

PHOTO LONDON

Photo London

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Preview 15 May 2024

Photolondon.org



Valérie Belin, *Still Life with mirror*, 2014. Copyright: Valérie Belin. Courtesy of Galerie Nathalie Obadia Paris/Brussels.

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Photo London today announces its ninth edition with French photographer Valérie Belin named Photo London Master of Photography 2024, alongside two further major exhibitions as part of its Public Programme, and an exciting line-up of exhibitors.

A celebration of the medium in all its forms, Photo London presents the best of the past, present and future of photography. Highlights of the 2024 edition include:

- **Valérie Belin**, Photo London Master of Photography 2024, presents the exhibition 'Silent Stories';
- **Robert Hershkowitz** curates 'The Magic Art of French Calotype. Paper Negative Photography 1846 – 1860';

- **Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation** celebrates the 25th anniversary of its collection with the exhibition '**See/Change — Art Collection Deutsche Börse @25**' curated by Anne-Marie Beckmann and Renée Mussai;
- **Belmond** is curating a photographic space that evolves their 'Belmond Legends' series, where Belmond's iconic destinations are captured through the lens of internationally acclaimed artists;
- **Kamiar Maleki**, Photo London Fair Director, curates the **Main Section** of the fair;
- **Charlotte Jansen** curates the **Discovery Section** for emerging photographers and galleries;
- **Photo London x Nikon Emerging Photographer of the Year** returns for its fifth cycle with last year's winner Léa Habourdin and fellow shortlisted artists on display;
- **Photo London x Hahnemühle Student Award** returns for its second year, platforming outstanding works by students enrolled in photography degrees at UK universities;
- **Thames & Hudson** leads the **2024 Talks Programme**, with contributions from **Nikon** and **FT Weekend**;
- An enhanced **VIP Programme** collaborating with art and photography collections across London.

PHOTO LONDON 2024 EXHIBITIONS

Leading the 2024 Public Programme, is a solo exhibition by Valérie Belin, the ninth recipient of the Photo London Master of Photography Award which is presented each year to a living artist who has made an exceptional contribution to photography.

One of France's most popular and acclaimed photographers, Valérie Belin (b. 1964) investigates the tension between the superficial appearance of things and their true nature, between reality and artificiality. Often using the human body as a vessel for abstraction and projected meaning, she has photographed live models and mannequins, masks and card sharks, dancers and bodybuilders, questioning the construction and fetishization of mainstream beauty ideals and enduring gender constructs.

On receiving the accolade, Belin stated: *"I am deeply honoured to have been chosen to showcase my work as the 2024 Master of Photography. For me, this award represents the recognition of 30 years' work and will be an opportunity to show the Photo London audience the vitality of contemporary photography by women."*

Fair Founders Michael Benson and Fariba Farshad comment: *"The work of the acclaimed French photographer Valérie Belin is intriguingly positioned at the intersection of art and photography. Over the course of her career her image making has attracted significant international recognition. She is represented in many important private and public collections around the world. In 2015 she became the first woman to win the Prix Pictet. Her winning series 'Still Life' typifies her approach featuring arrangements of cheap consumer items in elaborate compositions that echo classical vanitas and memento mori paintings. At this point in our own development Valérie's brilliant playful mix of art and photography makes her the ideal Master of Photography."*

'Silent Stories' presents three decades of Belin's works, reflecting an iconography that is deliberately silent through images that — in the words of their creator — *"are neither narrative nor documentary and tell no particular stories, but are designed to be seen as the mirror of fictions without words."*

The Fair extends its celebration of French photography with '**The Magic Art of French Calotype. Paper Negative Photography 1846–1860**', curated by **Robert Hershkowitz**. Its

title references Francis Wey's pronouncement in 1851 that "*Photography has attained a magic feeling that neither painting nor drawing could have reached.*"

Hershkowitz explains the appeal of these early images: "*When the pursuit and acquisition of fine photographs became the common passion of a very mixed group of art savvy individuals and American and Canadian museums in the late 1970s, early French paper negative photography was considered the most desirable, the images the most intriguing intellectually, the prints the most delectable. This exhibition introduces this body of photographic work to a British audience; it is almost non-existent in British institutions with perhaps a few dozen examples buried among hundreds of thousands of British ones, and these never exhibited.*"



Charles Nègre, *Street Vendor*, c.1852. Courtesy of Robert Hershkowitz Ltd.

A third exhibition will be presented by the **Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation** marking the 25th anniversary of its collection — one of the most renowned international collections of contemporary photography, which comprises more than 2,300 works by 160 artists from 35 countries.

Curated by Anne-Marie Beckmann, Director of the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation, and Renée Mussai, London-based independent curator and scholar, and member of the Foundation's Advisory Board, '**See/Change — Art Collection Deutsche Börse @25**' showcases current artistic positions and recent acquisitions centred around the theme of human condition.

Critically reflecting on poignant matters ranging from subjectivity and freedom, environmental and climate change to community activism, migration, transformation and selfhood through an international lens, works by artists such as Daniel Jack Lyons, Mohamed Bourouissa, Vanessa Winship, Sim Chi Yin, Marvel Harris and Sabiha Cimen will spotlight the diversity of the continuously growing collection, with a focus on portraiture(s) of people and places.

"We are very excited to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Art Collection Deutsche Börse in 2024. In this special year, the exhibition at Photo London is a particular highlight of our programme and we are delighted to present a curated selection of our collection of contemporary photography to an international audience."

— Anne-Marie Beckmann, Director of the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation



Sim Chi Yin, Shifting Sands #25, 2017 © Sim Chi Yin.

Photo London's Presenting Partner Belmond returns to the fair after its 2023 debut with *Fotografia Maroma* — an exhibition of contemporary Mexican photography co-curated by Fariba Farshad. Their 2024 presentation will evolve their 'Belmond Legends' series, which featured artists such as Durimel, Coco Capitán, Jack Davison, Jeano Edwards, Letizia Le Fur, François Halard, Rosie Marks, Chris Rhodes and Thomas Rousset.

PHOTO LONDON 2024 EXHIBITORS

With Photo London Fair Director **Kamiar Maleki** taking the helm, the Fair is building a strong international list featuring many returning galleries, including Sundaram Tagore Gallery (New York/London), Rolf Art (Buenos Aires), Persons Projects (Berlin), Robert Morat Galerie (Berlin), Ira Stehmann Fine Art (Munich), Galerie Peter Sillem (Frankfurt); an exciting group of first-time exhibitors, including Pesiehl & Heine (Hamburg), Leila Heller Gallery (New York), and Martch Art Project (Istanbul); as well as a group of outstanding galleries from Paris, including Galerie Nathalie Obadia (Paris) and Galerie Sophie Scheidecker (Paris), and local regulars including Flowers Gallery (London), Robert Hershkowitz Ltd. (Lindfield), Roland Belgrave Vintage Photography Ltd. (Brighton) and Purdy Hicks Gallery (London).

Maleki states: *"It has been a great privilege to work with Fariba and Michael and the outstanding team at Photo London to develop a shared vision designed to build on the formidable legacy of the Fair's first nine years and exploit its incredible potential. It may take a few years for our vision to be fully realised but I am really excited to see the lines of what we are seeking to create are already becoming clear both in the quality of the galleries taking part and in the increasing number of collectors from non traditional groups who are planning to be with us in May."*

The Fair's Discovery section dedicated to emerging photographers and galleries once again promises to be a highlight. Curated by the critic and author **Charlotte Jansen** with the support of Photo London's Associate Director Sophie Parker, Discovery is featuring exciting newcomers such as Palm* Studios (London) and Deák Erika Galéria (Budapest). Jansen notes: *"The Discovery section at Photo London has always been, for me, the most exciting area of the fair. As the name implies, it's where you might find things that you've never seen before, which is quite a rarity these days, given our image-saturated culture."*

PHOTO LONDON AWARDS

In its fifth edition, the **Photo London x Nikon Emerging Photographer of the Year Award** continues to highlight works of outstanding young photographers at the Fair, and presents a special display dedicated to the winner of the 2023 award, French visual artist Léa Habourdin, and her fellow shortlisted photographers in the Nikon Gallery.

The **Photo London x Hahnemühle Student Award** returns to the fair after a hugely successful inaugural edition. Working with UK universities offering photography degrees, the award highlights the most exciting early-career talent within the industry, bringing their portfolios to international attention. The shortlisted students will be granted the opportunity to print 5-10 artworks on their preferred Hahnemühle papers and present them in a dedicated exhibition at Photo London 2024. The winner is further awarded a trip to the Hahnemühle mill in Germany to produce a new body of photographic work.

Chaired by Fiona Shields, Head of Photography at The Guardian, the other experts making up the 2024 jury are: Professor Steve McLeod, Photographic Artist and Director, Metro Imaging; Tracy Marshall-Grant, Arts Director, Curator & Producer, Northern Narratives; Tim Clark, Editor/Curator, 1000 Words; Lisa Springer, Curator of Photography Touring Exhibitions, Victoria and Albert Museum; and Bindi Vora, Photographic Artist, Curator, Autograph, & Associate Lecturer in Photography.

THE 2024 TALKS, ACADEMY AND VIP PROGRAMMES

The **2024 Talks Programme** will be curated by **Thames & Hudson**, with contributions from Photo London partners **Nikon** and **FT Weekend** and this year will be **free of charge**. Full details will be announced ahead of the Fair. Meanwhile the **Photo London Academy** offers a year-round and free of charge programme, featuring the Online Talks, Book Club and a digital Magazine in the spirit of an artist's photo book, which can be visited here: <https://photolondon.org/academy/>.

The 2024 edition also boasts an enhanced **VIP Programme**, operating throughout the year as well as during the days of the Fair and collaborating with important art and photography exhibitions in London to create a strong community where collectors can interact with like-minded individuals. With the appointment of Alexandra Rosca as Head of VIP Relations, the VIP team will oversee an extensive outreach programme that will introduce new collectors to the Fair and maintain our long-standing, close partnerships with major cultural institutions, making Photo London a must-see event in London's cultural calendar and an essential destination for UK and international collectors.

Looking ahead to the 2024 edition, Photo London's Founders Michael Benson and Fariba Farshad say: *"We are thrilled to see the Fair developing under Kamiar's leadership and are looking forward to a really strong ninth edition featuring a truly international group of leading galleries and an outstanding public programme that showcases the past, present and future of photography in all its glory. We are also delighted to be continuing our partnerships with Belmond, Nikon and Hahnemühle, each of whom is enriching the artistic content of the Fair."*

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Valérie Belin (b. Boulogne-Billancourt, 1964; lives and works in Paris) graduated from the École Nationale des Beaux-arts in 1988, where she focused on American art of the '60s and '70s. She furthered her studies by pursuing philosophy of art at the Université Panthéon-Sorbonne in Paris. Her work has gained global recognition, with solo exhibitions held at prestigious institutions such as the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA; and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; amongst others. Her work is the subject of a major exhibition at the Musée des Beaux-Art de Bordeaux from 24 April – 28 October this year.

Belin has been recognized for her contributions to the field of photography with numerous awards, including the Paris Photo prize in 1997, the CCF (HSBC) Foundation for Photography Prize in 2000, and the Prix Pictet in 2015. In 2022, she was appointed Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres.

The **Photo London Master of Photography** is presented every year to a living artist who has made an exceptional contribution to photography. The previous recipients are: Sebastiao Salgado (2015), Don McCullin (2016), Taryn Simon (2017) Edward Burtynsky (2018), Stephen Shore (2019), Shirin Neshat (2021), Nick Knight (2022) and Martin Parr (2023).

Internationally recognised for over four decades, **Robert Hershkowitz Ltd** is the leading British dealer specialising in significant European photographs from the 1840s to the 1860s. The gallery represents pioneering first exponents of the art including Talbot, Le Gray, Marville, Fenton and Tripe.

The **Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation** is a non-profit organisation, based in Frankfurt/Main, dedicated to collecting, exhibiting and promoting contemporary photography. The Foundation is responsible for the development and presentation of the Art Collection Deutsche Börse, which now comprises over 2,300 photographic works by around 160 artists from 35 nations. It shows several public exhibitions a year in its exhibition space in Eschborn near Frankfurt am Main and supports young artists through awards, scholarships and the annual talent programme of the Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam Foam. Together with the Photographers' Gallery in London, it awards the renowned Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize every year. The Foundation also works on exhibitions with international museums and institutions, as well as creating platforms for academic dialogue and research on photography. In 2024 the Foundation celebrates the 25th anniversary of its collection of contemporary photography, the Art Collection Deutsche Börse, with an extensive programme of exhibitions and events.

Photo London was founded in 2015 by **Candlestar**, an internationally renowned cultural consultancy that specialises in the development of innovative projects in art and education. Candlestar runs a range of major photographic projects including producing Prix Pictet on behalf of the Pictet Group, the prestigious award for photography and sustainability now in its tenth cycle.

As the home of cultural innovators, [Somerset House](#) is a site of origination, with a cultural programme offering alternative perspectives on the biggest issues of our time. We are a place of joy and discovery, where everyone is invited to Step Inside and Think Outside. From our historic site in the heart of London, we work globally across art, creativity, business, and non-profit, nurturing new talent, methods and technologies. Our resident community of creative enterprises, arts organisations, artists and makers, makes us a centre of ideas, with most of our programme home-grown. We sit at the meeting point of artistic and social innovation, bringing worlds and minds together to create surprising and often magical results. Our spirit of constant curiosity and counter perspective is integral to our history and key to our future.

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