

PHOTO 2024 International Festival of Photography presents an art trail of 100 free photography exhibitions and outdoor art installations to explore across Melbourne and Victoria



PHOTO 2024 - Artist impression of Parliament Precinct. Reference only not to be reproduced.

Naarm/Melbourne, November 2023 – Australia’s largest photography festival returns from 01 to 24 March 2024 for its third edition: PHOTO 2024 International Festival of Photography. The award-winning biennale features an art trail of 100 free exhibitions and outdoor art installations to explore across seven Festival Precincts in Melbourne, as well as five cities in regional Victoria – presented in partnership with over 50 museums and galleries including ACMI, State Library Victoria, Museum of Australian Photography, and the Centre for Contemporary Photography.

Addressing the theme ‘The Future Is Shaped by Those Who Can See It’, PHOTO 2024’s expansive program invites audiences to discover the possible and parallel futures that lie ahead, and how current actions are shaping future realities – from AI-generated images and surveillance evasion to climate futures and animal espionage.

For more information, please contact AMPR:
Tahryn Mant | tahryn@ampr.com.au
Sarah McGlashan | sarah.m@ampr.com.au

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Founder/Artistic Director Elias Redstone says: “The world has changed immeasurably in recent years and what lies ahead is far from certain. At PHOTO 2024, visionary artists and photographers are sharing their insights of the world as it is today to raise questions about what lies in store for us tomorrow.”

PHOTO 2024 features over 150 contemporary photographers and artists from Australia and around the world, including exclusive presentations by Ryan McGinley (USA), Omar Victor Diop (Senegal), Carmen Winant (USA), Edward Burtynsky (Canada), Mous Lamrabet (Morocco), Candice Breitz (South Africa), Cao Fei (China), and CAMP (India). PHOTO 2024 also celebrates three Icons of Photography: Nan Goldin (USA), Malick Sidibé (Mali) and Rennie Ellis (Australia).

Highlights include:

- 29 large-scale outdoor displays at iconic locations across Melbourne such as Parliament of Victoria, St Paul’s Cathedral and Fed Square, with new commissions by Australian artists Jemima Wyman (palawa), Angela Tiatia, Amos Gebhardt, Zoe Croggon, Elisa Carmichael (Quandamooka), Sammaneh Pourshafighi, Jo Duck and Kenton/Davey.
- PHOTO 2024’s Icons of Photography exhibitions include Nan Goldin’s landmark series ‘The Ballad of Sexual Dependency’ at the Art Gallery of Ballarat, an immersive exhibition re-imagining Rennie Ellis’s image archive at State Library Victoria, and the first Australian exhibition of Malian photographer Malick Sidibé on the State Library’s forecourt.
- A monumental 20-metre photograph by Nan Goldin capturing an intimate moment of her parents kissing, installed on the façade of Fed Square facing Flinders St and Hosier Lane.
- Presentations by prominent First Nations artists and photographers Tony Albert (Girramay/Kuku Yalanji), Maree Clarke (Yorta Yorta/Wamba Wamba/Mutti Mutti/Boonwurrung), Julie Gough (Trawlwoolway), Peta Clancy (Bangerang), Jody Haines (Palawa), Corben Mudjandi (Mirrarr), Tace Stevens (Noongar/Spinifex), and more.
- ‘Queer PHOTO’, a mini-festival of queer photography presented by PHOTO 2024 and Midsumma Festival across Footscray Community Arts, The Substation, Trocadero Projects, and Wyndham Art Gallery and Werribee Park, with 14 exhibitions including Australian Premieres by Sunil Gupta (India/Canada/UK), Clifford Prince King (USA), FAFSWAG (Aotearoa New Zealand), Vic Bakin (Ukraine), and new commissions by local artists Lilah Benetti, Salote Tawale and Leilani Fuimaono.
- New solo exhibitions by established Australian women photographers including Rosemary Laing, Debra Phillips, Janet Laurence, Julie Millowich, Jill Orr, and 2023 Bowness Photography Prize winner Anne Zahalka.
- The World Premiere of ‘Extraction’, a series by Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky documenting Australian resource mining landscapes, at the Museum of Australian Photography.

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- The Australian Premiere of celebrated American artist Ryan McGinley’s ‘Yearbook’ installation featuring hundreds of portraits of youth at Shepparton Art Museum.
- ‘7 Photographs that Shaped the Future’, an exhibition of images that changed the course of history, presented outside St Paul’s Cathedral on Melbourne’s Swanston Street.
- ‘Uncanny Valley: Photography, Tech and the Hyperreal’ outside Melbourne’s Old Treasury Building presents a series of images on the front line of digital creation from artists including Darren Sylvester (Australia), John Yuyi (Taiwan) and Boris Eldagsen (Germany).
- ‘New Photographers’ exhibition showcasing six of Melbourne’s most exciting new talent, featuring Teva Cosic, Pearce Leal, Kyle Archie-Knight (Wiradjuri), Nicholas Mahady, Cecilia Sordi Campos, and Erhan Tirli.

PHOTO 2024’s engaging events program of tours, talks, film screenings and workshops concentrate on four focus weekends that allow photography lovers at all levels to participate – from Opening Weekend celebrations and Regional Weekend excursions, to stimulating discussions on the future of photography at the Ideas Weekend, and a world of photography books to browse and buy at the Photobook Weekend.

PHOTO 2024 is presented by PHOTO Australia in collaboration with 50 cultural, education, industry, government and corporate partners including City of Melbourne and Creative Victoria.

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp says: “We’re delighted to welcome the third edition of PHOTO 2024 International Festival of Photography to the streets of Melbourne, including the incredible free art trail that weaves through the city’s iconic landmarks and laneways. This is Melbourne’s moment to come together and celebrate the magic of photography; an art that helps us all connect as we set our sights on a shared future. The impressive scale of PHOTO 2024 bolsters our city’s status as an international arts capital and elevates the unique vision of Melburnian artists alongside the world’s best.”

The Hon. Colin Brooks, Minister for Creative Industries, says: “PHOTO 2024 is transforming the streets of Victoria into vibrant, free art galleries for everyone to enjoy the work of world-leading photographic artists. We’re proud to back this festival, the largest of its kind in Australia, making art more accessible with a busy program of tours, talks, film screenings and workshops.”

For more information about the program, visit [PHOTO 2024 Media Centre](#) and photo.org.au.

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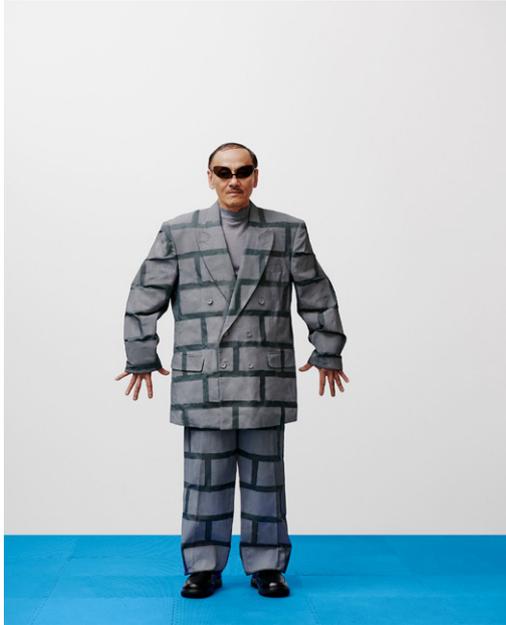


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Jo Duck, *Brick Trick* from the series *Disguises*, 2022. Courtesy the artist.



Malick Sidibé, *NUIT DE NOËL (HAPPY CLUB)*, 1963. Courtesy Gallery FIFTY ONE.

Notes to editors

About the PHOTO 2024 Program

- 100 exhibitions including 29 outdoor installations and 71 exhibitions in museums and galleries, across 7 Melbourne precincts and 5 cities in regional Victoria
- 150+ local and international exhibiting artists
- 10 new artworks commissioned by PHOTO Australia for PHOTO 2024

About the 7 Festival Precincts & Regional venues to explore

1. Melbourne Arts Precinct – ACMI, Fed Square, St Paul’s Cathedral, Anna Schwartz Gallery, Blindside, CAVES, Melbourne Town Hall and more.
2. Parliament Precinct – Parliament of Victoria, Parliament Gardens, Treasury Precinct, Tolarno Galleries, ARC ONE Gallery, Void_Melbourne, Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, and more.
3. State Library Precinct – State Library of Victoria, RMIT Gallery, RMIT Design Hub, Arts House.
4. Fitzroy/Collingwood Precinct – Centre for Contemporary Photography, Collingwood Yards, West Space, Arts Project Australia, Gertrude Glasshouse, Res Artis, Agency Projects, Sullivan+Strumpf, James Makin Gallery, FUTURES, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Abbotsford Convent, and more.
5. Brunswick Precinct – Counihan Gallery, Daine Singer, Hillvale Gallery, Neon Parc, Animal House Fine Arts and more.

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6. South Precinct – Museum of Australian Photography, Prahran Skate Park, MADA Gallery, MARS Gallery, Linden New Art, Glen Eira Council Gallery, Sophie Gannon Gallery, LON Gallery.

7. West Precinct – Footscray Community Arts, The Substation, Wyndham Art Gallery, Werribee Park, Trocadero Projects, The Outside Gallery, and more. Regional Galleries: Art Gallery of Ballarat, Castlemaine Art Gallery, Shepparton Art Museum, Benalla Art Gallery, Latrobe Regional Gallery.

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About the 4 Focus Weekends

PHOTO 2024's events program will be focused on the four weekends of the festival with curated programs of talks, tours, workshops, and experiences to inspire and entertain:

- O1–O3 March, Opening Weekend: Celebrating festival opening across Melbourne CBD, Fitzroy/Collingwood, and Brunswick precinct indoor and outdoor exhibitions.
- O8–11 March, Regional Weekend: Explore exhibitions and events at Art Gallery of Ballarat, Castlemaine Art Museum, Shepparton Art Museum, Benalla Art Gallery and Latrobe Regional Gallery.
- 15–17 March, Ideas Weekend: Talks, workshops and events with artists, curators and academics exploring the festival theme.
- 22–24 March, Photobook Weekend: Showcasing the best new photobooks through exhibitions, events, and makers market, held for the first time at Abbotsford Convent.

PHOTO 2024's full events listings will be published early February 2024.

About PHOTO Australia

PHOTO Australia was founded in 2018 to launch a major new photography biennale in Melbourne and sites across Regional Victoria. Taking place every two years, the festival addresses the major issues of our time in a program of free exhibitions, outdoor displays and artist commissions across the city, as well as awards, talks, workshops, tours and experiences. Presenting ideas critical to contemporary photographic discourse, PHOTO encourages the public to engage with and think about photography and visual culture in new and inspiring ways. The inaugural festival PHOTO 2021 'The Truth' presented 105 exhibitions by 160 artists. PHOTO 2022 'Being Human' saw presentations of 130 artists across Melbourne including icons Cindy Sherman and Helmut Newton, with British Journal of Photography claiming the biennale is "Australia's most prestigious photography festival." Both festivals have attracted a total of more than 250,000 participants. PHOTO 2024 O1–24 March 'The Future Is Shaped by Those Who Can See It' will be the third edition.

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