

Aneta Ivanova

# women's stories

■ 9-27 October 2013

Abbaye de Neumünster

Luxembourg ■ :

**cinÉast**  
festival du film d'Europe centrale et orientale

 **ABBAYE DE  
NEUMÜNSTER**  
LUXEMBOURG  
CENTRE CULTUREL DE LUXEMBOURG



Reflecting the 2013 edition's theme on "Women's Stories", CinEast presents a photographic exhibition showcasing the works of 6 artists from Poland, Bulgaria, Latvia and Luxembourg.

Starting from a familiar discourse associated with womanhood (such as beauty, pregnancy, age or gender equality), the exhibited works aim to challenge our perception of a woman's position in society as well as female notions of identity.

The choice of the different projects was guided by contrast rather than similarity, unexpected juxtapositions rather than continuity: whether staged photographs with a strong surreal dimension or documentary takes following an apparently traditional approach, our aim was not to present a discourse about the woman, the situation of women, or the female point of view.

The exhibition is made of ephemeral glimpses – small pieces of a mosaic proposed to the public with no clear instructions.

Whether depicting mature women, pregnant women, hidden or solitary women, the portraits captivate and startle the onlooker – intriguing, surprising, sometimes disturbing – often resisting the temptation of typecasting...

Exhibition organised in collaboration and with the support of the CCRN and the Fonds Culturel National.

Jagna Olejnikowska (curator)  
Radek Lipka (coordinator)

Dans le prolongement du cycle thématique « Histoires de Femmes », le festival CinEast présente une exposition de photographies réunissant les œuvres de six artistes polonais, bulgares, lettons et luxembourgeois.

En partant de points de vue concrets (beauté, grossesse, vieillissement, égalité des sexes) les photos exposées interrogent différents aspects de la situation des femmes, de leur univers et de leur perception de soi et du monde.

Le choix des différents projets a été guidé par le contraste plutôt que par la similitude, par des juxtapositions inattendues plutôt que par la complémentarité: que ce soit dans des photographies mises en scène avec une forte dimension surréaliste ou des reportages en apparence plus classiques, notre objectif n'a pas été de produire un discours sur la femme, la situation des femmes, ou le point de vue féminin.

L'exposition se compose de coups d'œil éphémères – petits morceaux d'une mosaïque proposés au public sans mode d'emploi apparent.

Que ce soit des femmes âgées, des femmes enceintes, des femmes « cachées » ou solitaires, elles intriguent, elles étonnent, parfois elles dérangent et sont souvent là, où on ne les attendrait pas...

Exposition organisée en collaboration et avec le soutien du CCRN et du Fonds Culturel National.

Jagna Olejnikowska (commissaire)  
Radek Lipka (coordinateur)



## Aija Bley (LV)

is an award-winning photographer, filmmaker and writer who has devised over 20 animated films and documentaries. Since 2010 she has been working on a wide documentary photography project entitled "15 sheep crazy", dealing with the former Soviet republics and documents on those citizen's lives. So far four albums from the series have already been published.

[www.aijabley.lv](http://www.aijabley.lv)

## Later

„I have been told that I would live a long life. So long that all the people I care about now would already be dead. I would die in absolute loneliness.

So I pretended to be “a photographer of flower vases” to visit elderly and lonely ladies, taking a look into this dreadful prophecy. I got an insight into their private spaces, got to know the secrets of their lives.

Taking pictures of the flower vases turned into mutually creative processes that carried even the eldest and most reserved ladies away. We became friends very soon, and I discovered the world of very strong and kind women.”

Aija Bley







## Peter Raw (PL)

born in 1969 in Poland, worked for several years in Austria and Germany as an art and freelance photographer. Inspired by Art Nouveau and Surrealism, he often uses elaborate staging, combined with dreamlike fables, mirrored by corresponding objects, in his work. Peter was among the top 10 finalists of Sony World Awards 2008. He was awarded the Special Award UNICEF 2008 as well as other prizes and awards.

[www.petterraw.com](http://www.petterraw.com)

## How are you, darling?

This cycle aims to create a very simple yet striking scene: by starting with the process of taking a bath as a backdrop, the photographer captures core aspects of this special moment in the life of a woman, ie pregnancy. In this surreal and ironic setting, he depicts the rich, expressive and sometimes explosive emotions of a pregnant woman. Visually, the photographs are saturated with colours, combining unexpected objects with the central theme.









## Aneta Ivanova (BG),

is a young self-taught photographer and student in computer science. Born in Varna, Bulgaria, she is currently pursuing studies in Germany. Her first artistic projects include a series of experimental self-portraits, projects inspired by classical painting and original work related to the world of fashion.

[www.anetaivanova.com](http://www.anetaivanova.com)

## Scars

It is kind of a peculiar itinerary. Through the technique of double exposure, it makes visible the way each new place prints its stamp in the body and memory leaving a kind of “scar”. It is therefore a reflection on the interweaving between our projection in our environment and the impressions that this environment leaves within our mind-body.









**Milena Marciniak** (PL),

graduated in photography from the Polish Art Photographers Association and the European Academy of Photography in Warsaw. She is particularly interested in portraits, reportage and staged photography.

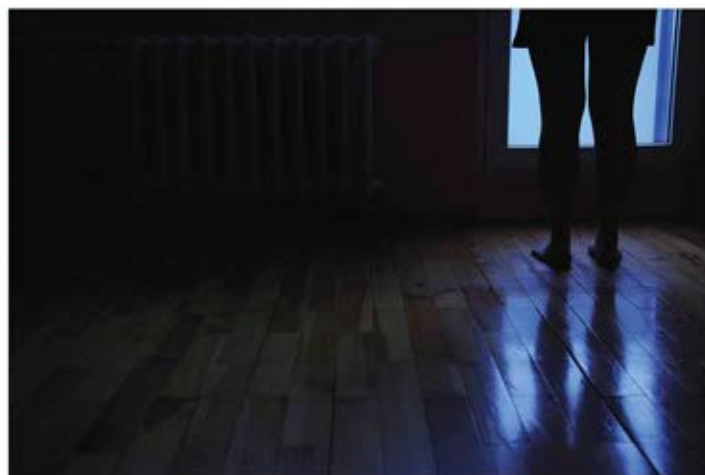
**Wioletta Gołębiewska** (PL),

born in 1974, lives and works in Warsaw as both translator and photographer. She's completed photography studies at the Association of Polish Art Photographers, she is now a member.

[www.wiolettagolebiewska.com](http://www.wiolettagolebiewska.com)

## Still (a) Live

Their joint project address the theme of loneliness and feeling lost in a modern city. The self-portraits in the form of diptychs were shot between the four walls of their apartment, representing both a safe communal space as well as an empty place one can get lost in. Being in a place not shared with anyone, it enables the removal of all the layers and masks built around the protagonist. Hidden from the eyes of the world, without any artificial smile, she can indulge, without any feeling of shame, in sadness and nostalgia.









## Jeanine Unsen (LU),

born in 1975, studied photography in Brussels where she graduated from the Ecole supérieure des arts de l'image "Le 75". Her photographs mainly depict oniric, formal portraits, where the protagonists are placed in a specific relationship to the environment surrounding them. One of her main recurring theme is to explore whether an individual can still remain the same person, having been extracted from their familiar surroundings and placed in an artificial space. Jeanine's work has been exhibited numerous times in Luxembourg and abroad (India, Germany, France, Austria and China).

[www.jeanineunsen.com](http://www.jeanineunsen.com)

## Portraits of 21. century women

The poetic series reveals the tension between the environment and the world behind the scenes that women can get caught in. Despite all the differences related to social status, the right to authenticity and freedom of expression still remains an unfulfilled goal for many women. The tryptic and circular shapes, closely linked to a tradition in art history, symbolize the eternal female struggle for equal rights. To achieve this goal, the depicted women rise above their singular "one" being. They become mythical creatures of the 21st century.













