

See things differently: the best of Photo London – in pictures

From naked bathing to restaged expeditions, drunks, drag, poets and horses, these fantastic images light up this year's photography extravaganza

Mee-Lai Stone



Meticulous re-creations ... Plate 1, Astrup's Horn by Tonje Bøe Birkeland. Photograph: Gyldenpris Kunsthall, Bergen





Rolling Stones, Goat Head Soup, 1973, David Bailey

Photo London Photo London 2024 brings together images from 44 cities across four continents, showcasing important works from the dawn of the medium to today. This year's festival includes a solo show of David Bailey's fantastic career. Photo London 2024, is at Somerset House, London, 16-19 May

Photograph: David Bailey/Camera Eye, London





The Garden, 2021-2023, Siân Davey

British photographer Sian Davey's work focuses on her family, community and self, informed by her background in psychology. See more of her work here

Photograph: Sian Davey/Trolley Books/Michael Hoppen Gallery





Hands and Bowl, Mushrooms, 2020, Cihan Öncü

Öncü, an artist celebrated for his vibrant use of colour and his ability to blend visual art with narrative depth, offers an insightful exploration of life's richness captured in still-life and beyond

Photograph: Cihan Öncü/Dirimart, Istanbul





Takamatsu, 2016, Chloé Jafé

Anna in a traditional Japanese public bath (sento), infused with lavender and camomile. Chloé Jafé creates work around the theme 'objects of intimacy', exploring different ways of exploring the intimate and the inner self

Photograph: Chloé Jafé/Galerie Echo 119, Paris





Wendell in Drag, 2019, Daniel Jack Lyons (Deutsche Börse @ 25)

The Deutsche Börse photography foundation marks the 25th anniversary of its collection with the exhibition See/Change – Art Collection Deutsche Börse @25. It showcases current artists and recent acquisitions on the theme of the human condition, reflecting critically on subjectivity and freedom, environmental and climate change, community activism, migration, transformation and selfhood through an international lens. You can see more of Daniel Jack Lyons' work here

Photograph: Daniel Jack Lyons/Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation





Coffee O'Clock, Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, 2022, Coco Capitán

Belmond, partner of Photo London 2024, returns with Shifting Horizons, a creative endeavour led by and celebrating female photographers exploring contemporary travel

Photograph: Coco Capitan/Belmond





Linda Evangelista, for Vogue Italia, Paris 1990, Steven Meisel

Iconic work by Steven Meisel, who has become the most prolific fashion photographer of his generation. Meisel shaped our vision of supermodels of the late 1980s and 1990s

Photograph: Steven Meisel/Ira Stehmann Fine Art, Munich/Art + Commerce





Striped Woman at Studio 54, NY, 1979, Arlene Gottfried

With a focus on classic documentary photography, the artists at Galerie Bene Taschen depict urban spheres and human life at the social edge

Photograph: Arlene Gottfried/Galerie Bene Taschen, Koʻln





Georges Limbour and Jean Dubuffet, Farley Farm, UK, 1955, Lee Miller

The Lee Miller Archives will be celebrating Farleys 75th anniversary by showcasing Miller's post-war photography in Sussex. In anticipation of the Lee movie coming out in the autumn the archives will also be exhibiting a series of Miller's self-portraits from throughout her life – as well as portraits of her by Roland Penrose and David E Scherman, some of which are previously unseen. See more of Lee Miller's work here

Photograph: Lee Miller Archives





Grey, 2013, Olivier Richon

In his work, Olivier Richon includes a strong element of philosophical reflection upon the animate and the inanimate by contrasting the unpredictable behaviour of an animal with a photography studio

Photograph: Olivier Richon/Bendana-Pinel Art Contemporain, Paris





If Music is a Place, Then Jazz is the City, Folk is the Wilderness, Rock is the Road, Classical is a Temple, 2021, Kweku Yeboah

Kweku Yeboah is a Ghanian photographer whose work is inspired by his country's multi-ethnic, diverse population, consisting of different cultures and beliefs. He says: 'One of my favourite things is spotting daily occurrences in the Accra scene, through music and colours of clothing or styles of dress. I get to see different types of African style, fashion in different colours and rare accessories worn by diverse individuals'

Photograph: Kweku Yeboah/Bright Gallery, Tel-Aviv



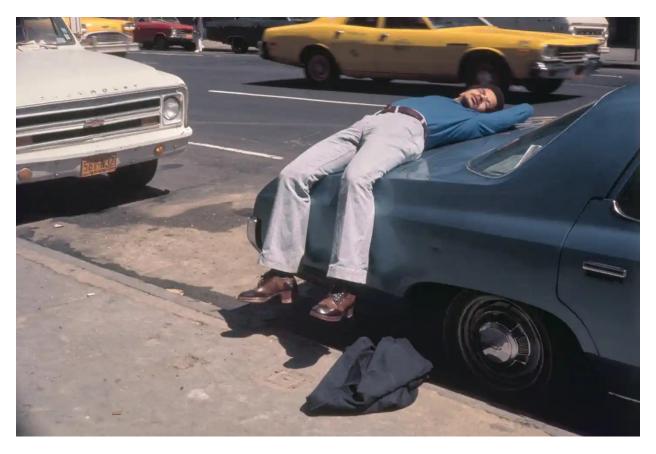


Character # IV, Anna Aurora Astrup (1871–1968) Plate # 1 Astrup's Horn, 2015, Tonje Bøe Birkeland

Tonje Bøe Birkeland carefully constructs and choreographs the images in her series Characters, embarking on expeditions into the mountains and creating meticulously researched costumes. She uses period cameras to fill the gaps in Norway's history and landscape where women's bodies have been excluded

Photograph: Tonje Bøe Birkeland/Gyldenpris Kunsthall, Norway





New York, 1974, Helen Levitt

Unseen colour photographs by the renowned American artist Helen Levitt, whose ouvre is a testament to her great passion for street photography. The project has developed through research into original material and notes from Levitt's archive

Photograph: Helen Levitt/Zander Galerie, Cologne





Odalisque No 1, Winfield Estate, Long Island, 2004, Rodney Smith

The first exhibition of American photographer Rodney Smith's work in the UK. His work has been compared to Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, leading viewers down rabbit-holes to fantastical places

Photograph: Rodney Smith/Staley-Wise Gallery, NY





Legless, 2023, James D Kelly

Works from Kelly's private archive. The London-based photographer portrays youth, joy, love, hedonism and glamour. Works on show investigate the reasons and appeal for pleasure, as relating to the pleasure theory, in reference to the early psychoanalytic theory of personality

Photograph: James D Kelly/Guerin Projects, London





The X-pression Series #1, 2023, Satchel Lee

Body & Soul is a collection of portraiture depicting the reclamation of the Black body, culture and space. The artists featured in this show capture moments of reclamation through photojournalism. It rises above the long and problematic history of Black bodies being seen predominately through the white male gaze in visual culture

Photograph: Satchel Lee/Cierra Britton Gallery, NY





Red Crown Crane Feeding, Hokkaido, Japan, 2005, Michael Kenna

Michael Kenna's mysterious photographs, often made at dawn or in the dark of night, concentrate on the interaction between the natural landscape and human-made structures. Kenna is fascinated by light when it is most pliant. With long time-exposures, which might last throughout the night, his photographs often record details that the human eye is not able to perceive. You can see more of his work here

Photograph: Michael Kenna/Peter Fetterman Gallery, LA





Garage Still, Naples, Italy, 2016, Jacquie Maria Wessels

Wessels's painterly images, with a surprising colour palette and lighting are as rough as they are poetic. For her Garage Stills project, Wessels travelled the world, chasing her fascination for the wondrous universe of traditional garages

Photograph: Jacquie Maria Wessels/Galerie Baudelaire, Antwerp





Portrait 03, 2005, Jean Baptiste Huynh

Huynh's minimalist approach explores the purity of the human face, emphasising beauty in simplicity. The recurring themes in his work are the gaze, the self-image, otherness, light and the relationship to the infinite

Photograph: Jean-Baptiste Huynh/Galerie Sophie Scheidecke, Paris





Untitled, 1954, Yıldız Moran

The Disquiet of Still Life is the first exhibition to exclusively showcase gelatin silver prints by Yıldız Moran. Her work evolved into a poetic exploration of light, shadow and the nuanced greys of black-and-white photography. Treating landscapes as portraits and vice versa, Moran unveils the musicality and eroticism in still life

Photograph: Yıldız Moran/Galeri Nev Ankara





Charles Nègre, Street Vendor, circa 1852

Robert Hershkowitz Ltd is a British dealer specialising in European photography of the 1840s-60s. For Photo London 2024 it will show masterworks from these years with emphasis on the work of British photographers, complementing a concurrent Somerset House exhibition of French paper negative photography

Photograph: Robert Hershkowitz Ltd, UK





44°27'03.1"N 26°02'12.6"E III, 2017-2019, Richard John Seymour

Men ice fishing on Lacul Morii in winter. Lacul Morii is a 246-hectare artificially constructed lake on the outskirts of Bucharest. It was constructed under Nicolae Ceauşescu in 1986 in order to prevent flooding in the city

Photograph: Richard John Seymour/GBS Fine Art