

NEW TRENDS IN VISUAL CULTURE: PHOTOGRAPHY AT FUTURE NOW 2021



Images: 1. © Maimouna Guerresi. Courtesy of Mariane Ibrahim Gallery. 2. George Byrne, *Sth. Murwillumbah #1*, 2016. 3. The Two Nkééngé Sisters. "A strict respect for traditional laws and prohibitions protects against misfortune. The eternal aura of spiritual beings enriches the heart." Photo by Pieter Henket. Edited by Eva Vonk and Stefanie Plattner. Story told and recorded by Mr. Simon Mkaluzabi N'Sondé in 1999; written version by S.R. Kovo N'Sondé. Produced by Tales of Us.

95 million photos are uploaded to Instagram every day. Future Now industry masterclasses explore the changing parameters of images and lens-based media.

The rules of photography are being re-written on a near-daily basis. 95 million photos are uploaded to Instagram per day, with over 1 billion users worldwide. 52% of the population are now mobile internet users. What does this mean for the democratisation of photography? This year's **Future Now Symposium (28 April-1 May)** brings together some of the most renowned photographers, curators and editors to discuss the ways in which photography is changing and developing.

Gulnara Samoilova is a New York-based photographer and curator determined to spotlight women street photographers, from Instagram to the gallery floor. **On Friday 30 April (14.00-15.00 BST) Diane Smyth, independent journalist and former Deputy Editor at *British Journal of Photography***, leads a conversation with Samoilova about balancing the scales. **George Byrne's** large-format images build take urban minimalism to another level, referencing the works of Lewis Baltz and Ellsworth Kelly. **In conversation with design writer Ian Volner (29 April, 18.15-19.15)** Byrne discusses his collage-like practice, as well as the conceptual differences between viewing images in the gallery and on-screen.

The Leica Oskar Barnack Award is a prestigious prize acknowledging imagery that documents humanity's rapidly changing relationship with the environment. In a year defined by responsibility and accountability – with the UN Climate change summit taking place this November – **Karin Kaufmann, Director of Leica Galleries**, discusses the power and potential of reportage to change the narrative and encourage tangible solutions to the environment **(29 April, 11.00-12.00)**. Beyond these illuminating panel discussions, curators from key photography institutions join Aesthetica for Future Now 2021, including curators from the **International Center of Photography, Tate, The Museum of Modern Art, The Broad Museum** and **The *British Journal of Photography*** as well as headline speakers **Bieke Depoorter** and **Shirin Neshat**.

For press queries: contact Associate Editor, Kate Simpson, kate@aestheticamagazine.com

For queries related to the Aesthetica Art Prize: contact art-prize@aestheticamagazine.com

FUTURE NOW

AESTHETICA SYMPOSIUM

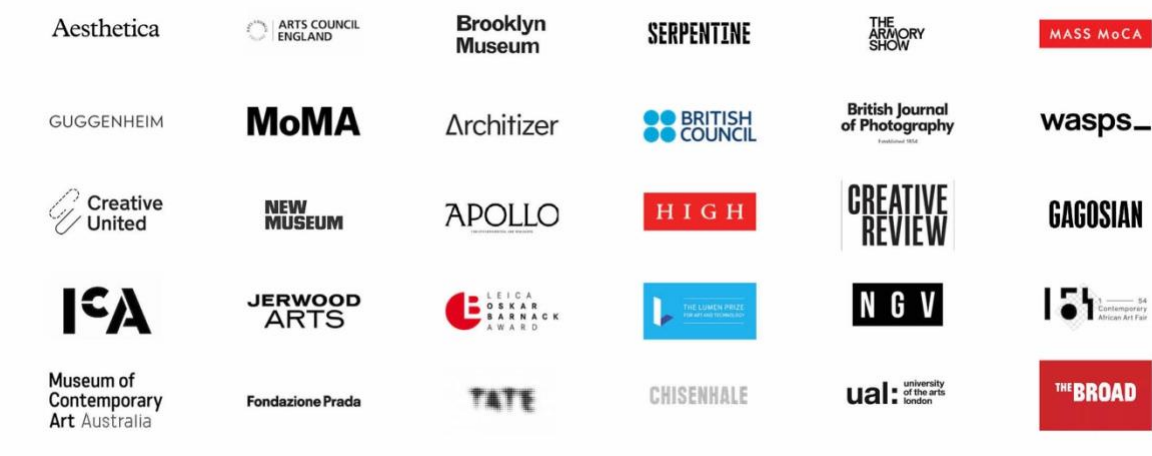
The Future Now Symposium runs live 28 April-1 May. All sessions are available On Demand until 31 May. Tickets are priced between £20 and £50, from a 24-hour festival login to a month of content, with access to 100 films, 1:1 portfolio reviews with industry experts and advice sessions with Arts Council England.

Key information for editors:

- **The Future Now Symposium is an exploration of 21st century culture through the mechanism of art, live streamed events run 28 April – 1 May. On Demand sessions are available 2-31 May.**
- This four-day virtual event brings together key institutions, galleries, publications and artists for live-streamed discussions surrounding the most pressing issues from today's creative industries. Future Now is a platform for idea generation, with imaginative debates, panel discussions, career advice and cultural engagement.
- **Future Now finds a new home in an accessible online space for 2021.**
- **All ticketholders can also stream an expansive programme of 100 ground-breaking independent films** across Dance, Experimental, Documentary and Artists' Film.
- **Our platform can be accessed on computers, smart TVs, smart phones and all tablet devices.** There is no requirement to pre-register for sessions as they will be live streamed.
- **Tickets are £20 for a 24-hour log-in, £40 for a four-day log-in and £50 for the full one-month access.**
- **Representatives at Future Now 2021 include:** Aesthetica, Architizer, Arts Council England, Apollo Magazine, The Armory Show, Athi-Patra Ruga, Bieke Depoorter, Bill Posters, British Journal of Photography, British Council, Chisenhale Gallery, Creative Review, Creative United, Fahamu Pecou, Fondazione Prada, Frieze, Gagosian, George Byrne, Gonçalo Fonseca, Guggenheim Museum, Gulnara Samoilova, High Museum of Art, Ian Volner, Jerwood Arts, ICA Boston, International Center of Photography, Jakob Kudsk Steensen, Leica Oskar Barnack Award, London Art Fair, London College of Communication, Luca Locatelli, The Lumen Prize, Maïmouna Guerresi, Magnum Photos, MASS MoCA, Museum of Modern Art, MCA Australia, New Museum, NGV Melbourne, Serpentine Galleries, Shirin Neshat, Tales of Us, Tate, V&A, Wasps Studios, 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair.
- **Future Now 2021 offers 1:1 Portfolio Reviews** across the four days, with representatives from **the V&A, British Journal of Photography, Fabrica, Aesthetica, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Serpentine Galleries, Moniker Art Fair Artangel and Gazelli Art House, as well as a number of independent artists. Pre-booking online.**
- **Arts Council England are also offering a series of 1:1 Advice Sessions. Pre-booking essential online.**
- **The Future Now Symposium coincides with the 2021 Aesthetica Art Prize.** The 2021 shortlisted artists include: Monica Alcazar-Duarte, Andrew Leventis, Chris Combs, James Tapscott, Alice Duncan and Cesar & Lois Collective, Carlos David, Seb Agnew, Kitoko Diva, Christiane Zschommler, Henny Burnett, and Niels Lyhne Løkkegaard. David Brandy, Shan Wu, Cathryn Shilling, Dirk Hardy, Juliana Kasumu, Gabriel Hensche and Erwin Redl.
- **The 2021 Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition** runs 28 May - 28 September at York Art Gallery, UK.

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