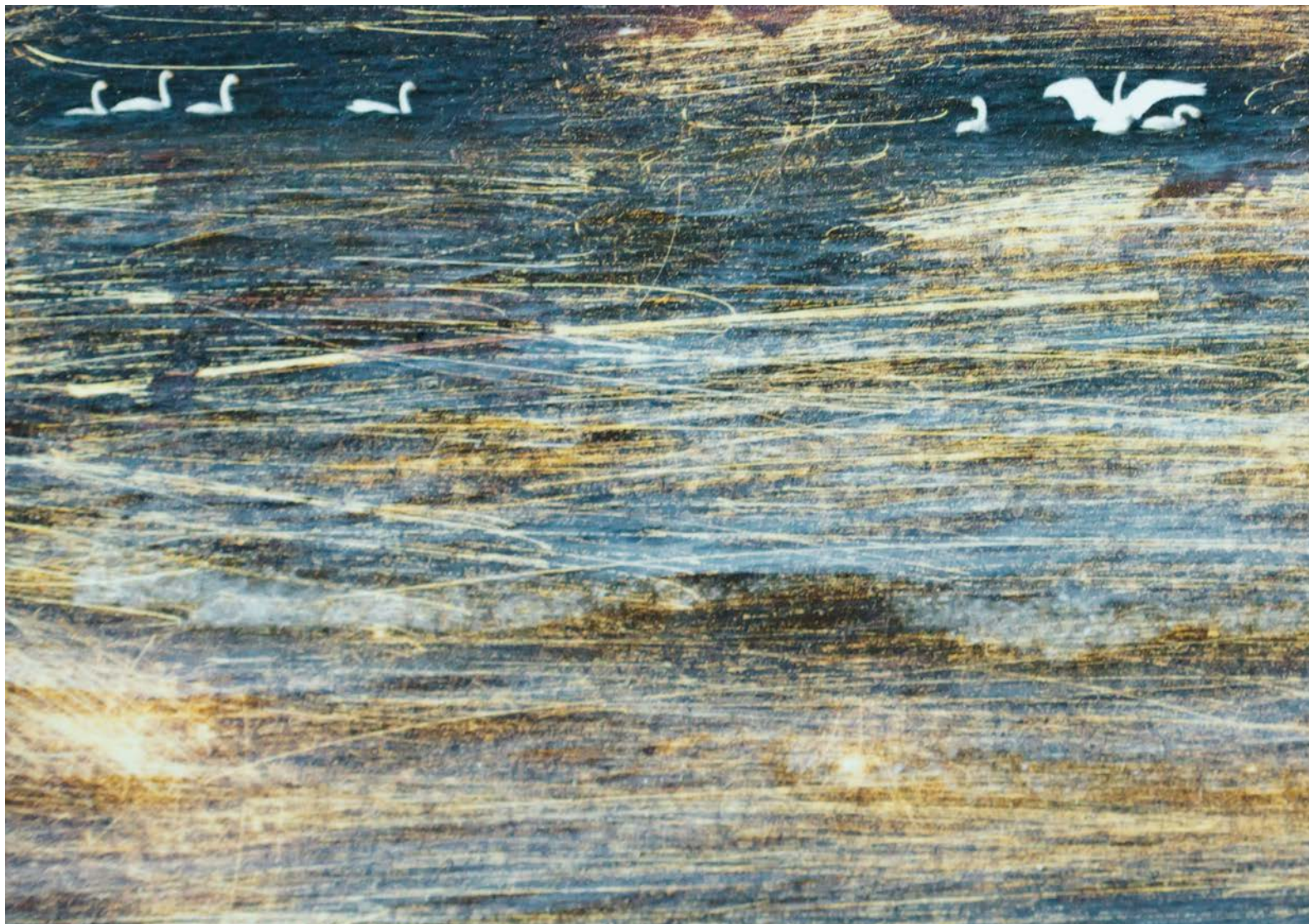
2022

material: photography

The project “Obscurity” (2022 - 2024) explores people living on the fringes of society, existing outside social norms and control. Set against bleak natural landscapes - rivers, swamps, forests - it evokes a profound sense of inner darkness, loneliness, and deep anxiety, forewarning an impending crisis and inevitable catastrophe in contemporary Russia.



Vera Barkalova is a photographer and artist based in Tbilisi, Georgia. Her work explores taboo themes such as corporeality, stigmatization, and social instability. Due to the bold and provocative nature of these subjects, she has yet to hold a solo exhibition in Russia. Vera is a recipient of the Garage Museum grant and a two-time winner of the Young Photographer of Europe competition, recognized internationally for her contributions to contemporary art.



2. Olga Dyakina

(Рωσια - Russia)

“Cat Island talks to me”

2022-2024

*material: experimental
photography*

Instagram @songinthesoul.

This project examines human-nature alienation through dialogue with Kanonersky Island (once Cat). Presenting the island as a living entity with its own memory, the author addresses its ecological wounds using salt (symbolizing human traces) and its coastal water to alter photographs. This process poetizes polluted landscapes, revealing beauty that resists destruction and creating a new sense of belonging.

Olga Dyakina is an interdisciplinary artist and writer, a graduate of photography schools and courses in contemporary art. Her work engages ecology, the poetry of everyday life, memory, attention and relationships to urban space - including through the study of non-human agents. Her practice encompasses photography, collage, text, video and art objects.

3. Makrushin Gleb

(Рωσiα - Russia)

“premonition”

2024

material: printing

Premonition is the moment before, before the onset, or before the end. The moment where the upcoming life turn is felt, with every piece of the body, there is no explanation for this knowledge, but there is a reinforced concrete confidence that it is true and will not deceive. As if it wants the best for you, and where ignoring it would be a much greater loss than trusting this strange clairvoyant blow



Gleb Makrushin was born in Kemerovo in 2002. He started his creative career in 2019. Having studied various genres of photographic art, he chose photography as the main medium for artistic expression and research practice. Currently lives and works in St. Petersburg.

4. Σοφία Καπνίσση

(Ελλάδα/Ολλανδία - Greece/Netherlands)

“Water pools along a walking path”

2025

*material: photographs
(prints in variable sizes)*

This series of photographs presents water pools observed by a walker looking around. The artist has been doing walking trails in this area, from village to village, for a few years before focusing on these pools. These are human-created according to specific rules - size, depth, position, etc. - that are set in order to ensure the biotope for amphibians, dragonflies, beetles, and several other sorts of bugs and microorganisms; some of them being endangered species. Flying-by birds and walking-by animals make use of the pools; grazing cattle are most welcome to these waters while fish are not, nor are humans unless they work for the maintenance of the pools. They are filled from earth and rain water, yet without human care these pools either dry out or fill with soil and detritus; they need to be cleaned from the swampy mud that forms



in their bottom and be monitored about the quality of their water; the pools are documented and certified as biotopes. Among several surface waters in the area, varying in type, size, and purpose, these small scale still waters with their smooth surface, mirror the ever changing sky and the surrounding environment; a wonder to look for along the walking path. The presented photographs are made in Zeeland province, in south-west Netherlands and very close to the border with Belgium.

Sofia Kapnissi (b.1966, Athens) is a visual artist. She studied painting at the School of Visual and Applied Arts of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (1985-90) and at the Free Academy of Visual Arts of The Hague. She also holds an MA in Book and Digital Media Studies from Leiden University. She is co-founder of the artists' group Gaidaro and of the art platform “geborgen kamers” which from 1999 to 2008 presented projects advocating for wide participation in the art practice and presentation.



5. Anton Klimov

(Рωσsια - Russia)

“Farmers on Lake Baikal chip away at the ice so their cows can drink”

25 Feb 2021

“Ivan takes a dip in Lake Baikal after a run”

30 July 2018

“Dmitry dives into Lake Baikal”

16 Aug 2022

material: photo

Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world and the largest freshwater reservoir. Since 2015, the author has been exploring the communication between different groups of people and Lake Baikal in the context of the unique identity and mythology of this space, often referred to as a place of power. They investigate the system of relationships established among local residents, tourists from Irkutsk, and from other cities and countries. They delve into the conflict that has arisen here between ecology and economy: many industries, which were sources of income for local residents, have closed, and the tourism sector is not in a rush to develop here.

Documentary photographer, member of the Union of Photo Artists of Russia. Lives and works in Irkutsk. His work has been published in Forbes, The Washington Post, Spiegel, Le Parisien, RBC, Lenta.ru, Takie Dela, Meduza, Novaya Gazeta and other publications.

6. Irina Korshunova

(Рωσία/Γεωργία - Russia/Georgia)

Work #3: “sea. you 03”

Work #4: “sea. you 04”

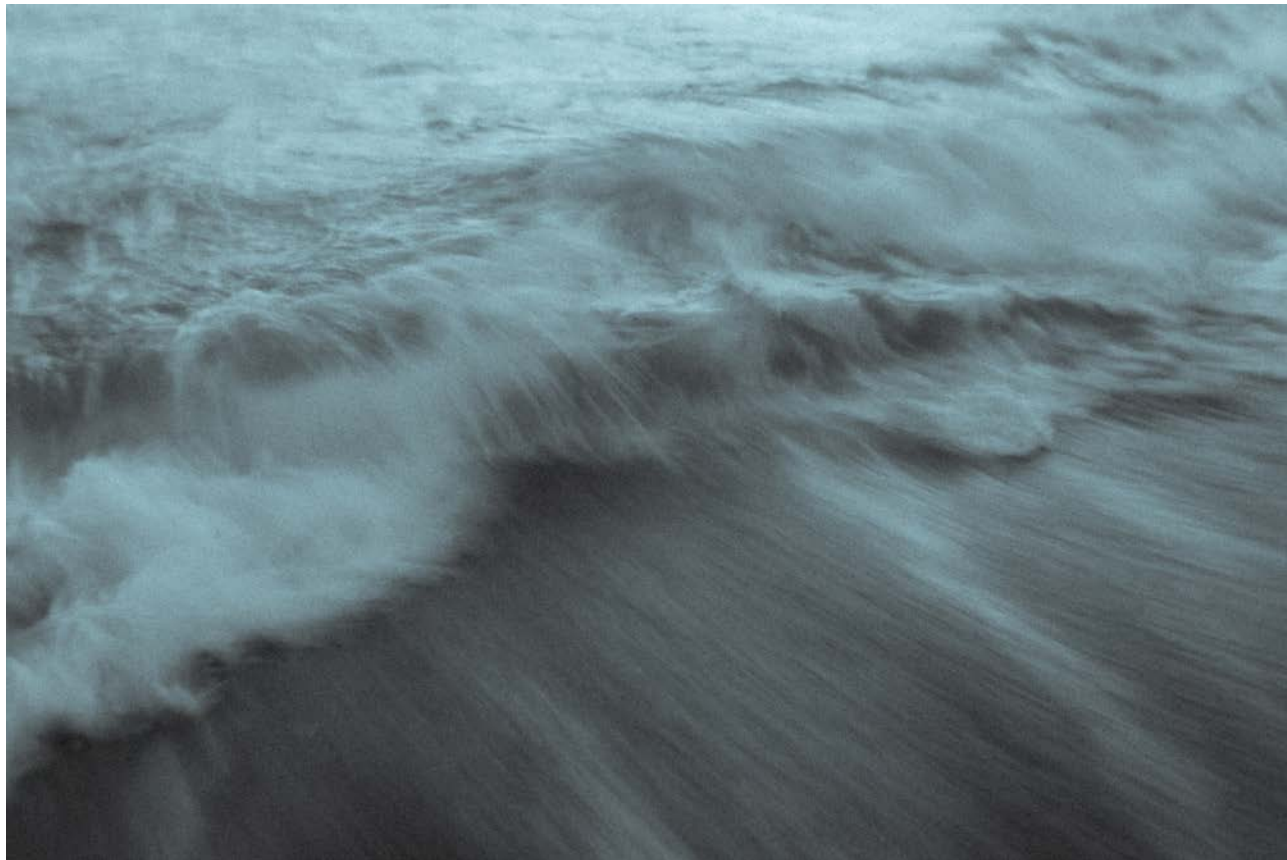
June 17, 2023

material: photographic paper, needle, paint

Water carries stories - both personal and collective. It shapes landscapes, erodes boundaries, and reflects the fluidity of human experience. My photographic series, created during a journey along the coast of the Red Sea and further developed through a mixed-media approach, explores the emotional and symbolic depths of water as a space of transition, memory and renewal. In this series, water is not only a physical element but also a metaphor for anticipation and transformation. Inspired by my recent travels. My images delve into the way water mirrors inner emotions - hope, longing, change and impermanence.



I'm a photographer and visual artist based in Tbilisi, blending my scientific background with a deep emotional approach to image-making. Inspired by retro aesthetics of the 80s - 90s, I use color, blur, and grain to evoke memory and longing. Originally trained as a microbiologist, I now merge art and science to explore transformation and perception



7. Natalia Kosolapova

(Ρωσία/Τσεχία - Russia/Czech Republic)

“Stillness of Water”

“Stillness of Water” is a photographic series in which water is viewed not only as a natural element, but also as a state of being - a state of silence, inner peace, contemplation, and impermanence. Captured with long exposure and a monochrome lens, the images of waves, foam, and sand lose their sharpness and become soft, blurred. They no longer describe nature - they evoke a feeling, a sensation of complete dissolution and inner stillness.

The project was born from quiet moments by the ocean - those times when being near water brings clarity, calm, and a sense of presence in the now. The vanishing traces, washed away by the tide, become metaphors for time, memory, and the fragility of each moment.

The series responds to the festival’s theme - H₂O (Water) - by presenting water as a spiritual and emotional conduit. In these works, water becomes a gateway to the inner world - it clears, soothes, and dissolves internal noise.

These photographs do not tell stories - they create a space of silence, where the viewer can pause, slow down, and simply be. It is an invitation to contem-

plation, to a state where the boundary between outer and inner dissolves, and only the present remains.

Natalia Kosolapova is a visual artist working with photography and mixed media. She was born in 1988 in Mozdok, Russia, and for the past nine years has been living and working in the Czech Republic, which she now considers her home.

She has been practicing photography since 2016. In recent years, she has been exploring visual arts more deeply, combining analog and digital approaches, collage, and mixed techniques. In 2024, she completed the Master of Photography Arts program at the Institute of Visual Arts (IVA). Natalia’s work focuses on themes of contemplation, inner silence, presence, and the connection between humans and nature. Nature is not only her source of inspiration, but also a space where emotional and sensory states arise - and become the foundation of her visual language.

8. Alisa Lapshina

(Рωσiα - Russia)

“1 386 000 000 km³”

2023

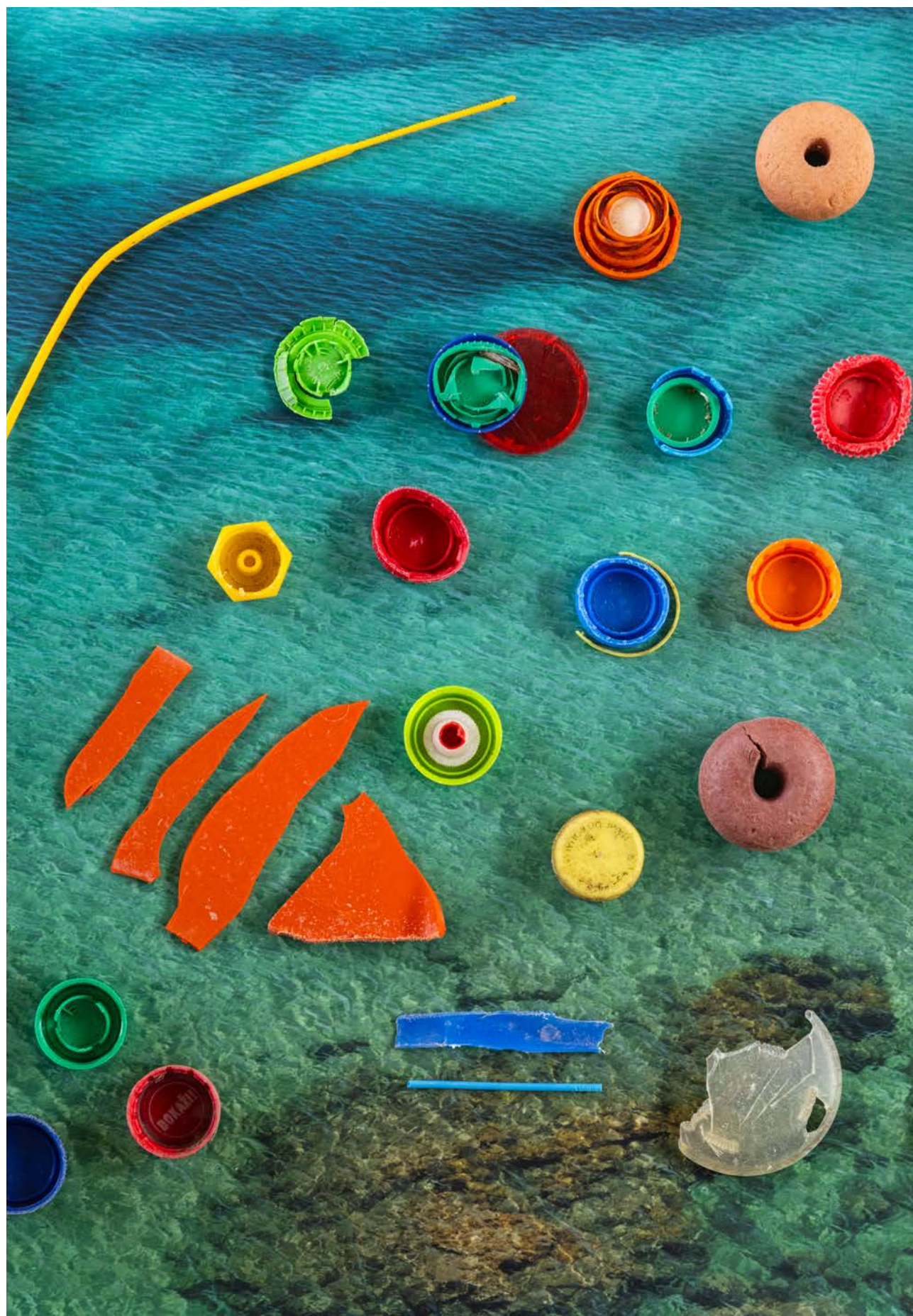
material: photography



Alisa Lapshina is a contemporary artist based in Moscow. Her work combines photography, sound, video, and objects into immersive, multi-sensory installations that explore themes of perception and identity.



Her portfolio includes exhibitions at the Winzavod Contemporary Art Centre, the HSE Art Gallery, the Pingyao International Photography Festival, the 2nd Quanzhou International Biennial and currently she is a resident of the “Photobase” programme at the GES-2 House of Culture VAULTS. The project “1 386 000 000 km³” received a grant from the Russian Artists’ Union and was showcased in several cities.



9. Isaeva Liubov

(Ρωσία/Ελλάδα - Russia/Greece)

“Azzuro#3”

February 2004

“Azzuro#8”

December 2004

material: photography

Liubov Isaeva was born in Saint Petersburg, Russia, she obtained a Master's degree in Natural Sciences from Saint Petersburg State University. After moving to Greece in 2015, she became involved in photography and has been participating in artistic photography workshops. Her work explores the interaction between humans and nature, highlighting both the inspiring influence of nature and the human impact on it, with the aim of creating awareness and stimulating dialogue. She shares her experiences with kids at summer camps.

Her photo projects have been featured in group exhibitions in Europe.

10. Anna Poloneeva

(Рωσια - Russia)

“Union of heaven and earth”

August 2023

media: digital photography



“Krasnaya Talka” series of work, is a repository of intertwined meanings. It is a memory of the difficult revolutionary events of the past, a connection with which I feel in the present, realizing the unity of human destinies. Turning to the history of my native region through a metaphorical portal in the form of a real river, I found support in times of event fluctuations. The image of water is a looking glass, reflecting visible pain, transforming it into eternal love.

Anna Poloneeva is a visual artist who explores the metaphysical essence of man and the surrounding reality through a dialogue with external reflection and eventfulness. Relying on her own feelings, she builds connections between reality and the spiritual world. For her, a camera is the closest way to understanding and searching for the true essence of things. She often uses post-processing of images to embody the presence of invisible images.



11. Victoria Popkova

(Рωσsια - Russia)

“Embodiment of Water”

2024

media: digital photography

You can endlessly watch the water flow. Slowly, smoothly, taking away all the anxiety and problems, washing away all the pain and anger, calming. I often imagine running water to calm down and relax, my photo is the embodiment of this feeling. Shot on Canon 850d 13-135mm.

Since 2022, I have participated in over 30 exhibitions in cities such as Moscow (Russia), Moscow Region (Russia), Borovsk (Russia), Trieste (Italy), Balashikha (Russia), Yelets (Russia), Medyn (Russia), Voronezh (Russia), Novosibirsk (Russia), St. Petersburg (Russia), Vorkuta (Russia), Khabarovsk (Russia), Krasnoyarsk (Russia) and Rostov-on-Don (Russia). My works have been auctioned and are in private collections.

12. Nika Sandler

(Рωσiα - Russia)

“The Ancient Depths”

2024

*material: digital image,
AI-generated and post-processed*

In light of the increasingly concerning news about the imminent fate of the oceans, I find myself contemplating the issue of extinction with greater frequency. In collaboration with artificial intelligence, I dive into ancient waters and capture the inhabitants whose existence was interrupted and whose evidence is preserved in fossils. The aim of this work is to illustrate the fragility of life and to prompt reflection on the current, rapid extinction in which humanity plays a pivotal role.



Nika Sandler is an artist working with photography, AI and text. She explores the themes of human and non-human gaze, gender, pleasure, creepy and disgusting. Her work has been published in i-D, Dazed, Libération, PhotoVogue, Unthinking Photography, Lenscratch, Musée Magazine, Photomonitor, Der Greif, Fisheye Magazine, Phroom Platform, Konbini, The Calvert Journal, Publico, Metal Magazine, PhMuseum, L’Oeil de la Photographie, BROAD, F-Stop, Bad to the Bone, Float Magazine and many others. She is also the winner of the Small File Photo Festival 2023 organized by The Photographers’ Gallery.





ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού



GREENPEACE



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ΝΤΟΚ\ΜΑΝΤΕΡ
ΠΕΛΟΠΟΝΝΗΣΟΥ



πλήρες πρόγραμμα:
www.opennightsfestival.com

