



Intro

PEP #2

On the road

"On the road" is the second exhibition of PEP, the Photographic Exploration Project. For this occasion, we have asked photographers from all over the world to share pictures of the most special places they have ever been to. This invitation was launched in the middle of the summer: a season which is for many of us synonym of freedom, a chance to hit the road to escape one's daily routines. So we invited artists to reflect on what makes those moments so special and to share the impressions they encountered throughout the way, from the most diverse angles: the beauty of nature, the people they met, the stories that were told or created... We asked them to take us with them to the heart of their adventures, to let us grasp the particular atmospheres of the places they discovered and feel their soul and beauty.

By taking their own experience as a starting point, each of the selected artists addressed the challenge in a very personal way. With her series "Sisters of the Road", Anne-Marie

Michel used her camera as a tool to explore worlds beyond her own and tell the stories of female truckers she met along her 10,000 mile journey across the US. In her series, each portrait, whilst different to each other, collectively tells the story that needs to be heard of the remarkable women who make up 7% of America's trucking workforce. In her project "Italia, somewhere", Fran Nunez captured fragments of a six-hour trip through a foreign country. «Whatever the point of departure or destination, the road is that strange space where one deepens with oneself and its surroundings, with its sense of identity and freedom», she explains. Other artists like Sebastian Gil, Rachel Letchford, Fabio Biculo or Luigi Vigliotti expressed their fascination for the overwhelming forces of nature.

Through this exhibition, we are happy to share each artist's most personal and diverse approach of the topic.

Obsidian II

by Florencia Schvimer



Italia, somewhere

by Fran NÚÑEZ

Fran Núñez (b. 1990), is a journalist photographer based in Chile. She began as a self-taught photographer of concerts of Chilean and international bands, collaborating with media and web portals specialized in music. In 2014, she went to study Journalistic Photography at the Escuela de Comunicaciones ALPES (Santiago, Chile). With «La Inmolación», she made her first exhibition in Santiago. Since 2016, she has been working at the Festival ARC (Coquimbo, Chile), photographing cultural and entertainment activities. In 2017, she joined the FIRC Photographic Collective (Independent Photographers of the Coquimbo Region). She has a degree in Journalistic Photography in 2018, obtaining academic excellence. That same year, she published «FADO», the fourth photosingle from La Flota collection, in Ediciones La Visita. She travelled to Bologna (Italy) to make an artistic residence about Italian descendants in Latin America, where she is part of the collective exhibition «SOMOS - shows d'arte e musica». In the 2019, she exposed «Frattura», in the exhibition «Partecipare ad Arte» of the Associazione Ottovolante, in Bologna, Italy. Her photographs have been published in Revista Pedalea, a publication celebrating 40 years of ALPES, Photovogue Italia and Iconic Artist Magazine.

«Italia, Somewhere» is a six hour train trip through a foreign country. Whatever the point of departure or destination, the road is that strange space where one deepens with oneself and its surroundings, with its sense of identity and freedom. It is a lonely experience, where the perception of the travel is only visual - through a window you see the world running at more than 300km. Without being able to stop or go back, forced to take every view, detail, light; these trips invite to imagine and to have full awareness for the moment.

Of Forests & Clearings

by Diletta Siagianni

A journey into the complex simplicity of the woods; a mystery that awakens and excites the bittersweet taste of unknown discoveries.

Diletta Siagianni describes herself as a book-loving Lunatic who is restlessly seeking the light and the dark by capturing life into photographs, in silence, showing people with a conscience and nature's effect on the human mind. She has a degree in English Literature and Theatre Arts which, in her opinion, are a matrimony of what photography represents to her; a photographic collection of words dressed in motion theatrics.

http://www.themistywanderer.com



Oiletta Siagianni



The Dunes

by Ian Forsyth

<<< Vestigios

by Sebastian Gil

This photograph was taken 200 meters underground in the «Salt Cathedral», a series of salt mines in the savannah of Cundinamarca, produced millions of years ago, when the tethys sea dried up. Conceptually they are part of a perception of the unattainable in nature. On an unconscious level, we can perceive primitive sensations of the abysmal from the interaction with the overwhelming force of the primal.

Sebastian Gil graduated in 2018 from the «Master in Fine Arts» program at the University of Antioquia. His work is characterized by the inquiry and interpretation of everyday environments as a source of inspiration; his process revolves around new narratives and perspectives of the natural environment. In 2018, he was part of "Movements of the image II" in the Museum of Antioquia. In 2019, he was the winner of the national award "Colección Papel" and the "Residencias Artisticas en Bloque, Bogotá"

https://www.instagram.com/sebastiangilgr/



© Ian Forsyth

This picture of the Dunes represents the wild nature of an area of South Gare and is part of a long term project that lan Forsyth has been documenting about this area at the mouth of the River Tees. The area is a man-made area of reclaimed land and breakwater at the mouth of the River. Constructed from 1861 to 1884, using 5 million tonnes of blast furnace slag from steel works along the river and 18,000 tons of cement, the area

continues to evolve, bringing nature, the environment, industry and the sea together in a melting pot of opposites.

Ian Forsyth is a freelance news and documentary photographer based on the North Yorkshire coast of the UK.

http://www.room2850.com

Crater Lake & Golden Falls

by Rachel Letchford



© Rachel Letchford



© Rachel Letchford

Rachel Letchford is an artist living and working in London.

In her recent works, assortments of costume jewelry and singular silver charms are juxtaposed with the dark and glacial landscapes of Iceland. Things here hover just below point zero - not quite frozen to the core, but icy at the edges.

Captured in these enigmatic photographs

and between their obvious differences, there seems to be something lost, something lapping at the edge of remembrance.

Written in the year before his death, Mark Fisher speaks through, as much as about H.G Wells' Wallace and his state of mind. 'The fact is – it isn't a case of ghosts or apparitions – but – its an odd thing to tell of, - I am haunted. I am haunted by something – that rather takes the light out of things, that fills me with longings.'

Letchford presents us with an inanimate world in which life itself seems to have been cut-off. But not unlike the forces that surround a black hole, the closer we approach these works, the more compelling they become. The more time we spend here, the greater their fatal attraction. Fisher, Mark. The Weird Against the Worldly: H.G. Wells in The Weird and the Eerie. 2016. Repeater Books.



Loosing my way + Napocalipsa

by Ancuta Muresan

© Ancuta Muresan

«I took this photograph "Napocalipsa" in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. I created the word "Napocalipsa" like a word game between "Napoca" (the name of the city) and "apocalipsa" which means "apocalypse" in romanian language. It was just before a storm where the birds announced it's coming.»

www.ange2n.com



«I took this photograph "Loosing my way" in Morocco in 2018, in the middle of the desert, and at this moment I wondered what the destination of this car could be and I imagined myself inside, reaching different places. It was like a game.»

© Ancuta Muresan

Tough Road

by Ilja Vandenbroucke

Pictures taken during an ascent of Mount Olympus in Greece. Mythical mountain of the Gods. Weather unpredictable, views spectacular, muscles sore and very thirsty.

<u>www.vandenbroucke.eu</u>

Sea You Around

by Guus Bakker

A Muntagna

by Irene Tondelli



© Guus Bakker

Two types of travelers arrive on the small Greek island of Kos. Both are fleeing their countries, but for opposite reasons. The refugees, the unwanted migrants known for causing the «migrant crisis». And the holidaymakers, following the routes of mass tourism. There's no escaping each other, being on a small island together. And all the while, a third group looks on and only hopes that it all goes back to normal again.

Guus Bakker (b. 1989) is a documentary photographer based in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. In his work, he is interested in social topics and communities. He also tries to capture intimacy, in search for ambiguity.

www.guus-bakker.com



© Irene Tondelli

A cloudy day on Mount Etna, Sicily - during the celebrations of Saint Agata, patron of Catania. For those who haven't grown up at its feet, an active volcano might seem a disturbing presence, a sword of Damocles. The Catanesi, despite the eruptions that have repeatedly hit the city, have a visceral relationship with Etna. For them it is simply a muntagna, 'the mountain,' that destroys and recreates. It is not a coincidence that the original symbol of the city is a phoenix.

Irene Tondelli - b. 1987, Carpi, Italy - graduated from Libera Accademia di Belle Arti in Brescia with a BA in Photography and got a Master from Accademia di Comunicazione in Milano in Art Direction. Her work is focused on topographic landscape, documentary and interior design photography. Over the last few years, she has been teaching photography storytelling and gave workshops around Italy. Irene's photographs are aimed at capturing the relationship between men and nature, landscape and memory. Her work was featured in national and international catalogues, photography websites and magazines. She is mentioned by Gup Magazine and Fresh Eyes in the list of the 100 best emerging photographers in Europe in 2019.



She was living the colors

by Valentino Petrosino

<<< Amoudou

by Zakaria Wakrim

Shot in a road under construction in the High Atlas. All of the villages found there depend on maintaining old terraces to survive. These kids never had a plain space before nearby, so they've simply converted it into their playground playing all kinds of games. There only are 2-3 decent roads that get across the High-Atlas Chain (750 km long). It's not until the 2010s that the local government finally decided to open up isolated Atlasian locations and mountain rural areas so that the whole of their territory is covered.

Zakaria Wakrim, born in 1988, lives and works between Spain and Morocco. After being catalogued as one of the " Emerging Artists " in his homeland, he started applying his experimental means to create a deep reflexion around the concepts of Change and Identity. The result consists in layers of visual stories that have a narrative and a conceptual side. His visual research is constant; he believes that the photographic language is organic. His photo series are willing to occupy the narrative field, stories that give sense to local identity. The fast sense of change that is happening in North Africa blurs the frontiers between the old and the new. The intersection is hard to state as the old is easily forgotten and scavenged by the new. Documenting the sense of change, it becomes a way to understand it better, in order to deal with identity as a starting point for culture.

© Valentino Petrosino

A little tourist in the streets of Rome, near the Trevi Fountain.

Valentino Petrosino was born in Salerno in 1991. He fell in love with photography at the age of 10, taking landscape photos in Greece (his mother's birthplace) with a Canon AF35. In 2016 he graduated in photography at New Design Institute in Perugia and, strongly attracted by the world of street photography and reportage, he graduated in 2017 at the ISFCI photojournalism school in Rome.

www.instagram.com/valentino_petrosino/

https://www.zakariawakrim.com/



Time Travelers

by Ionut Cirja

Ionut Cirja is a self-taught photographer born in Romania, currently living and working in London, United Kingdom. He is a fine observer by definition. He finds interest in all and he is not aiming to document anything, but merely to shape things in his own vision. A vision where photography is not staged and acts upon his freedom of thinking.

© Ionut Cirja

Every autumn I return to this small Northern UK sea-side city where people meet for a time of remembering and return back to 1900s times. One can experience a magical step back in time with a view of incredible classic cars, vintage style outfits and dance the day away all in one glorious setting.

www.memories-of-a-forgetful.com/



© lonut Cirja



Mars

by Alex Currie

<<< Jabal Bayda (White Mountain)

by Luigi Vigliotti

The Arabia is usually considered a desert, however several volcanic landscapes occur in the western area. The best landscape is in the central part that can be considered unique in the world and it is mostly unknown. I am a geologist and have seen dozens of volcanoes in my life but when I saw this landscape from the helicopter I thought to be in a dream. Usually volcanoes are black but here you have white materials made not by rocks, but by ashes. The flanks are shaped by rains even if today they are in a desertic area. They do not seem to be real. It is very sad that nobody can go there.

Luigi Vigliotti was born in L'Aquila, currently lives in Bologna (Italy). His photographic approach begins from the desire to portray the forms of the landscape that already formed part of his cultural background being a professional geologist. Fond of Ethnography and Archaeology he has made several reportages published in magazines and books. His works have been showed in solo and group exhibitions in Italy and abroad and one of his elaborations based on instant film was even part of the Polaroid Collection in the United States.

www.luigivigliotti.it



Mars is a self portrait taken in the Utah desert as an astronaut.

www.alexcurrie.pictures

Indigenous Woman with Chicken Oaxaca

by Nina Weinberg Doran



© Nina Weinberg Doran

On a back road in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, the car I was driving in died. We desperately needed someone to help jump our battery, but it was a very isolated spot. Then I saw an indigenous couple that was coming down the road in their rickety truck to stop.

When I saw them coming closer, I raised my arms swaying.. almost pleading.. they pulled over, and the man instantly got out to see what was wrong. Me... I was so taken with the woman sitting in the car, her extraordinary face and demeanour that I began to shoot some portraits. She didn't mind but was rather amused at what could be so interesting...fortunately she was totally comfortable with me and my passion for images.

www.ninaweinbergdoran.com

© Adrienn Józan

Even though agave is native to the hot and arid regions, the lack of water is badly affecting the plants of Morocco, too.

Adrienn Józan is a self-taught photographer from Hungary. In 2019 she received the grant of the Hungarian National Cultural Fund. Her works were shortlisted for the RPS International Photography Exhibition 160 in 2017 and the ESPY Photography Award in 2019. Her photographs have been exhibited in group exhibitions in several countries around Europe.

https://adriennjozan.com/

by Adrienn Józan

Deadvlei: The African Tree Cemetery

by Daniel Heilig



www.danielheilig.com

Monday Morning

by Eric Davidove



Migrant farm workers taking a morning break next to a Sunflower Field.

Eric Davidove was born in Hollywood, California and now resides in the San Francisco Bay Area. He specializes in © Eric Davidove

Street, Documentary, and Travel Photography. Many of his photos have been curated into international and national competitive exhibitions, and some have won awards and have been published.

https://edovephotos.myportfolio.com/





© Shinya Itahana

Hillside Houses

by Shinya Itahana

<<< Pattern of grassland

by Shinya Itahana

Tibetan Buddhist nuns and monks on grassland, Eastern Tibet.

The hillside houses of Tibetan Buddhist nuns in Larung Gar, Eastern Tibet. Shinya Itahana was born in Matsue (Japan). After graduating from university, he became a system engineer and a high school lecturer. Besides that, he travelled around many countries, working on photography.

Blue Skies

by Suzanne Engelberg

I Gabellieri del Basso Piave

by Enrico Dedin



© Enrico Dedin

The three bridges of boats in the "Basso Piave" area are among the last fragments alive of the genius loci. These bridges replaced the oldest fluvial passes between the 1950s and 1960s, while preserving the memory of that ancient rural routes network in the Venetian hinterland, which dates back to the ancient Romans. The ferrymen no longer ferry, they have become "gabellieri", but they remain their heirs. In this photo there is Tiziano, «gabelliere» of the Musile di Piave bridge.

Enrico Dedin was born in Treviso in

1996. In 2018 he graduated with honors in «New Technology of Art» at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice. He participated in national and international exhibitions in Italy and abroad. In 2014 he was awarded for the "2° Premio Nazionale di Land Art». In 2018 he won the prize for the Metropolitan City of Venice in the photographic competition «Insegne: parole e immagini d'Italia". In 2019 he was selected for the 102° edition of "Collettiva Giovani Artisti".

www.behance.net/enricodedin



The Cruise America RV in the image can be interpreted as depicting an idealized vision of the beauty of America. It shows a pale blue sky filled with soft clouds. The RV is juxtaposed against the brilliant blue cloudless sky in San Francisco. Ironically, reality in this image, is more beautiful than the idealized vision.

Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Suzanne Engelberg is especially interested in interpretive landscape photography. Her work has been exhibited in both national and international galleries and has received numerous awards from the New York Center for Photographic Art, the International Street Photography Awards, Julia Margarte Cameron Awards, the Pollux Awards and the Grand Prix de la Couvete. She is the author of Visions of Phoenix Lake.

Explore the unreal

by Natalie Hoyos-Herrmann

Martin Painter

by Jean-luc Bohin



© Natalie Hoyos-Herrmann

Through double exposures, lens modifications or simply by using extraordinary film, the photographer captures a moment of magical realism on her travels. A moment that can only be created on film, blurring the line between reality and fantasy.

Born in the German East, raised in the West and now based in Berlin, Natalie

Hoyos-Herrmann loves to explores the world on 35mm. Always with a film camera by her side, she captures her travels in her own unique way, inspired by breathtaking landscapes of remote places and the captivating energy of buzzing cities.

www.instagram.com/frau.zonderbar



© Jean-luc Bohin

Extract from a photobook about La Palma island volcanos (Canary archipelago). Six volcanos with a small and lyrical presentation. This is volcano Martin, with his grey, red and orange colours.

https://issuu.com/wanadoo644

Boys with fish

by Mario Macilau

God Bless my son

by Mario Macilau



© Mario Macilau



© Mario Macilau

Two young boys playing on a beach in Mozambique, while walking around with caught fish for sale. Child labor is common within the fishing sector, and even more so in informal and small-scale fisheries in Mozambique. The livelihood of the country depends greatly on fisheries, which support a large part of the local and expatriate population. This photo forms part of my long-term series, FAITH, which focusses on traditional religious practices and the existing relationship between these practices and the natural environment in which they are practiced. Followers of traditional religions in Mozambique practice different forms of ritualistic ceremonies linked to motherhood and to celebrate the beginning of a new life. A few months before the birth of a child, members attend a special ritual to evoke images of God and the spirits of their ancestors or to venerate lost family members. This is done through magic or the usage of traditional medicine and is done to also bless the newborn into the specific family.

www.instagram.com/mariomacilau

Sisters of the Road

by Anne-Marie Michel

series

Debbie Dingo, 52, Long Island, NY

met in Avondale, Arizona



met in Cruisers Restaurant, Lodi, Ohio



© Anne-Marie Michel

«I don't know if its the driving I love... cause driving is driving. Its the travelling... the always being on the move, y'know? I think that's awesome... living in a truck.

It'd be nice to have my own shower and stuff in there, but its kinda cool waking up in the desert, watching the sunrise, seeing a different sunrise and sunset every day, different landscape, its just unbeatable...I mean some of the views I have from my windshield are just incredible... and you don't get that with any other job... where else do you get that, y'know? I'm a tourist first and a trucker second. I try to find a load which gives me enough time to be a tourist. So I try to find the loads that pay well and have plenty of time on them so I'm not under the gun. I can stop every couple hours, walk my dog and be a tourist. I love it, I love it...I'm living my dream, I really am. They say do something you love doing and you'll never work a day in your life, something like that, that's me, hahaha. All I need is my dog and my guitar.»

«I'm like, one in a million.... a female trucker hauling steel. That's the only thing setting me apart, because it's rare. People expect me to take forever tying down a steel coil... I'm usually done before the guys are.

I have to prove myself... everyday.

I drop my haul in the worst part of Detroit at 3am, so I always let someone know where I am. I'll text my mother... this is where I'm going, this is the time I'll be there...this is the time I'll be leaving. If you don't hear from me... call someone. I

© Anne-Marie Michel

always make sure someone knows where I'm at all times.»

Terri Solem, 49, Grafton, North Dakota

met in Dallas, Texas



© Anne-Marie Michel

«Its not been an easy life, especially not in the beginning. In 1991, I woke up in the middle of the night with a man in my bunk on top of me naked. That man didn't leave my truck. He died in my truck that night. So its definitely not an easy life. Back then when I started, there were no cell phones, so we depended on our CB radios for everything; directions, or can someone tell me where the next rest area is .. I gotta pee.. or can someone tell me where the next truck stop is... I need fuel. I don't think a day went by when I didn't hear, "yeah baby, I'll tell ya, just suck my ..." Everyday... everyday...

I used to be a paramedic in Washington DC. I had a really bad call one day of a little girl that had her hands cut off by her mom's boyfriend. He was a drug dealer and thought the mom had stolen drugs or money. They had him in cuffs in the hallway and when i walked out I punched him in the face. The situation just hit me too hard. I knew I was gonna get suspended for punching the guy, and my husband was on a 2 year deployment.. I needed a change. So I decided I'm gonna go tour the country and get paid to do it. I never thought I'd stay, but here I am 29 years and 3 months later.

Carol Nixon, 48, Buffalo, Missouri

met in Billings, Oklahoma



I met a fellow female driver through a national grassroots meeting and we ended up sharing a room together, and then the next year I met her again at another conference in Dallas, Texas and we roomed together again. She told me her husband was in kidney failure and he needed a kidney. I just said he can have one of mine. She said, are you kidding me? Nobody would do that for us. I said, we only need one. If I test out fine he can have mine and if mine doesn't match him, I'll donate to somebody else because then he would get one anyway. He would get one first and then I would donate to somebody else. We didn't have to do that. I was a perfect match. We did it in November of 2016, so it been about two years. Everything is still

© Anne-Marie Michel

great, we're both doing really well.

I just think, you only need one and your other kidney will grow. It enlarges to compensate for losing one. The doctor told me that I have probably better kidney function now than a lot of people walking around that don't know what their kidneys are functioning at.

If I could grow another one I would give another one. It just, it's super. I mean it's not like it's simple, but I just felt like it was the right thing to do. Some people didn't understand, and how I try and explain it to them is, if it was your husband, or your wife, or your child, or grandchild, wouldn't you want somebody to do that for them?



Idella Hansen, 67, Camden, Arkansas

met in Phoenix, Arizona



© Anne-Marie Michel

everybody should be able to take care of

themselves. This is the thing I've taught

both my girls, to be independent, self

When I can't drive I don't want to exist

anymore. When I can't do this or be a

part of it... I'm done. I don't want to do

anything else. I might like a little more

time at home to pursue guilting. Maybe

devote a little more time to the Church,

ging washes away the dust of everyday

life. That's a quote. And I think it's very

a little more time for that.»

apt. It heals me. So I would probably like

my activities there. Sing a little more. Sin-

«I've been out here 50 years. Even got a truck-stop named after me. I currently drive high security, my trailer is lined with Kevlar. At 64 they gave me a gun and taught me how to use it. Never seen one before in my life. It's a good job and I earn good money. I do have a partner, um but to be real honest with you, if he went away it wouldn't bother me. I mean, I couldn't do the job I'm doing without him: requires two people and I trust him. But if he went away I'm perfectly -even at 67- I'm perfectly capable of taking care of myself.

I've never considered myself a feminist. I really don't know the definition. But

<<< Caroline Roberts, 61, & Lisa McLees, 51, from Anderson, South Carolina

series

met at Picacho Peak, Arizona

Lisa: «Well I was married, my husband passed away in 2012 and we had a lawn service business. So I was cuttin' grass, weeding and stuff. When he passed away I started working at Subway & she was owner at Subway.»

Caroline: «That was kinda taken away. Lots of things were taken away when we got together. We pretty much lost everything and had to start over. I had several Subway stores and my male partners in the business well, they had a fit when learned about us. So they made it so we couldn't succeed, it was a very bad situation.

So anyway we got out in the end. We had to have money to survive, so we decided to start trucking. There's a lot more women now. You have some, um, old school truckers that would prefer it not to be, however, women are the safer drivers. I mean that's a proven fact.

We're on a dedicated route. Almost five thousand miles a week. A solo driver couldn't do that because they have to stop after they run their hours, they got to have that ten hour break. But we don't have to stop, our truck is moving 22 hours a day.. we cook on the truck and everything. We work together, we're home together and it works out perfect.»



sufficient.

Anne-Marie Michel is a portrait and fashion photographer based in London.

Having honed her photographic skills in the fashion and commercial realm, «Sisters of the Road» is her first personal project, where she uses her camera as a tool to explore worlds beyond her own and tell the stories of the people she meets on the way.

www.annemariemichel.com

© Anne-Marie Michel

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