

GEN Z **Shaping a New Gaze**

An exhibition collaboration between Photo Elysée and Fotografie Forum Frankfurt

Exhibition Duration: **9 May – 30 August 2026**

Opening: **Friday, 8 May 2026, 7.00 pm**

Venue: **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt**

Frankfurt am Main, 8 May 2026 – One generation, countless perspectives: The exhibition **Gen Z: Shaping a New Gaze** gives a voice to young people, primarily born between 1995 and 2010 – who refuse to simply accept the world they have grown up in. This generation questions norms, challenges codes, and redefines its place in a changing time. The group exhibition at the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt presents works by 40 photographers from 25 countries.

Intimate stories, multiple identities, reinvented family ties, and a sensitive exploration of the body and gender intertwine with personal narratives, creating a vibrant collective energy – a rich mosaic of experiences, cultural backgrounds and perspectives, where the personal becomes political.

Conceived as an immersion into the contemporary issues shaping this generation, the exhibition is structured around four themes, each offering an insight into the concerns and aspirations of young people who create, question, demand, and reinvent themselves.

Mapping a Sense of Belonging explores the home as a place of identity – be it a refuge or a source of tension. **Shifting Realities** widens the gaze to a world undergoing political, climatic, and social upheavals, in which the notions of home and belonging themselves become uncertain, and themes of exile, instability, and resilience are addressed. **Beyond the Mirror** places the body at the centre: many Generation Z artists question gender norms and stereotypes, and the body is experienced as a space of transformation and made visible as such. **Multiplying Perspectives** raises questions around race, history, and culture. The artists reclaim control of their own narratives and position photography as a tool of resistance and transformation.

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The Fotografie Forum Frankfurt presents **Gen Z: Shaping a New Gaze** for the first time in Germany. The exhibition is accompanied by a publication gathering the works of all 66 artists originally shown at Photo Elysée in Lausanne. Organised and produced by Photo Elysée in Lausanne, curated by Nathalie Herschdorfer, Hannah Pröbsting, and Julie Dayer, the group exhibition has been adapted for the FFF with the curatorial collaboration of Celina Lunsford and Andrea Horvay. In doing so, Photo Elysée – following its exhibition series ‘reGeneration’ – and the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt – with ‘Photography Players’ and ‘Recommended’ – continue their commitment to emerging photographers.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Chloé Azzopardi (FR, 1994), Hidir Badaruddin (SG, 1995), Daveed Baptiste (US, 1997), Sara Benabdallah (MA, 1995), River Claire (BO, 1997), Sara De Brito Faustino (PT/NL, 1999), Florian Gatzweiler (DE, 1998) & Sascha Levin (DE, 2000), Toma Gerzha (RU, 2003), Mahalia Taje Giotto (CH/IT, 1992), Salomé Gomis-Trezise (FR/GB, 1999), Marvel Harris (NL, 1995), Thembinkosi Hlatshwayo (ZA, 1993), Lorane Hochstätter (CH, 2001), Ben Hubert (GB, 2002), Francesca Hummler (US/DE, 1997), Matej Jurčević (HR, 1995), Lisa Karnadi (ID, 1997), Nur Aishah Kenton (SG/GB, 1998), Ahmed Khirelsid (SD, 2001), Phương Nguyễn Lê (VN, 2002), Yunping Li (ES, 1998), Isabella Madrid (CO, 1999), Luna Mahoux (BE, 1996), Gabriela Marciniak (PL, 1996), Cheryl Mukherji (IN, 1995), Daniel Obasi (NG, 1993), Alice Pallot (FR, 1995), Laurence Philomène (CA, 1993), Soyeohang Rai (IN, 2001), Carla Rossi (IT, 1999), Emma Sarpaniemi (FI, 1993), Fatimazohra Serri (MA, 1995), Suwa Shin (KR, 2000), Charlie Tallott (GB, 2000), Varvara Uhlik (UA, 1997), Farren van Wyk (NL/ZA, 1993), Ziyu Wang (CN, 1998), Noyan (CH/TR, 1999), Sophia Wilson (US, 2000).

PUBLICATION

A publication accompanying the exhibition by Nathalie Herschdorfer, published by Textuel (Paris) with a foreword by journalist Salomé Saqué, is available in French and English. The French edition is available at the FFF (English edition currently out of print).

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SUPPORTING PROGRAMME

SAT/SUN, 9/10 May, 10.00 am – 5.00 pm **WORKSHOP** with GEN Z photographer
FRANCESCA HUMMLER “MINDFUL SELF-PORTRAITURE: OBJECTS, ARCHIVES, AND IDENTITY”

SAT, 9 May, 3.00 pm **GALLERY TALK** with present Gen Z artists, DR. HANNAH PRÖBSTING,
Photo Elysée, and CELINA LUNSFORD & ANDREA HORVAY

FRI, 29 May, 6.00 pm **PANEL DISCUSSION** “GEN Z: ART IN THE AGE OF AI” with **LORANE
HOCHSTÄTTER, ALINA FRIESKE**, moderated by **ELINOR ZOË KARL**, FFF Academy Assistant

TUE, 26 May, 23 June, 21 July, 18 August, 3.00 pm **CURATOR TOURS** with **CELINA
LUNSFORD** or **ANDREA HORVAY**

RECOMMENDATIONS from the **FFF ACADEMY**

FRI–MON, 24–27 July, 10.00 am – 5.00 pm **MASTERCLASS WORKSHOP** with **NINA
BERMAN** “VISUAL STORYTELLING AND THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN ARCHIVE AND CREATIVE
PHOTOGRAPHY”

FRI–MON, 25–28 SEPTEMBER, 10.00 am – 5.00 pm **MASTERCLASS WORKSHOP** with **MAX
PINCKERS** “SPECULATIVE DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY”

PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS Wednesdays, 5.00 pm

OPENING HOURS TUE–SUN 11.00 am – 6.00 pm, MON closed

Entry 8 Euros, reduced 5 Euros

Press information and press photos for the exhibition **GEN Z: SHAPING A NEW GAZE** at
the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt are available for download at: www.fff Frankfurt.com/presse

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An exhibition organised and produced by

**PHOTO
ELYSEE**

supported by



FOTOGRAFIE FORUM FRANKFURT

The Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF) is one of the leading centres of photography in Europe. As an exhibition space, institution and event forum, the FFF deals with all aspects of photography. Since its founding in 1984 it has presented over 300 exhibitions with historic and contemporary photographers and artists. Additionally, the programme of the FFF ACADEMY comprises regular workshops, talks and discussions with internationally renowned photographers, artists and experts. Fotografie Forum Frankfurt is the organising partner of the international RAY Triennial of Photography, which takes place in various exhibition venues in Frankfurt/Rhine-Main. Further information available at www.fff Frankfurt.org.

The Fotografie Forum Frankfurt is supported by the Förderkreis Fotografie Forum Frankfurt e.V., FUJIFILM Electronic Imaging Europe, the City of Frankfurt am Main, Crespo Foundation, Henryk Sznep and Hauck, Aufhäuser, Lampe.



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MAPPING BELONGING

For many, a sense of belonging begins at home. Whether understood as family, a physical dwelling, or a chosen community, our notion of home is shaped by our experiences and the people with whom we build it. These foundations often carry pride and comfort but can also hold pain. The very spaces and structures meant to ground us can at times fracture and fall apart, becoming sites of vulnerability, anguish, and exclusion. As these relationships shift or erode over time, so too can our understanding of what home means.

The works in this section give form to these evolving notions of home and belonging. Through archives, childhood memories, intergenerational trauma, and new models of living together, these artists explore how personal and collective identities are constructed, challenged, and reimagined. Together, they invite us to reflect on what it means to belong.

SHIFTING REALITIES

For centuries, war, forced migration, and political unrest have shaped – and often shattered – how people experience belonging and their sense of home. Today, the collapse of our climate adds a new and urgent layer to this long history of displacement. These forces blur the boundaries between safety and threat, home and exile. As states falter and ecosystems break down, home becomes unstable – a place to flee from, to defend, or to mourn.

This section brings together works that explore instability, displacement, and resilience. They consider how both humans and the natural environment must adapt to a world that is constantly changing. What future can we imagine when everything is shifting – and what does it take to hold your ground?

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BEYOND THE MIRROR

Long regarded as central to identity and a key part of how we experience belonging, the body serves as both a powerful medium and subject of self-expression. Artists in this section explore the body as a site where identity is formed, performed, and ever evolving. Their images challenge dominant narratives of rigid gender stereotypes and binaries, offering new ways of seeing the body and honouring its capacity to shift, feel, and express. They show that through the body, identity can be both multilayered and fluid.

Here, the body is considered in its most holistic sense, encompassing the mind and the full spectrum of human emotions – the interior life of the self. We see how artists use photography to trace the contours of emotions and mental health.

MULTIPLYING THE GAZE

This section brings together diverse perspectives on identity and belonging, formed at the intersections of race, history, and culture. The diasporic gaze, for example, emerges from experiences of migration and displacement, navigating the complexities of belonging across multiple cultural contexts. Whereas the decolonial gaze challenges and dismantles narratives that have marginalised or erased non-Western ways of seeing and being.

Here, artists use photography not to observe from the outside but to speak from within. They represent their own communities and lived realities, reclaiming authorship over their experiences. Through their images, they reimagine history, challenge dominant representations, and construct new visual languages – iconographies that embrace fluidity, hybridity, and multiplicity. Photography thus becomes a powerful tool of resistance and transformation, inviting viewers to rethink and expand the ways in which identity is represented and how the world is seen.

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Chloé Azzopardi, ohne Titel

From the series »Non-Technological Devices«, 2023–ongoing
© Chloé Azzopardi, 2026



River Claire, Yatiri, Puma Punku, Bolivia, 2019

From the series »Warawar Wawa (Son of The Stars)«, 2019–2020
© River Claire, 2026



Francesca Hummler, Das Badezimmer, 2021

From the series »Unsere Puppenstube«
© Francesca Hummler, 2026

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Isabella Madrid, Self-Portrait with Horse, 2024

From the series »Buena, Bonita, y Barata«
© Isabella Madrid/ECAL, 2026



Gabriela Marciniak, Untitled 005, 2025

From the series »Early Retirement«
© Gabriela Marciniak/ECAL, 2026



Daniel Obasi, Untitled, 2022

From the series »Beautiful Resistance«
© Daniel Obasi, 2026



Laurence Philomène, Paint Me Like One of Your Pre-Raphaelite Boy-Girls, 2019

From the series »Puberty«
© Laurence Philomène, 2026

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Emma Sarpaniemi, Delivering Cake to Hilma, 2024

From the series »Two Ways to Carry a Cauliflower«

© Emma Sarpaniemi, 2026



Fatimazohra Serri, Half Seen, Half Imagined

From the series »Shades of Black«

© Fatimazohra Serri, 2026



Charlie Tallott, Ask For Love and You Won't Get It, 2023

From the series »At Least Until the World Stops Going Round«

© Charlie Tallott, 2026

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Ziyu Wang, Lads, 2023
From the series »Go Get'Em Boy«
© Ziyu Wang, 2026



Sophia Wilson, Growing Up, 2023
© Sophia Wilson, 2026

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