



QUEER EUROPE

КВИР ЕВРОПА



НОВИ САД
ЕВРОПСКА
ПРЕСТОНИЦА
КУЛТУРЕ



ДРУГА?
ЕВРОПА



Република Србија
Министарство културе

EXHIBITION: QUEER EUROPE

Twenty-eight artists from thirteen European countries will present their work as part of the QUEER EUROPE exhibition, which consists of fifty-six photographs and depicts the reality of LGBT existence in Europe.

End of October, Russia expanded the existing ban on promotion of "LGBT propaganda" among minors to include people of all ages, which would mean a ban on all mentions and depictions of LGBT people, from the internet, books, movies, advertisements and exhibitions! Similar voices can be heard in Serbia, but also in some members of the European Union. Visibility and freedom of expression is an integral part of the existence of every person, and therefore an important part of the existence of an LGBT person. Free life cannot and must not be limited by four walls, because if it is, they represent prison walls.

That's why this exhibition shows all aspects of LGBT existence, from intimacy and eroticism in four walls to parades, having fun and enjoying the freedom outside four walls. But not everything is so great in Europe, because homophobia can show its ugly face even in those progressive and homophobic Western countries and especially in the East. The fight against homophobia is constant and will never be over, because experience shows us that the rights that have been won can be easily taken!

The exhibition "Queer Europe" is organized by the Merlinka festival as a part of the program "Other? Europe" and is supported by the Foundation "Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture, City of Novi Sad and Ministry of Culture.

Artists:

Franziska Lange (Berlin, Germany)
Marco Lesner (Berlin, Germany)
Marko Stojanović (Belgrade, Serbia)
Đorđe Živković (Belgrade, Serbia)
Rick Versteeg (Rotterdam, Netherlands)
Orcun Karamustafa (Istanbul, Turkey)
Anna Martinenko (Berlin, Germany)
Byron Hamza (Nottingham, United Kingdom)
Aleksandar Crnogorac (Belgrade, Serbia)
Dragana Stojanović (Subotica, Serbia)
Jorge Lopez Munoz (Valencia, Spain)
Karolina Jozwiak (Warsaw, Poland)
Louise Carpenedo (London, United Kingdom)
Mari Carnković Pilas (Zagreb, Croatia)
Nicola Smaldore (Rimini, Italy)
Sebastian Franke (Leipzig, Germany)
Jadwiga Janowska (Knurow, Poland)
Michelle Adlerova (Prague, Czech Republic)
Claire McIntyre (Berlin, Germany)
Daniel Gentelev (Hamburg, Germany)
Elvedin Šemsović (Novi Sad, Serbia)
Douagi Kmar (Paris, Germany)
Les Chevaliers Photographes (France)
Viktor Makhnov (Kharkov, Ukraine)
Flavi Guerand (Berlin, Germany)
Javier de Benito (Madrid, Spain)
Nantene Traore (Paris, France)



FRANZISKA LANGE

Berlin, Germany

Franziska Lange is an experimental documentary photographer and freelance photojournalist. After 6 years in the fetish porn industry, she studied photography and received a lot of media attention with the polarizing project "HOW WE BLEED", the first documentary period image archive on the internet with over 1200 anonymous, realistic photos of "the bloody truth", collected from people all over the world. Franziska's analog and digital works cover topics such as feminism, sex, fetish, pain, drugs, illness, religion and love within various underground subcultures. She is currently working as a photojournalism and nude photography lecturer at a university in Berlin and regularly shoots photo documentaries for VICE magazine.

Instagram: @zisky666



MARCO LESSNER

Berlin, Germany

Rough

With his work "Rough", the photographer wants to break the boundaries of cliché and show that behind the outwardly rough-appearing aspect there are different people who have a story to tell. From those who use fetishism to find sex to those who seek a relationship or a sense of community. For "leather men" this world offers a way to find this. The appearance and practices they engage in are intimidating in the eyes of the beholder because they exude masculinity, toughness, and dominance. But do these people really convey fear to those unfamiliar with the world of fetishism, or is it not rather the stereotype, in our eyes, that does so? Perhaps, like everyone else, they are just looking for approval, affection, companionship, or sex. And fetishism is the way to achieve it.

www.marcolessner.com



MARKO STOJANOVIĆ

Belgrade, Serbia

Incarnate

Protected with a screen as a vizor, we can observe another human being for as long as we want. Photos in high resolution allow us to zoom in and get close so that we can follow the tiniest skin folds. We can studiously explore the large organ so important as a communication channel before the introduction of the measures. At first sight, it might seem the subject is again someone from a criminal group, an archetype of the Balkan man. At another glance, we read the inscriptions and the patterns on their skin - they're young men, often born just a few years prior to the bombing, or members of minorities, or those whose passports currently disable them from continuing their undeclared work in the European Union. At yet another glance, we realize they are also confined in the Balkans, in their cities, in their rooms, swathed in their epidermal membrane which presents a new border.

www.markostojan.com

[instagram.com/markostojan](https://www.instagram.com/markostojan)



ĐORĐE ŽIVKOVIĆ

Belgrade, Serbia

Demasked

Demasked explores the process of sexual liberation and individual fantasies, as well as the constant struggle between domination and submission in a sociological sense, shown in a language of fetishes.

In the first photo, the black leather mask on his face symbolises the period of hiding ourselves, yet at the same time, masking can be a process of exploring ourselves and our role. That's why the Masking and Demasking are intertwined in many contexts. The bottle of Absinthe on the table is referencing the queer history in literature, referring to Rimbaud and Verlaine, one of the first open and defiant gay couples in literature. When the two became closer the vices of Verlaine rubbed off on Rimbaud and during their relationship, the Absinthe bingeing has become the symbol of self-exploring and awakening of personal depths.

The second photo is presenting the light motive of the series, with the tattoo 'Made in Yugoslavia' on his chest. Choking himself, he is partly hiding the full sentence, metaphorically showing the fade of socialism and the beginning of new era. It's there to tell us that every queer struggle, individual or social, always has a strong political context.

The aesthetic is mostly blue and dreamy, playing with the atmosphere of being between dream and reality.

Model: Bojan Cvetanović

www.instagram.com/djordjexzivkovic



RIK VERSTEEG

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

As a visual artist, I create alternative realities through photography, film, design, and make-up. In my work, I often focus on socio-political topics that the viewer does not think about every day or that in my opinion receive too little attention within our society. By experimenting with different media and visual starting points, I investigate ways to stimulate the viewer to use their subconscious mind and imagination. In my work, I research topics within and outside the art spectrum such as heteronormativity, social norms, public norms, and gender expression and identity.

By being part of the LGBTQIA + community I do not conform to the heteronormative ideal image and this influences me consciously and unconsciously. Many of my projects are therefore connected with the LGBTQIA+ community and reflect on the institutionalized heteronormative norm. I see my visuals as a counter-movement and reaction to heteronormativity and public norms.

My work arises from my own experiences, curiosity, personal topics and is strongly inspired by surrealism and alternative realities. My work is theatrical, conceptual, over the top, detailed, and has a stylized and aesthetic style. In my visuals, I melt different styles together that cannot be categorized. In summary, the center of my work is the human experience, perception, reality, fiction, and visual identity.

www.rikversteeg.com

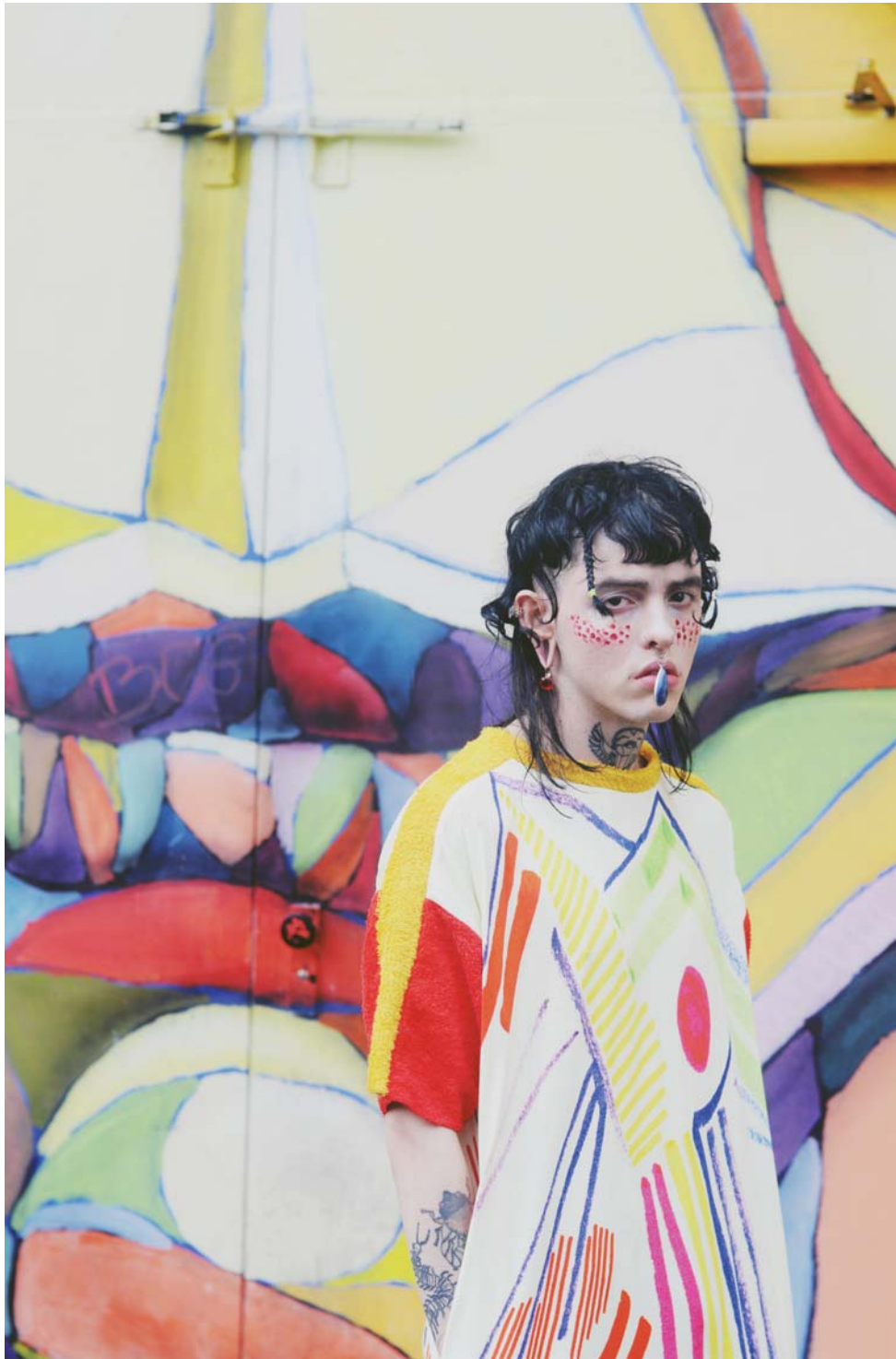


ORÇUN KARAMUSTAFA

Istanbul, Turkey

They were preparing for the show. I witnessed that process. They didn't allow me to take photos, but later I talked to them and they let me. The preparation processes were a lot of fun and lots of laughter. It became more fun and memorable by taking photos.

www.orcunkaramustafa.myportfolio.com



ANNA MARTYNENKO

Berlin, Germany

Feather

Model: Joe Dekni.

Photos were taken in Berlin Germany in 2017 .

In Berlin being different is normal.

www.anna-martynenko.com



BYRON HAMZAH

Nottingham, United Kingdom

From Robert to Aubrey Jean

In this project, I wanted to explore the lives of drag performers beyond events that happen on the stage. Many of these performers have such complex, interesting backgrounds and often difficult personal lives that has led them to seek refuge in the world of drag. I was very keen to observe their lives before they get on stage, particularly what happens in the dressing room. It is in these dressing rooms a lot of their lives are shared and personality revealed. I also wanted to observe their interaction with other performers and most importantly, capture the intricate process that is involved in the transformation to become a drag performer.

Robert was one of the subjects I photographed as part of this project. He was a new drag performer who moved from a small village in central England to London to become a drag performer and he took on the persona 'Aubrey Jean'. As he was new, he was rather nervous with the entire experience of performing. I documented his life over a few days and in this particular photo set, it was the hours before he had a show in East London and I photographed the entire transformation from Robert to the fully-fledged drag queen, Aubrey Jean.

Like other drag performers, Robert found refuge in drag artistry. Having grown up in a village where he was subjected to homophobia, he left for London to be his true self and meet others like him. It was through drag that he gained the confidence in himself and found camaraderie amongst people who are more accepting of his nature. After a long time, he finally did not feel alone.

www.byronhamzah.com



ALEKSANDAR CRNOGORAC

Belgrade, Serbia

Esqualita

Escualita was a Sunday night weekly soiree at Paris's La Loco club in the 19th arrondissement, which caters to the transvestite community. In particular, what makes Escualita unique amongst the many drag and trans gathering places in Paris is the fact it is the only soiree which provides a meeting point for the Parisian immigrant youth whose cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds are often in severe conflict with their sexuality. Many of the Escualita soiree members travel far from all corners of Paris and the suburbs in order to once a week let free and live out their sexuality in a safe and protected environment. Escualita has therefore become not only a safe haven for these youths but also an important reference point and outlet for personal expression of this minority group. Above all, it is the strong sense of bonding which has developed amongst these young people that gives Esqualita its very special atmosphere and unique energy and keeps these young men and women coming back for more week after week.

www.aleksandarcrnogorac.com



DRAGANA STOJANOVIĆ

Subotica, Serbia

The beginning of summer

The photos were taken on June 21, 2021, the longest day of the year and the beginning of summer, a holiday that is celebrated in many cultures and includes various customs, and at this gathering everyone interpreted this manifestation in their own way.

www.lomography.com/homes/draganahere



JORGE LÓPEZ MUÑOZ

Valencia, Spain

Manolo

Female impersonator from Barcelona, a profession that is disappearing, a show from the past - Barcelona, 2020.

www.jorgelopezmunoz.com



KAROLINA JÓŹWIAK

Warsaw, Poland

Kiki Surprise

Drag is a visually very attractive artistic expression for me. An art form that I try to get to know and understand, because apart from this visual aspect, drag means more. He has something of the theater for me, something of an illusion, something of magic. It is a constant change, telling stories, giving joy. It is also a committed attitude and declaration in relation to the surrounding reality and the reality in Poland is not favorable to queer people. I feel that drag is so well known to all of us the desire to create and at the same time the need to discover ourselves. Be honest with yourself.

www.karolinajozwiak.com



LOUISE CARPENEDO

London, UK

Vic Diamante 2

Portrait of Vic Diamante, Brazilian Drag Queen in London. 2021.

www.louisecarpenedo.com



MARY CRNKOVIC PILAS

Zagreb, Croatia

Gettin Ready

This series of photos entitled "Getting Ready" was taken in Zagreb, Croatia on 3.7.2021. Dino is my daughter's best friend and I took these photos of him in our kitchen doing his make up before we went to participate in Zagreb's 2021 Pride parade.

www.themarvelsofdailylife.com



NICOLA SMALDORE

Rimini, Italy

Gay Pride

A man parades through the streets during the Rimini gay pride.

YEAR: 2017



SEBASTIAN FRANKE

Leipzig, Germany

Kim Lee

Dressing Room of a Bar in Warsaw
Poland, 2018

The Polish Drag Queen Kim Lee, who died in 2020, repeatedly impressed me with how she was able to reconcile contrasts that were supposedly difficult to reconcile. As a member of a Vietnamese minority in Poland, Andy, the person behind Kim, not only managed to become one of the most influential and well-known Polish Drag Queens, inspiring and promoting many Drag Queens of the younger generation. He, who was bisexual himself, also managed to master his life as a father of a son, husband of his devout Catholic wife and his boyfriend as a harmonic triangle relationship in addition to all his drag performances and a full time job. Andy was one of the strong personalities I met in Eastern Europe and his inner character touches me and reveals me the complexity of human nature. He and other people I met, in a certain way, showed me a deeper view of human togetherness in a way I have not seen before.



JADWIGA JANOWSKA

Knurów, Poland

Born in 1994, lives and works in Poland. She finished a master's degree from the Institute for Creative Photography (Institut tvůrčí fotografie) in Opava. In 2018, she won the main prize for photojournalism in the Young Poland category at the Grand Press Photo competition. Winner of the Jan Sawka award at the Fama festival (2021). Her works have been presented in Poland and abroad, incl. at the Rybnik Festival of Photography, at K Mag Art Spot, at Picture Doc, at exhibitions and publications of Debuts, Eastreet, #SHOWMEYOURUFO at the Noorderlicht Photofestival,; in the following magazines: Contemporary Lynx, K Mag, The Lavender, Ultramaryna; zines: Wolność, Kwas, Kwas, and others. Second prize for the Talent of the Year competition organized by Pix House (2021).

Individual exhibitions: NN433 (Na6 Gallery) and Heroes of the Nation (curator Krzysztof Szewczyk, Polygon Gallery).



MICHELLE ADLEROVÁ

Prague, Czech Republic

Untouched, Series of Two, 2011

The self-portrait with two friends taken at the beginning of my transition

[instagram.com/michelle_adlerova](https://www.instagram.com/michelle_adlerova)



CLAIRE MCINTYRE

Berlin, Germany

Questioning preconceptions of conditioning through imagery and social documentary, I explore the mind, its people and our society. Challenging behavior and group dynamics, from gender constructs to the concept of the artistic practice, I portray it through the underlying structures of our social practices. Documenting the body within the spaces as the skin and thought navigate systems of psychological and sociological construct while engaging in conversation.

www.claire-mcintyre-uk.com



DANIEL GENTELEV

Berlin, Germany

Luís and Timo

Berlin / Germany / 2017

www.cargocollective.com/DanielGentelev



ELVEDIN ŠEMSOVIĆ

Novi Pazar, Serbia

About tTndernes

The photo was taken in the intimate space of my friend. In the photo, I tried to highlight the tenderness and subtlety of the moment, the play of light and shadows. I like to see the body as a landscape, so I was guided by that motif.



DOUAGI KMAR

Paris, France

Like the moon, Kmar's personality has two facets, commonly known by its radiant angle overflowing with light, it also hides a deeper and more secret one. A contrast of strength and fragility that defines her well and that we find in her work, her colors and her perception of the world. Between the simple and the complex, the raw and the sophisticated, the raw and the poetic, the peaceful and the anarchic, a mixture of harmonious extremes, this is what she manages to convey through her lens.

www.instagram.com/kmardouagi



LES CHEVALIERS PHOTOGRAPHES

France

Bed for 3

Shot in Zagreb (Croatia). 2022

Ordinary Morning

Shot in Zagreb (Croatia). 2022

www.leschevaliersphotographes.fr



VIKTOR MAKHNOV

Kharkiv, Ukraine

L'amour à trois (Kyiv, 2021)

This photo features Viktor Pylypenko (left), an open LGBT military who was fighting for our freedom and liberty since 2014. Now he keeps on defending Ukraine with weapons. My boyfriend Alex (center) had to leave Ukraine and now he works hard as a worker at a construction site. He sends money to his ex wife and their children who stay at the Kharkiv region and refused to evacuate. Laslo (right) was at vacation abroad when the war began. Now he stays at Berlin and takes part in anti-war actions and events in support of Ukraine.

Hide your real feelings (Kharkiv, 2021)

Dima is a dancer. He has to hide his identity and real feelings from others to be able to work and exist. That is why we need Prides in Ukraine, so that traditions-oriented Ukrainian society could finally accept us, our rights and our freedoms.

[instagram.com/arrideo.photography](https://www.instagram.com/arrideo.photography)



FLAVIE GUERRAND

Berlin, Germany

Flavio

2022 Berlin. Film photography.

Portrait of my friend Flavio on my balcony surrounded by the alcohol we drank at Christmas.

www.flavieguerrand.com



JAVIER DE BENITO

Madrid Spain

Presented image tries to represent a sprinkle of queer sexuality. Portrayed transsexual woman is showing herself and her sexuality without shame that society imposes. The photo integrate elegance and sexual nature, oposing the conception of queer sexuality as something sordid that should remain hidden.

www.thenewerror.com



NANTÉNÉ TRAORÉ

Madrid Spain

Bobby's first testosterone injection

Paris, 19 april 2022 analog photography

I've known Bobby for a few years now. I've followed his social transition through the years, and when he decided to start hormones this early summer it was only logical that I'd be documenting this moment.

He wasn't so nervous, but he brought his faithful teddy bear, Popi, with him. I wanted to make sure that everything went smoothly, so I let him chose the music, brought him some cookies, just in case he wasn't feeling well afterwards. But he smiled during the whole process, and when the injection was over he just nodded his head and said "that's it?".

He's one of my youngest friend, and also the smallest one. In his home, everything is very low, very tiny, just like a doll's house. It was moving to see him so small in my very large bed, waiting for Arkadiy to stick the needle in the upper area of his ass.

On that day, he chose to listen to Oblivious, by The Strokes, for half an hour straight. When I asked him why he just said "I've always wanted to be a rockstar". And he smiled.

www.nantenetraore.com

