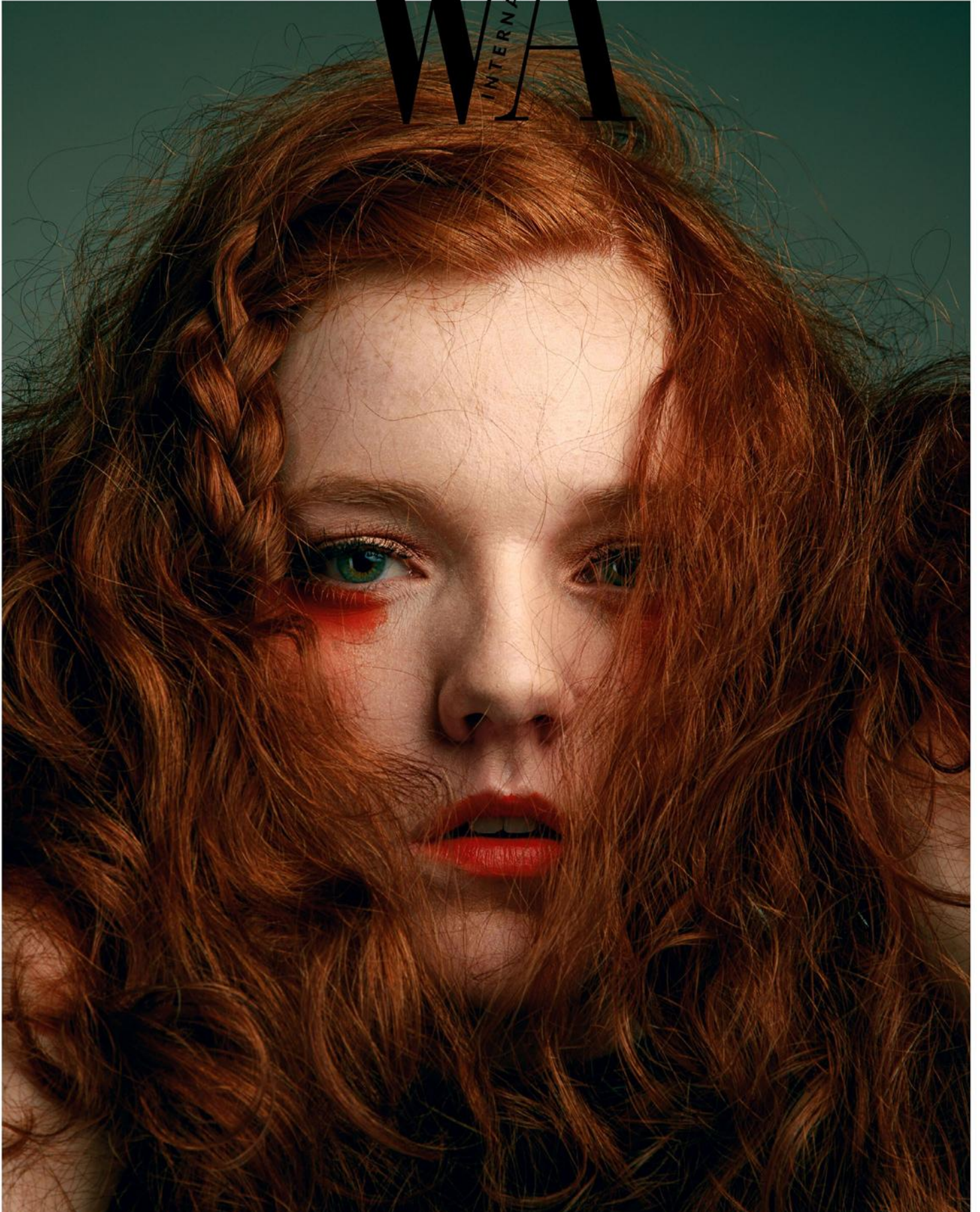


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CREATIVE DIRECTOR

MELANIE KENNY

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FEATURED CREATIVES

AJ ILLUSTRATION | LABOKOFF | DIDIER DE NADAI | AUGUSTO PODEROSI | MYARTSPACE | MUSTHAQ THASLEEM | KATIE NESS | ANIRUDHA RASANE | ALEX MACDONALD | SAMUEL P A ROBERTSON | JAFFAR ALY | STEFANIA RAUS | WENDY RIVARA | KARL HRONEK | WIKTORIA SMIGAS | NATÁLIA BARDELIM



AJ ILLUSTRATION

SHE/HER

WALES, UNITED KINGDOM

INSTAGRAM: @AJILLUSTRATOR

WEBSITE: WWW.AJILLUSTRATION.CO.UK



Amy creates a sense of comfort and warmth in her illustrations, echoing the past and future of Welsh culture. Amy is inspired by the world around her, creating art and illustrations that convey a message or a cause. Working in a pointillist style with pen and ink, Amy's designs are created with a mixture of digital and traditional techniques, exploring social and environmental issues. She is currently working on a free NHS Portrait series, inspired by current events, to illuminate our hard-working key workers during these uncertain times, highlighting the diligent and attentive work during the pandemic.

Mae Amy yn creu ymdeimlad o gysur a chynhesrwydd yn ei lluniau, gan adleisio gorffennol a dyfodol diwylliant Cymru. Mae Amy wedi'i hysbrydoli gan y byd o'i chwmpas, gan greu celf a darluniau sy'n cyfleu neges neu achos. Gan weithio mewn arddull pwyntilistaidd gyda beiro ac inc, crëir dyluniadau Amy gyda chymysgedd o dechnegau digidol a thraddodiadol, gan archwilio materion cymdeithasol ac amgylcheddol. Ar hyn o bryd mae hi'n gweithio ar gyfres Portread GIG am ddim, wedi'i hysbrydoli gan ddiwyddiadau cyfredol, i oleuo ein gweithwyr allweddol gweithgar yn ystod yr amseroedd ansicr hyn, gan dynnu sylw at y gwaith diwyd ac astud yn ystod y pandemig.



LABOKOFF

FABIENNE RIVORY

FRANCE

INSTAGRAM: @LABOKOFF_

WEBSITE: WWW.LABOKOFF.COM

Labokoff is the creative universe of Fabienne Rivory, graphic designer based in France. Her images are constructed by assembling photographs and watercolor to recreate unreal and poetic landscapes. Inspired by the silence of nature and suspended time, her minimalist universe places us at a distance from reality. She collaborates with the publishing industry, the world of culture, interior designers and regularly participates in exhibitions.

Labokoff est l'univers créatif de Fabienne Rivory, graphiste basée à Chartres. Ses images se construisent par assemblage de photographies et de peinture pour recréer des paysages irréels et poétiques. Inspirées par le silence de la nature et le temps suspendu, son univers minimaliste nous emmène à distance de la réalité. Elle collabore avec l'édition, le monde de la culture, des décorateurs d'intérieur et participe régulièrement à des expositions.





Saint-Ouen

Portes desservies par les trains longs



DIDIER

DE NADAI

He / Him

France

@DidierDN

didierdenadai.myportfolio.com

Didier lives and works in Paris as a marketing and communication manager. Every commute, every day off, is an opportunity for him to take pictures and document the every day life of people around him. He's extremely shy, he loves rules and fears the unexpected. That's why he chose street photography as a therapy. Because the streets are full of people who will come close, who will break the codes and who will act surprisingly, they help him face and overcome his fears.

Didier vit et travaille à Paris dans le marketing et la communication. Mais au moindre trajet, au moindre temps libre, il prend des photos et documente le quotidien des gens qui l'entourent. D'un naturel extrêmement réservé, très attaché au respect des règles et détestant l'inattendu, il pratique la photo de rue comme une thérapie. Car la rue est peuplée de gens qui s'approchent, qui transgressent les codes et qui font des choses surprenantes, elle l'aide à affronter ses peurs et à s'en affranchir.



AUGUSTO PODEROSI

ITALY

AUGUSTOPODEROSI

WWW.AUGUSTOPODEROSI.IT

What was your first experience / discovery of art? What prompted you to become an artist?

Certainly artists are born and I was born and will die an artist. In the first years of school my study was through drawing and painting, all subjects converged in this and the discovery of being an artist is because the others identified me as an “artist” (at that time I had no knowledge of this). I immediately started living doing art after the art institute through different experiences in the workshops of goldsmith, mosaic, Roman stucco artisans, etc ... But the revelation of becoming an Artist was a promise made to my father before he died and after a few years I began to work at the Cinecittà film studios in the scenography laboratories. Here I met Federico Fellini who pressed me as co-star actor for Ginger and Fred (it was crazy). Then I made many films as an actor and I understood the power that art can change ourselves to change the world, and I found myself diversifying between cinema, contemporary and sacred art. With the latter, I discovered that even desecrating art is “Sacred” if there is beauty. To be an artist you need a specific strength of mind that others call madness, you have to make compromises with your demons and fight them not to mention the

society that homologates individuals and the relationship that the artist has with them (a total clash). I found myself having an art studio in the Papal Basilica of San. Paolo where I obtained the first important commissions of Sacred Art and restorations for the Holy See and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage. And it is then that I went to study Sacred Art at the Pontifical Benedictine University of Sant’Anselmo where I learned secret information that I keep in myself.

Are there any key themes, messages or theories behind your work?

My creative process is attracted to sacred geometry, any thing or shape is found in it. When I create a work I do not create, only the Divine can do it, but I try to discover what is suggested to me, visualizing with emotion what you want to teach me. Art is a teaching that the artist receives and that must be shared with the viewer. This is why all the arts are sacred. To be honest, traditional school is not for me. I have always needed to experience art directly, working to learn it until I get a result. This gave me the certainty of my path and gave me the opportunity to experiment with all the materials and the ability to solve creative problems. This constancy arises that I have always economically lived thanks to my Art. And I learned to experiment by improvising with nothing. One day I entered the Basilica of San. Pietro in Vincoli in Rome. I went to admire Michelangelo’s Mose where shortly after a complete stranger I set up my first installation right under Michelan-

gelo’s Moses “It was a miracle” that no artist has yet managed to do. The strange thing is that it wasn’t me who decided it, but then who?

Can you tell us a little about your artistic approach? (style, medium and specific techniques)

Surely the diversification from my artistic experiences have made me eclectic. I don’t differentiate between painting or sculpture or anything else because my real interest is immaterial. Certainly I am attracted (like a moth) to the Light. This means that I am attracted to other dimensions and my artistic experience is the will to reach it; a travel experience on other planes that I want to share through my art. There are materials that appeal to my instincts such as glass and metal for their alchemical fusion and transformation process. Another question is my desire to tell that derives more from the cinematographic narration as an example of my latest pictorial works in the series entitled “The Infinite Stories” that I am creating with 12 works that always visualize the invisible world of our self. Stories that want to mend the magical world of our imagination in the process of being erased by the media. I don’t know if my style can be identified with a specific one, if only this is mine and it is the unconscious result of living life as an artistic gift to be handed down and exalted.

“If the world were a free place, this would be made up of artists creating their own life where beauty would simply be the art of living together in love with everything around us.”



My Art Space

MYARTSPACE

SHE/HER

INDIA

@MYARTSPACE_3

Swati Ravi is a M.com postgraduate and a certified graphic designer. Born in Kerala, but brought up in Delhi, India. Being an ardent lover of arts since childhood, she decided to drop the idea of being restricted in an office cubicle, took the passion for drawing and painting and made it a part of her career. With the desire in mind of creating something new and to expand her artistic horizons, she started an Instagram account - @myartspace_3 a year ago where she posts her digital portrait paintings, illustrations, doodling, traditional paintings, etc. The account which started as a casual thing later turned out to be an important part of her life. She tried every style possible as she believes there's something to learn from everything. And so, she grabbed every opportunity to learn new skills, attended workshops, and participated in competitions. Gradually she grew the love for realistic paintings. Her work mainly involves portraying the essence of the moment. She takes inspiration from great artists and photographers in the world. She loves the idea of personalized gifts- customized to cater to everyone's needs. She makes single/couple portraits, wedding portraits, anniversary portraits, birthday portraits, occasion cards, save the date invites, baby shower invites, wedding invites, etc. At the end of the day, what matters is the happiness on the customer's face. 'To be the reason for someone's happiness' is what she strives for in life. Apart from art, she loves traveling, sports, music and dance - basically, anything and everything creative. Her family and friends are important to her.



MUSTHAQ THASLEEM

Sri Lanka

PHOTOGRAPHER : MUSTHAQ THASLEEM @MUSTHAQ_THASLEEM

MUA : MOONDRIP @MOONDRIP

MODEL : SADEESH ATTANAYAKE @SXDEESH_

Musthaq Thasleem has successfully accomplished Pearson BTEC HND in visual communication and is dwelling within the photography trade for the past 7 years. Preliminarily starting off with being a photojournalist, after a few years he realized that his true passion lies in capturing pictures of people. Realizing his new passion, he has substituted into portrait photography ever since he finished his higher education. Subsequently, within the past 3 years he has spent most of his time on fashion and commercial photography which also led to the establishment of "Zeus visual studio." Lastly, he stated that his inspiration lies in the amazement of human form and his goal is to become the best photographer among them in the island.



The Oracle

She is a whirlpool.
 With a heart of misty merrows.
 He is a simple man. Of the earth and humble.
 Enraptured, but he does not understand.
 Her stories are tornado tongued and tidal
 Her stories are about a jungle and kelpies.
 No, her stories are about magpies in the magnolia tree,
 Cypriot coffee and saltwater eyelashes. A shaman in a waterfall.
 A pregnant woman casting spells. Coconuts on the sands with a hummingbird.
 Mermaids, pigeons and fruit salads. Citrine tempests, dog walkers and a pirate.
 She talks like a fever dream and he's trying to understand,
 But she is a cyclone. Her mouth claps like thunder, eyes lightening bright.
 Her heart is like a storm in an atom, blood flooding through her body,
 She is deep in the moment. Deep in her pomegranate reverie.
 He is patient with arms stretching from a sunset skyline smile.
 Stretching out with a cherry tree embrace.
 Her body melts in his chest; rooted.
 Obsidian curls cascade at his elbows in willowy rivers.
 She is complicated like this. She is a concoction of wild flower thoughts,
 Of hazy days and sun kissed shoulders and Aphrodite poetry.
 He is with her, silent, enamored and waiting.
 Finally the story rushes from her lips like a spirit and rises with the moon.
 They are standing ankle deep in the ridges of the dreaming pools.
 And now he understands.
 He is a Canary island lullaby with earthy scouse devotion.
 He wants to hold her. To cherish her.
 He is the size of an oak. He is robust love.
 She is dandelion seeds released in the wind,
 He is the branch gently grasping her as she takes flight.
 All the while, the ocean watches them with its mouths wide open, witnessing,
 As they kiss, pouring their love out into the world like a tropical storm,
 Passersby stop and stare,
 Glancing sideways, elbows propped,
 wanting, yearning,
 for pieces of that sweetness,
 Famished; Like crows.

Sura's Fox

At first there was ambivalence,
 Witnessing the elegance of rain clouds
 and pink chested pigeons.
 Light turns dove grey.
 Within the trees there is a song,
 It lulls the first layers of sky,
 Awakens the muddied dandelions,
 Lilacs shouting tender leaves.
 A rush of red fury in a soft leap,
 Sharpe libertine velvet,
 I was not looking for her.
 But her flame smothered the bracken,
 This tender fire and exploding hearts.
 She must have wanted me to feel it,
 To crave the effervescent, cunning beauty,
 Artful gentleness, bloodied cutting voice.
 She sang of the elements,
 That pretty vicious face!
 My scarlet, fanged angel.

KATIE NESS

UNITED KINGDOM

@katie_wild_yogi

Katie Ness is a published poet with Hecate Magazine's BIRTH and DECAY Anthologies, Poetry Undressed, The C Word Magazine, Pressure Cooker Literary, and has essays and articles published with Rebelle Society, We for Women Stories, Kindred Spirit Magazine, Yogi Approved and Elephant Journal. Her memoir features in the book Phoenix Rising which is a collection of six women's empowering stories. Her illustrated poetry chapbook is to be published soon.

When she is not writing and editing, she is a Yoga teacher, Women's circle keeper, Cacaoista and creative well-being workshop facilitator. She is also an active team member of Burning Woman Festival and The Good Goddess Project. Katie lives in London with her beloved, house plants and array of books but is an avid traveller, her favourite destinations to date are Bali and Cyprus. She is an ectopic pregnancy survivor.



ANIRUDHA RASANE

He/Him

India

@anirudha.rasane

Creative, high-energy photographer skilled in Fashion & Product Photography. Led fashion design photoshoot at MALAYSIA and BALI. Shot and edited multiple fashion designer's branding projects, and shot various collaborative projects with drones. Developed interior & architecture photography skills while working with a bunch of architects.



Fine fingers bejewelled, figure dossed in sheer fantasia garments,
 She is a symphony, characterised through poise and impact,
 For she is the beating heart we all desire,
 She duets the Arabian dawn, engulfed
 Horns piercing, tearing through her virginal canopy,
 She dances, her legs fleeting through the sunrises aura,
 She is at liberty, that is until the torrid moon floods, invading her natural element,
 Melting this fond fairy away.

SAMUEL P A ROBERTSON

He/him
 Scotland, UK
 @sampatrickava

My name is Samuel P A Robertson, a 20 year old, bisexual, trans-man, from Edinburgh, Scotland who is heavily present in the LGBT, English Literature, and Art community, whilst also being a writer & poet writing about the emotional subject matter as a means of self-expression. Whilst studying for my English Literature degree, I have been published various times before, in both novels and another magazine. I hope one day to have my very own Poetry Collection and work as an editor for the New Yorker.



ALEX MACDONALD

UNITED KINGDOM
@alexmacart1



Alex MacDonald (AlexMacArts) is a visual artist specialising in watercolour painting and mixed media artwork. He is based in the North East of England. Since 2014, Alex followed the self-taught pathway by studying classical methods of drawing including sight-size and Bargue drawings leading to developing observational drawing and painting techniques. Currently, the main focus of Alex's work is botanical painting and illustration. Alex became a member of the Association of British Botanical Artists (ABBA) in 2020 and was accepted as member of the Society of Artists of Botanical Arts (SABA). He has participated in international bo-

tanical art competitions reaching the final stages. Alex has collaborated with other artists in North America and Europe over the past two years to explore different styles of painting techniques and media. In 2021, Alex exhibited internationally with SABA with two exhibitions in Russia and has been represented by small galleries in the UK. Inspired by nature with a love of watercolour painting Alex's portfolio has a versatile range of subjects. Alex produces artwork worthy of exhibition and public display in his own unique style, originality and developed sense of artistry and technique.

he bought me red roses
 red like the devil
 red like my anger
 loud like the sirens.
 I'm dreading December
 my birthday's my Death Day
 my Death Day's their Wednesday
 maybe once yearly
 they'll bring me
 red roses.

he bought me red roses
 he said that he's sorry
 but my left arm tells stories
 he'd hide from the jury.
 my right thigh bleeds passion
 and sadness
 and longing
 as I fold into myself, as the petals of a red rose,
 that fall off, one by one,
 each morning.

the roses are too cold,
 it's not winter here.
 I'm in the wrong hemisphere
 I have given my body to the doctors, my bones to the Earth of the
 south, my soul
 to the moon (my mother)

she's more tender than my one in flesh.
 my Mother Earth is loyal
 my earth-mother is so gone
 she upsets me with her sudden tones
 and their red,
 a dozen crimson roses sinking around my neck
 their redness speaks to my wounds
 they seem to float above my skin like violet lace
 but they weigh me down.

the roses are too red
 I didn't even want them in the first place.
 I can hear them breathing through the walls
 I count their steps
 I hate the way they watch me.
 no one did before now.
 between the eyes of the moon and the eyes of the roses I have no
 face.
 I am nobody.
 how could you give me the flowers of love after you've killed me?
 the stain on my birthday dress darkens and tarnishes.

dirty little girl.

I didn't want any roses.
 I only wanted to feel how free it is.
 the peace is so big it leaves you utterly dazed and empty.
 and it asks for nothing.
 it shuts its mouth on the silence like its Communion.
 the roses are too bright.
 the moon doesn't see this
 but even through the casket I can see them

a dozen red sinkers
 pulling me down
 coiled in wedding-white like a child
 this is the purest form of innocence.
 I have given away my name and address
 they bring me sleep in pills
 my best friends smile out the photos
 I am sacred and naked
 I am back with the earth
 I have never been this pure.

WIKTORIA SMIGAS

SOUTH AFRICA

Hi, I'm Wiktor. I've never liked having to talk about myself like this. It feels like there isn't much to say. I love art in all forms – writing, visual art, dance, music, and theatre. I just want my life to be full of beauty and that's why I keep trying to create more.

Cześć jestem Wiktor. Nigdy nie lubiłam mówić o sobie w ten sposób. Wydaje się, że nie ma wiele do powiedzenia. Kocham sztukę we wszystkich formach – pisanstwo, plastykę, taniec, muzykę, teatr. Po prostu chcę, żeby moje życie było pełne piękna i dlatego staram się tworzyć więcej.

JAFFAR ALY

He/Him

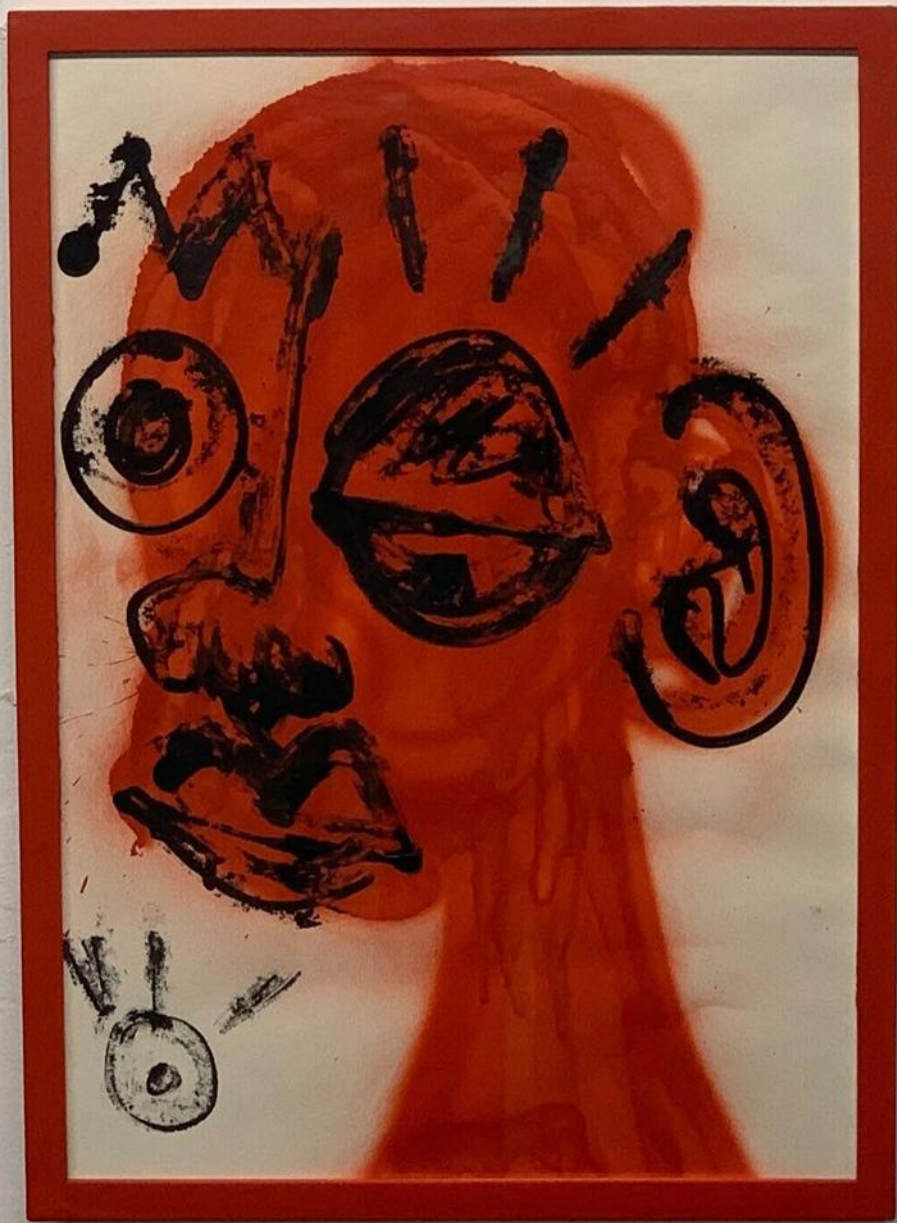
England

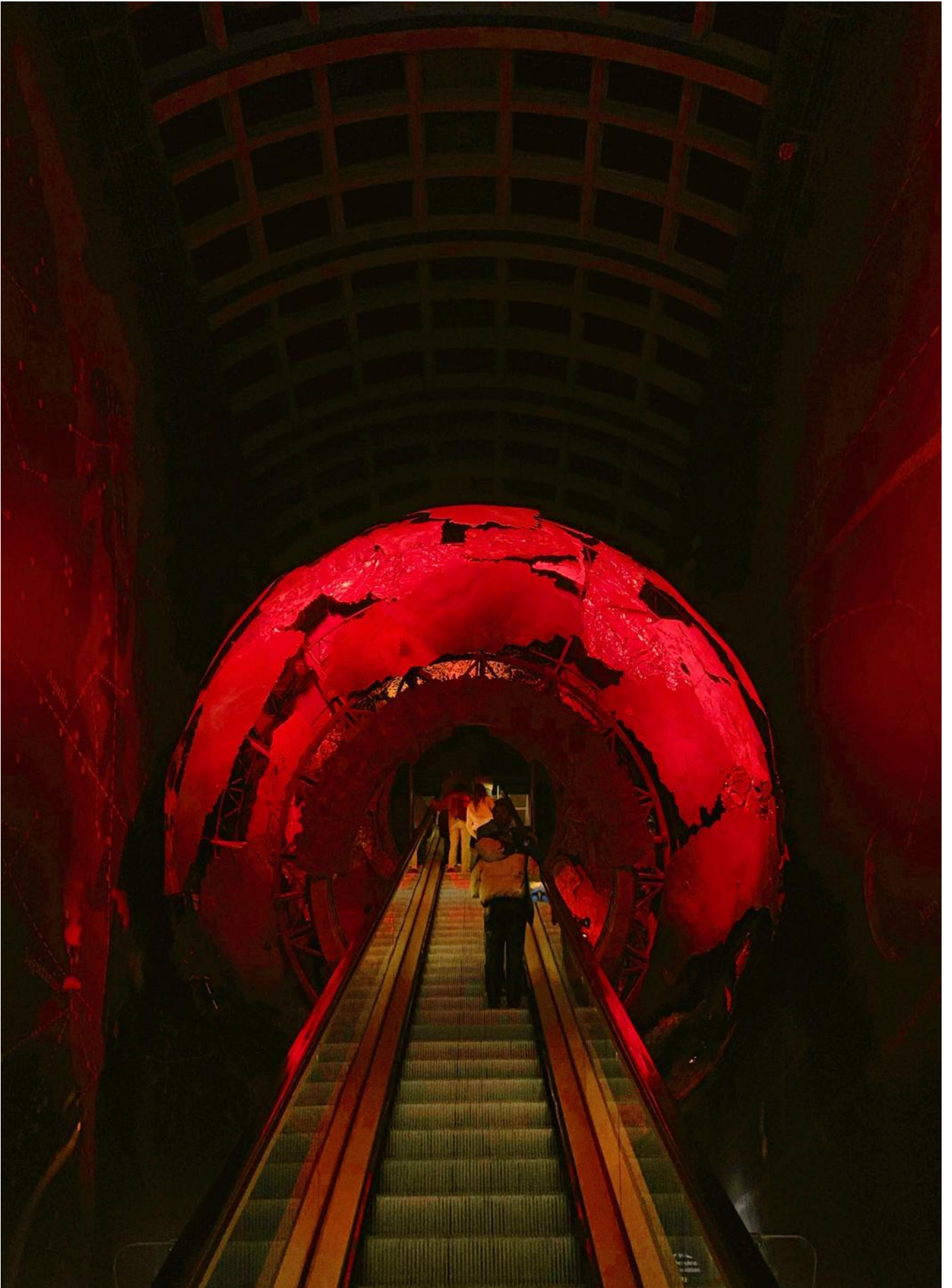
@thatspaghettibrand

www.mycatsdopressupseverymorning.com

As a painter, at first glance the masses see Jaffar's work as expressionist abstract story telling. Jaffar's dynamic and expressive canvases explore the complexities of human form and psyche. As an anthropologist as well as an artist, Jaffar combines art and academia through his research and practice that concerns itself with matters of multiculturalism, race, gender, class and the lived experience of diasporas across South London.







STEFANIA RAUS

She/Her

United Kingdom

@stephanic.__.rose

Stefania Raus is a photographer based in the UK. Her photography primarily focuses on various portals which the art of photography is able to capture. Her work is conspicuously encapsulating the ethereal, emotional and wonderous physicality of our world. While her inspirations predominantly stem from nature, fashion and her travels.

Stefania Raus este o fotografă stabilită în Marea Britanie. Fotografiiile ei sunt bazate pe diverse teme a lumii care ne înconjoară, deoarece arta fotografiei este capabilă de a captura momente care trec surprinzător de ușor. Munca ei dezvăluie atmosfera eterică, emoțională și excepțională a lumii noastre. În timp ce inspirațiile ei provin în principal din natură, modă și călătorii.



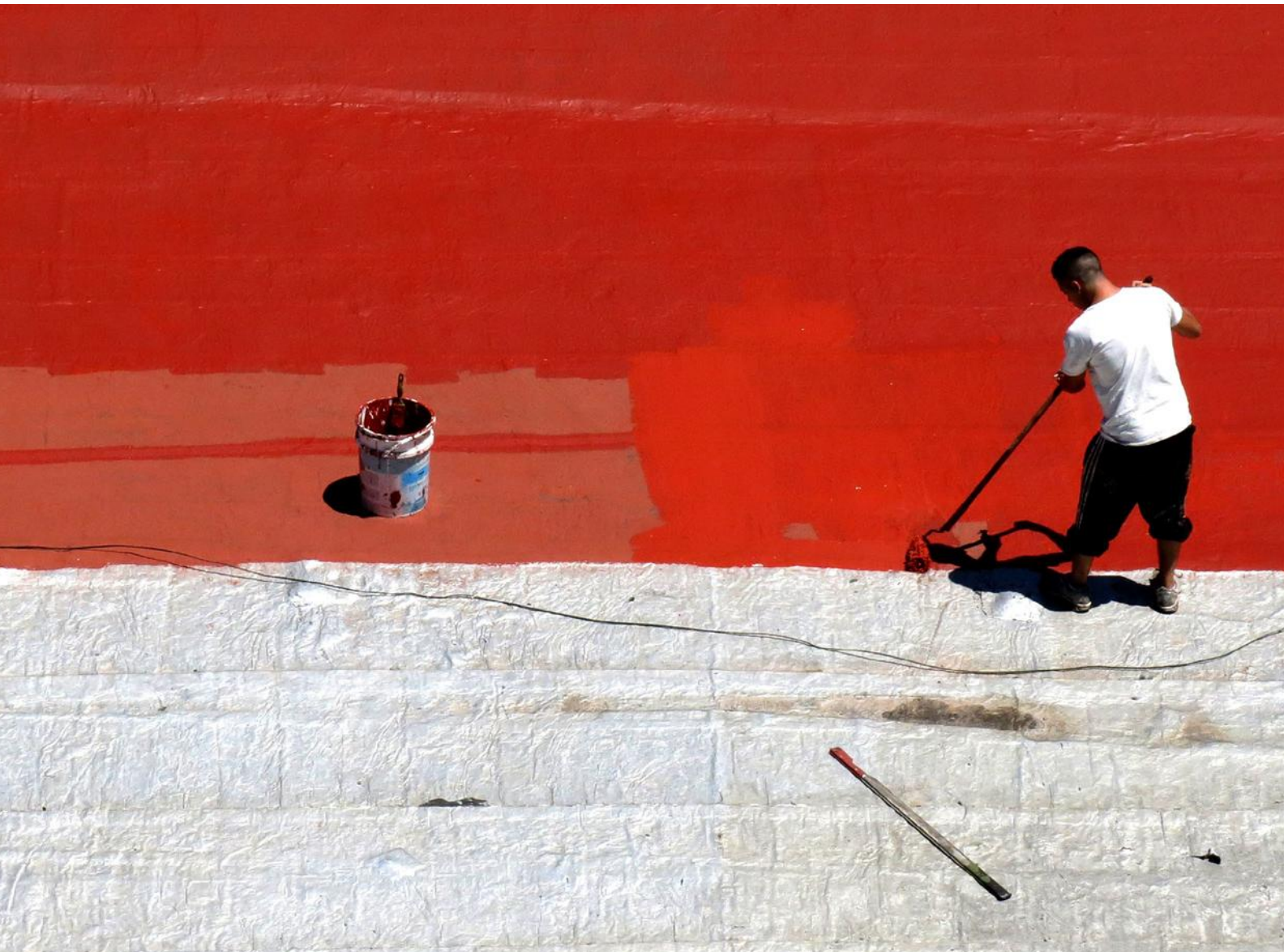
NATÁLIA BARDELIM

BRAZIL

@n.bardelim

Brazilian and Gemini, she was born in São José dos Campos in 1987. She studied Computer Science, but found herself in the arts. She currently lives in downtown São Paulo, where she graduated in Visual Communication and Photographic Processes at ETEC. She believes in photography as a break to be in the present, as well as being a democratic and resistant art.

Brasileira e geminiana, nasceu em São José dos Campos, em 1987. cursou Ciência da Computação, mas se encontrou nas artes. Atualmente mora no centro de São Paulo, onde formou-se em Comunicação Visual e Processos Fotográficos pela ETEC. Acredita na fotografia como uma pausa para estar no presente, além de ser uma arte democrática e resistente.





WENDY RIVARA

She/Her
USA

@marzannastone

Website: society6.com/ravenshadowkiss

I am an expressionist fantasy portrait painter & occasional sculptor of the Goddesses. I live with my husband and rescue cat Rosella. My studio is nestled in an ordinary, small space filled with images and items that take me to a world that feels like home. Painting and

sculpting allows me to reflect on the awe and wonder of the world and the peace I feel within it. My goal is to offer the viewer a silver lining through the darkness and a sense of belonging .

Although I have much in my life to be happy for, I find happiness as an inspiration for my art to be an uninteresting and unnatural expression of who I am as an artist . If I can spark a sense of self examination tinged with melancholy in those viewing my work then I will have succeeded in my undertaking. My art is also published in Poetry Undressed ‘Subconsciously Ablazed’ Anthology.



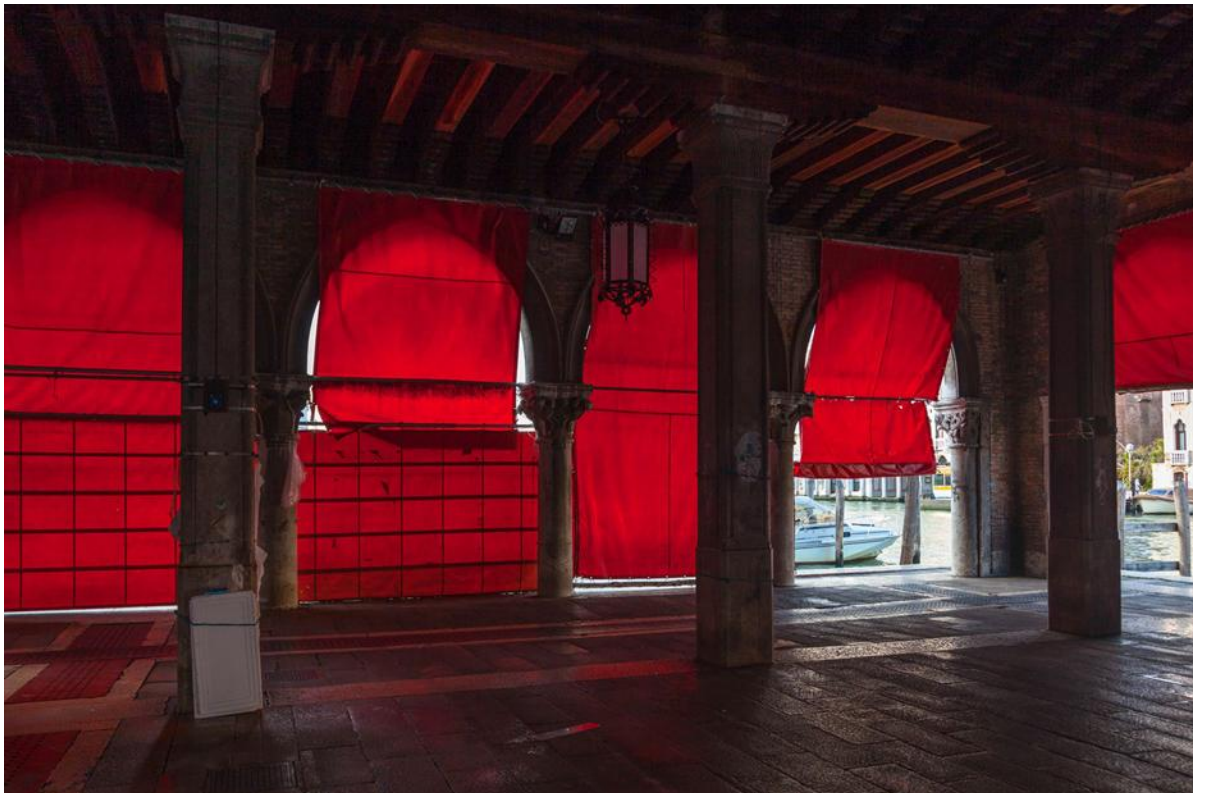
KARL HRONEK

Canada

Website: hronekphotos.com

www.fineartluxuryphotography.com

Born in Carlsbad in the Czech Republic. Karl's family immigrated to Vancouver, BC while he was still a young child. He grew up on Vancouver's North Shore where he attended Capilano University. After a successful corporate career, he made the leap to photography. He worked as a commercial photographer with Liquid Studios as well as travel photographer based in Prague, Malaga and Miami.





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