**Capturing Culture Artist statements**

**Amy Lea Tinkler**

After her studies at the University of Westminster, Amy travelled the world, capturing the essence of diverse cultures through her lens. By deeply engaging with the communities she photographs, she gains insights into their ways of life, creating evocative and authentic portrayals. Her work not only reflects the beauty of cultural diversity but also highlights the profound connections she forms with the people she documents.

**Anjan Sarkar**

Anjan Sarkar is an amateur photographer who began his love of photography in 1999. In 2000 he won a Commonwealth Photography Grand Award. The following year Anjan followed his win with a highly commended award also from Commonwealth Photography. He has had further acclaim as his work has been published in various newspapers during the following three years. He was then delighted to win a prestigious award from the National Photographic Contest run by the Government of India.

**Anuj Raina**

Anuj Raina is a photographer based in Ahmedabad, India. In his day job, he works as an IT manager with a manufacturing firm. Anuj is a passionate naturalist and wildlife photographer, he says he looks for every opportunity he can, to explore places vis-à-vis capturing the relationship between nature and its inhabitants. The stories he captures through photography are motivated by his understanding of sustaining cultural and natural ecology. He is also one of the authors of the book "A Field Guide to Birds of Gujarat" and he is currently working on writing further books related to wildlife, entomology (insects), and philately, which is the collection and study of postage stamps.

**Ata Mohammad Adnan**

Ata Mohammad Adnan, a doctor by profession and a photographer out of passion, was born to doctor parents in 1989 and finally picked up a camera during his third year in medical school.

Adnan is essentially a people photographer and intends to tell their stories through his photographs. Photography to him is an extension of his lifestyle and his camera, a part of his body. Photography has helped him get closer to people, often breaking boundaries of socio-economic borders.

Adnan is probably most well known as the founder of Reminiscence Photography, a team responsible for the rising popularity of capturing candid, un-staged moments in wedding photography in Bangladesh.

**Bernabe Della Mattia**

Bernabe Della Mattia is a third-generation photographer, the Della Mattia family has over 100 years of history in photography.

At the age of ten, he had already started taking photographs, and at the age of fifteen, he began to venture into video-making for TV programmes in his town.

He studied direction of photography in cinema, at the film university and worked in cinema, advertising, video clips, and television.

During those years, Bernabe got into the world of black-and-white manual development photography and began participating in different photography contests, receiving awards and mentions at national contests.

He then started working in different areas such as production, direction, sound and photography, while he was also working on still photography.

Bernabe embarked on his first international trip in 2009 and has been working in different countries and experiencing different cultures and places around the world since that date. Participating in exhibitions in Paris, Madrid, Rome, New York, and other cities whilst also taking part in contests, obtaining numerous mentions and awards.

For more than 15 years, he has ventured into advertising, landscape, documentary, travel and social photography in various countries.

As Bernabe himself says, ‘We never stop learning; we must try to keep on walking; we never know when the light will appear; we should be ready to capture those moments that will last forever’.

These photographs were taken in India, where public transport, street business, ancients works and traditions, make these culture a world of spectacular contradictions and a Georgius atmosphere.

**Bharat Bhambhaney**

Bharat Bhambhaney is an IT professional by day and a passionate photographer by heart. His love for photography encompasses capturing nature, architectural marvels, and the essence of people. He particularly enjoys focusing on the compositional aspects of photography to tell a compelling story.

This image was taken at a site where potters craft clay pots, traditionally used for storing drinking water in India. The process is multi-faceted and typically involves the entire family. In this scene, you can see both uncoloured and finished pots, with young girls assisting in transporting them. This moment beautifully illustrates the collaborative effort and cultural heritage behind the craft.

**Chinmoy Biswas**

Chinmoy Biswas is from Kolkata, West Bengal, India. A school teacher by profession, photography is his passion. He spends all his leisure time with his camera and he particularly likes to capture nature and human life. His passion for photography started in 2013. During this photography journey, Chinmoy has won both national and international awards including the Olympus Photo Award-2018, BauTur Photo Award-2022, Sugi and Nava-2022.

**Chirag Khatri**

Chirag Khatri is an award winning and published, travel and landscape photographer living in Dubai. An Architect by profession, he has always been fascinated by photography and started his journey of Digital Photography in the year 2015. Soon, this hobby became a passion and that led him to travel to beautiful locations of the world to capture stunning Architecture, Cityscape, Landscape, and Nature images.

Chirag always tries to create unique images to connect the viewer with the subject. He believes an image should bring out emotion in the viewer, or having a strong point of interest in it. Photography is a great medium to express Art and Creativity and so, like many others, he also chose it as the medium to bring his own art and creativity to the world. And, he says it really is one of the main things that brings him joy and happiness.

**Iuliia Krizhevska**

Iuliia Krizhevska was born and raised in Odessa,Ukraine. In 2022, because of the war with Russia she moved to Israel. She has been a photographer and artist since 2009, doing mostly urban and ethnic photography. She became a member of the NFUU (National Union of Artists of Ukraine) in 2014 and has participated in many national and foreign photo competitions, exhibitions and projects. Her love of ethnic photography started in 2012-2015, when she worked as a guide and photographer at the American travel company Free Spirit Outdoors. In 2018 Iuliia became one of the founders of the tourist and ethnographic project Ukrfolktour (https://www.facebook.com/ukrfolktour), dedicated to the exploration of the disappearing unique pre-Christian traditions of Ukraine. She loves preserving and protecting the hidden gems of unique and, unfortunately, disappearing traditions of her native country.

**Jennifer Downing**

Jennifer’s initial interest in photography took her to the darkroom where she produced large prints of the mountains of Nepal.

She then discovered India with her beautiful people, fascinating culture and, above all, her colour: intense, vibrant, exciting colour.

Jennifer undertook an MA in Photography and the Urban Culture at Goldsmiths, University of London in 2008.

Her interest in photographing abstract colour in the city continues.

**Jophel Botero Ybiosa**

Jophel Botero Ybiosa was born and raised in Quezon City, Philippines. Currently, he is the Captain of Team Philippines for the World Photographic Cup and he is also the founder of Team Juan Makasining. Jophel also works as a Master Photographer for the Princess Cruise Lines. He actively participates in the various global competitions and exhibitions and has received at least 500 local and international awards from different disciplines. He also served as one of the judges in the New York Photography Awards and Global Photography Awards.

Art is a product of imagination, experimentation, passion, inspiration and exploration. Jophel’s artistic practice is focused on Travel and Cultural Photography with the primary mission to showcase with the world the inherent beauty and meaningful story of the Philippines through creative works.

**Mahfuzul Hasan Bhuiyan**

Mahfuzul Hasan Bhuiyan also known as Mahfuzul Hasan Rana is one of the key architectural photographers as well as a documentary photographer in Bangladesh. He graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology. His passion has brought him to practice his photography professionally. His extended interest in different photographic genres inspired him to capture mundane life around the globe. He is a co-founder of Absurd Photos Ltd and is currently represented by ZUMA Press inc. He has achieved hundreds of international photography awards and has exhibited in several countries as well as having his works published worldwide. He is one of the co-founders of Bangladesh Society of Photographic Art (BSPA) and is Chairman of Patronage & Promotion in Image Colleague Society (ICS), USA. He has been a fellow of several international photographic clubs worldwide. Mahfuzul has also served as a jury member for many national and international photographic competitions.

**Melinda Choi**

Melinda Choi is an amateur photographer based in Sydney, Australia. She loves to take photos whether she’s travelling, working, or walking her dog. She prefers not to use ‘fancy’ equipment and her aim is to live intentionally, wanting to live in the present, and not behind a screen or through a viewfinder. But she also loves the memories and smells and experiences photographs can invoke.

As a traveller, Melinda likes observing people in their environments and noting how they live. She likes to see how people interact with their environments, whether it’s man-made structures or surrounded by nature, contributing to shared experiences, history, and culture.

**Natalia Albrekht**

Natalia Albrekht is an economist by profession but became interested in photography in 2010. Natalia Albrekht is currently a member of the Russian national photography team. In 2023 she and her team won the World Cup on the prestigious 30th FIAP Colour 2023 Biennale in Greece. She is also a member of the Union of Photo Artists of Russia and the IL FIAP EURASIA. She also holds the EFIAP title of the International Federation of Photographic Art. She has participated in various International Photo Festivals, Photo Exhibitions in Russia, Europe, USA and Asia. Melinda has more than 30 FIAP, PSA, GPU, RPS, IPA awards on photo salons in 27 countries. Her work has been published in, National Geographic Traveller and Cosmopolitan Russia.

**Nejc Trpin**

From the divine and wild Alpine peaks, through waterfalls and other beautiful landscapes, to climbing and other adventure stories and images, Nejc Trpin, based in Slovenia, is following his own one rule: searching for light and adventure. His creative vision, photographs and stories show his passion for nature, adventure and the outdoors. The time he spends outdoors, developing his skills result in a strong portfolio of great images.

Born in the woods, as a kid, he always sought high points, curious about the view. The higher he got, the more horizons opened before his eyes, waiting to be explored. His passion for traveling and mountaineering combined with a thirst for photography knowledge. Whether hot or cold, ice or desert, dusk or dawn, Nejc wants to be out there, to see and create memorable images.

Since 2016, Nejc has been sharing his knowledge in Trips4photos Photography Workshops both on the field as well as behind a computer and he combines travel, holidays and adventure with photography and learning.

His photographs were all taken in the area of Ribnica in southeastern Slovenia.

The photographs were part of a documentary story which was made for National Geographic Slovenia and was published in April of 2016. It covers the tradition of wood makers and carvers in the area of Ribnica, South East Slovenia, which are world known from their products. The timeline of the story goes from cutting the trees for material all the way to the final products. Several families are still keeping this tradition and the knowledge is passing from one generation to the next.

**Olga Diasparro**

Olga Diasparro works as a lawyer, engaged primarily in the protection of victims of gender violence. Work which cultivates her passion for photography, favoring social issues. She collaborates with Giraffa (a non-profit Association), creating photographic projects on gender issues. In 2018 her exhibition entitled "Crepe nell'anima", on gender violence, was chosen in March 2019 by the National Forensic Council in "The days of the CNF for the rights of persons and families". In 2020 she was among the winners of the contest “Rebels, portraits of former smokers or the courage to breathe” organized by Walce Puglia, from Women Against Lung Cancer in Europe. In 2022 she created the exhibition “Ri-Tessere”, an exhibition showing the rebirth of women who have been victims of violence and the socio-inclusion project followed by women victims of violence promoted by the Banca Etica Foundation and Giraffa.

**Ruth Bourne LRPS**

Photography became a significant interest for Ruth Bourne after an unplanned early retirement for health reasons. She initially found it quite therapeutic and she rapidly developed a real enjoyment of the many opportunities it offers for creative expression.

Ruth loves to discover other photographers' work and views of the world and enjoys exhibitions and online photo-sharing.

She doesn’t specialise in any genre, but enjoys trying to convey character, moods, ‘spirit of place’ and atmosphere, and particularly likes spotting the quirky.

'Café parisien' had no loftier aspiration than capturing an evocative moment to remind me of this wedding anniversary trip!

**Saiful Amin**

Saiful Amin is a street documentary photographer & photography book collector from Dhaka, Bangladesh. Photography is his hobby, and it has been since the mid1980s. In 2009 Saiful was involved in the ‘Pilkhana Tragedy’. He was taking photographs of an internal clash between the government border guards and he was shot in the legs, resulting in years of operations, pain and reliance on a brace and crutches to be able to walk. He restarted his photographic journey in 2015, taking photographs every day. In 2017, Saiful started working on two documentaries; one on Bihari and the other one on Dalit which are both minor communities. He has also worked on many other documentaries but still suffers from the effects of the accident in 2009.

**Sheila Haycox**

Sheila Haycox has been into serious photography since 1986 and has progressed rapidly since then, gaining different distinctions with The Royal Photographic Society, The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain and The International Federation of Photographic Art.

Her photography includes wildlife, sport, street, landscape, architecture and creative work.

She now tends to concentrate on producing Audio Visuals which she enters into major International Salons. Sheila finds that using her images with music and narration gives her more satisfaction, as it’s not just about the photography it’s about the production.

Sheila thoroughly enjoys giving presentations of her work and she has travelled far and wide but these days she tends to use Zoom to give her talks and demonstrations.

**Sonal Shah**

During a four year stay in NYC (2010-2014), Sonal Shah became interested in street photography, in particular US culture in different states. To have experienced the dances, drum beats and passions from the varied indigenous nations, she says was truly amazing. She has continued photographing street scenes in her travels and has tried to incorporate the local culture and to capture the every-day gritty nature of life, most recently during a long stay in Kenya.

**Udayan Sankar Pal**

Udayan has travelled a long way from a bare-footed, camera-toting village lad to a selective shutterbug and a passionate pursuer of the art of photography in all it’s forms. He truly believes that photography became his religion when he was 13 years old, about 32 years ago. People and their day-to-day activities attract him most as a subject.

He says photography is all about the eye. You either see things or are influenced to see things. Being a non-professional photographer, it’s his intense passion that inspires him to interact with people and to attempt to know our world better.