

Open call

MIGRATION

Migration - An open call by An Indian Summer festival for the AIS OPEN

Following on from the inaugural AIS Open last year which had the theme Freedom, we are exploring the freedom of movement. Our theme for AIS Open: Women Behind the Lens, is Migration. We look forward to seeing your interpretations.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 14TH NOVEMBER

What is the opportunity?

Artists are invited to submit work exploring the theme of Migration and what it means to have or not have freedom of movement in today's world. The exhibition will be curated by Sebah Chaudhry with a panel of experts and festival stakeholders.

Inspired by the migration of South Asian communities, the exhibition aims to explore what freedom of movement means. How does migration affect individuals and communities and how do different societies respond to the movement of people from one location to another? What are the reasons for migration and what are the freedoms and restrictions that may be associated with it?

As the Covid-19 crisis has forced us into isolation and taken away many freedoms globally, does this force us to understand and appreciate freedom of movement differently?

Before you start your application, please make sure you have the following information:

- Name, email address, country, telephone number and social media handles
- Your art form area
- About your photography practice (max 300 words) either as written text or as recorded audio or video

The main focus of my creative activities is experimental/abstract photography. I want to bring to life the art of the subconscious mind, visceral memory that creates bizarre and mesmerizing images, images that are so exceptionally open to interpretation that they absorb original meaning with every person and connect deeply, inciting sensations of all sorts. I find the notion of infinite interpretations captivating and liberating, and I want to bring it to existence through my photographs.

I am fascinated by Freudian influence on surrealism and futurism – the theory of the unconscious and want to explore it further. I am also immensely influenced by geometry and curious to investigate how

it made its way to so many different art styles throughout the years, touching on something extraordinary within the human understanding of art. I manifest it through black and white photography, working predominantly with 35mm and medium format cameras. I choose the analogue approach as it reflects my interest in ephemeral (that photography tries to find answers to), imperfect, wabi-sabi and collaboration with a chance.

- Submit upto 5 artworks. Note you can submit one, two or three based on your preference and artworks do not need to be from the same series

Question 2, Please tell us about the Artworks you are submitting and how they relate to theme of AIS Open: Women Behind the Lens - Migration (max 300 words) *

Note: you can provide an audio or video answer to this question (see below). This should include information such as - the themes you are exploring - your approach to your work - why the artwork is important to you - how it is normally shown - the names of exhibition (including city and country) where the artworks may have been show in the past - your ideas behind the artwork - methods, techniques or processes used in the production of the artwork.

In my work I explore the theme of migration through the unusual eyes of a migrant who does not feel a connection and longing to her homeland. A characteristic that is so common for most migrants who either miss their homes and want to return or/and feel displaced, torn between their new home and motherland, has never been a part of my story. Since I left Poland almost 20 years ago, I have never missed it. Moreover, when I am there, I feel like I don't fit. On the contrary, I root myself easily in places that I choose to live in, integrate effortlessly, happily making my new home THE ONE (even if it's temporary), feeling the sense of belonging as if I always lived there. I aim to express this emotion in my artwork, as it is important to me to present an unconventional side to a migrant's relationship to their home country. I want to connect with people who feel the same way, communicate that they are not alone, and encourage them to embrace cosmopolitanism. For this project, I worked in my preferred method - analogue, using NIKON FM 2 and a variety of Ilford films (hp5 plus 400, fp4 plus 125, ortho plus 80). I formulated each artwork on a different idea/technique: reflection in the water, macro photography, and hacking 35mm to double exposure. I processed and developed two out of three images, and consequently, they show slight imperfections, which I welcome, embrace and see as an integral part of the image, my concept and history. These artworks have not been shown in an exhibition.

Artworks being submitted

Please Note,

- You can submit up to 3 artworks
- The images submitted should be either 1000 pixels wide or tall (depending on the orientation)
- The image resolution should be set at 150 PPI (pixels per Inch) or DPI (dots per inch)
- The description can include the size, materials used and date the artwork was created.

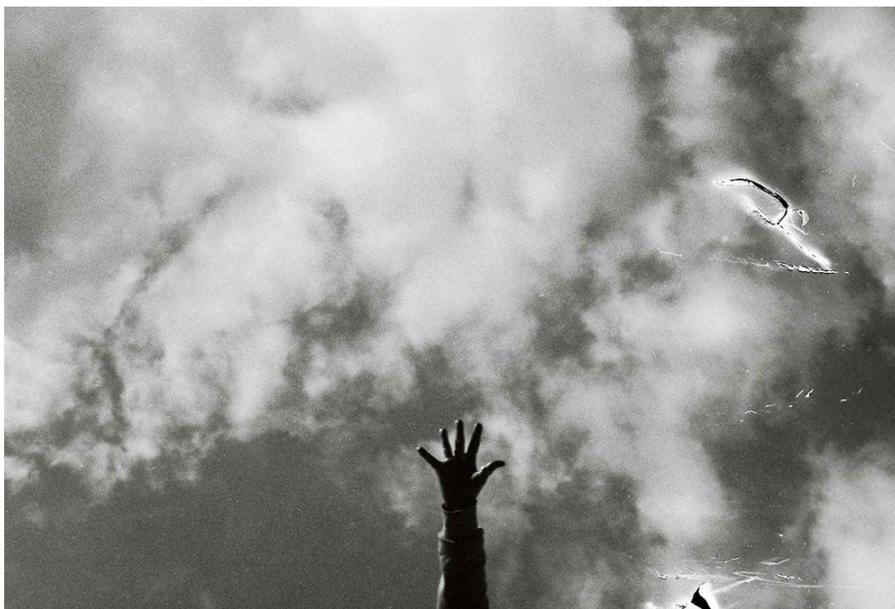
But then it says 5....

Art 1



'Bon Voyage' taken on hacked to double exposure 35mm NIKON FM2 on experiments ilford ortho plus 80, Manchester, August '21 (width:16.93, height:12.55)

Art 2



'One sky above us all' taken on NIKON FM2 ilford fp4 plus 125, reflection in a river Goyt, Peak District, New Mills, June '21 (width:16.93, height: 11.43)

Art 3



'Phoenix', taken with NIKON FM2 ilford hp5 plus 400, macro using portable light box, New Mills, November '21 (width:16.93, height: 10.48)