

Fotografisk Center presents this year's *Young Danish Photography*, exploring themes of identity, migration, culture, and artificial intelligence



Salih Basheer, *The Home Seekers*, 2019 - 2021

Fotografisk Center is pleased to introduce the annual exhibition of Young Danish Photography, which has been providing qualified insights into new talents and trends within the Danish photographic art scene since 1998. This year's exhibition delves into topics such as the personal quest for belonging, how algorithms and artificial intelligence define gender, and whether it's possible to map the lives and conditions of migrant sex workers in Denmark. The participating artists for this year include Ada Ada Ada, Salih Basheer, Sarah Hartvigsen Juncker & Louise Herrche Serup, Minh Ngoc Nguyen, and Ville Vidø. The exhibition is curated by the platform Atla, operated by Linnea Frandsen and Cecilie Skovdal Stephansen.

Exhibition opening: November 3, 5.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Exhibition period: November 4 – December 17, 2023

Artist Talk: November 30, 5.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Following the exhibition opening, everyone is invited to join at ÅBEN Brewery, Tank Bar & Restaurant, where there will be a DJ and beers with a discount.

Young Danish Photography '23 presents six artists with a total of five exhibition projects, each contributing personal and collective narratives, socially relevant issues, and visualisations of abstract concepts, each from their unique perspective and artistic practice. The exhibition encompasses a wide range, showcasing both documentary and conceptual, as well as abstract works. What is common between all the artists in the exhibition is their playful, experimental, or inquisitive approach to the medium and their unwavering courage to challenge and expand the medium thematically, conceptually, or materially.

Who has access to tell stories?

The exhibition is anchored in the question of access as a phenomenon. Which artists are granted access to showcase and narrate stories in an exhibition space? What kind of stories become visible, and which remain hidden? And who holds the power to determine this? The artists in *Young Danish Photography '23* have been carefully selected by this year's curators to present diverse projects, ranging from the personal to the collective, and from the documentary to the imaginative. What unites the participating artists is their use of the camera to depict, explore, and challenge reality as they perceive it.

Ada Ada Ada employs her own transgender body to document her gender transition on the social networking site Instagram. With her own life as a starting point, she challenges algorithmic understandings of gender and bodies. She questions the criteria used by algorithms to determine when the images of her breasts cross the nudity guidelines set by the social networking site. These guidelines pay particular attention to women's breasts, raising the question of when Ada Ada Ada is categorised as a woman in the algorithms' eyes.

Salih Basheer also delves into his own personal narrative. He encapsulates his search for belonging after being a migrant for most of his life. Through photography, text, and sound, he creates a moving portrait of the challenges and vulnerabilities he has experienced as a migrant in both Egypt and Denmark in his attempt to find a place to call home.

Another insightful story about migration unfolds in the collaboration between the artist duo Louise Herrche Serup and Sarah Hartvigsen Juncker, who, with a deep photojournalistic approach, have embarked on mapping and capturing the lives and conditions of migrant sex workers in Denmark. They have visited no less than 152 clinics that serve as homes and workplaces for migrant sex workers. With the assistance of about 35 workers, they have managed to create a portrait of the hidden parallel world where sex workers live and work.

While selected artists focus on either personal autobiographical journeys or in-depth documentary narratives, Ville Vidø presents a project that blends autobiography and fantasy, taking a completely unique form. Vidø creates a fictional, installation-based universe that serves as a living mirror of our society's increasing emphasis on efficiency, where neurodivergent individuals are often forced to adapt and demonstrate a special degree of mental agility.

In a different way, Minh Ngoc Nguyen explores our society and culture by mimicking Western representations of Southeast Asian culture through his photographic still lifes. With a distinctive studio-lit aesthetic characteristic of his imagery, Nguyen deconstructs and reconstructs Southeast Asian objects and iconography in his photo studio. Through this aesthetic approach, surreal tableaux emerge, challenging and unfolding Western stereotypes about Southeast Asian culture and imagery.

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The exhibition is accompanied by an exhibition catalogue that provides deeper insights into the artists and their projects. It can unfold in different ways and includes loose leaflets with works, artist biographies, and the artists' own descriptions of their exhibited projects. This is further complemented by a text written by Atla, which revolves around their curatorial considerations in working with *Young Danish Photography '23*.

The exhibition is supported by the Danish Art Foundation and the Augustinus Foundation.

Artist Talk Young Danish Photography '23

In connection with the exhibition, an artist talk with the participating artists will be held. The conversation will be moderated by the exhibition's curators Linnea Frandsen and Cecilie Skovdal Stephansen from the Atla platform. This is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the artists, their artistic practices, and their exhibited works.

Time: November 30, 5.00 pm – 6.30 pm.

About this year's curators

This year, Fotografisk Center has invited Atla, a platform for camera-based art run by Linnea Frandsen and Cecilie Skovdal Stephansen, to be guest curators. Atla creates space for artistic collaborations, new dialogues, and knowledge sharing through mentorships, exhibitions, artist talks, panel discussions, and interdisciplinary performances across the Nordic region. All their initiatives have a dedicated focus on collaborating with people and unfolding projects with a unique story to tell or ways to express themselves.

Atla has curated several exhibitions in their former exhibition spaces in Nørrebro, Werkstatt, and Villa Kultur, as well as at the photo festivals Copenhagen Photo Festival and Landskrona Foto. In addition, they have created the Atla on Paper trilogy, which is a crossover between an exhibition and a magazine, along with a series of mentorships with artists such as Matilde Søes Rasmussen (DK), Linnéa Cramer (SE), Dev Dhunsi (NO/IN), and Hjördís Eyþórsdóttir (IS).

Press photos, educational material and contact

For interview arrangements, press previews, or further information, please contact Fotografisk Center: +45 33930996 or pkv@fotografiskcenter.dk

Educational materials for lower secondary and upper secondary education will be produced for the exhibition. The material can be downloaded from *November 3 here*: <https://fotografiskcenter.dk/undervisningsmateriale>.

For additional information and opening hours, please visit www.fotografiskcenter.dk.

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