

Photoworks Festival 2026

Schools Programme

Photoworks

Photoworks Festival 2026

Un/Stable: Lands, Anxieties, Dreams

Brighton & Hove 2026

Un/Stable: Lands, Anxieties, Dreams invites audiences to consider how identity, place, memory, community and the environment are interconnected, asking what it means to live through uncertainty while imagining or creating hopeful futures.

The festival addresses issues including climate change, belonging, resilience and social change. Exhibitions across the city encourage us to question assumptions, embrace multiple perspectives and think critically about the relationships between people, histories, landscapes and technology.

Featuring artworks created by a range of artists – young people, emerging and established practitioners, each exploring subjects that include ecosystems, global and personal archives, forest restoration, ecological and social renewal, including interconnections between human and non-human worlds.

Photoworks Festival offers a timely opportunity to connect creative learning with some of the defining challenges and possibilities of our time.

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Schools Programme

Photoworks is pleased to welcome school and other group visits to this year's festival taking place across Brighton & Hove. Ahead of the formal programme launch later this summer we have compiled a summary of what's on.

The information is designed to support advance planning. If you have any queries regarding your group visit, please [email the Learning team](#).

Facilitated Exhibitions

Jubilee Library
Phoenix Art Space
Brighton Museum & Art Gallery
University of Brighton (multiple exhibitions).

A reminder that the chosen facilitated exhibition at the University of Brighton is to be confirmed.

General Exhibitions

Hove Museum of Creativity
Phoenix Art Space
Regency Town House
Gallery Lock In

Schools Programme

We are offering a limited number of free, facilitated sessions for ages 11 – 19 at selected exhibitions for school and college groups on Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 October only.

We invite you to book in for two facilitated sessions, each lasting one hour. You are responsible for planning the remainder of your itinerary that day, but we are happy to advise on suitable exhibitions and lunch spots.

Contact us directly to register your interest in facilitated sessions.
Advance booking only.
Max group size 30

Please note:

- Groups planning to visit Brighton Museum independently should contact the museum directly as charges may apply.
- If you are not taking part in facilitated visits on 21 & 22 October we advise bringing your group on an alternative date.
- We are running a group clash diary for the festival. Please email us to let us know when you are bringing your group.

Facilitated Exhibitions

1. University of Brighton Wilmot Gallery

Exhibition: Luigi Ghirri Emerging Talent 2025 / 2026

Friday 2 October – Sunday 1 November

University of Brighton, 154–155 Edward St, Kemptown, Brighton BN2 0JG

Open: Weds – Sun 12pm – 4pm or by appointment

Artists: Daniele Cimaglia and Giuseppe Odore / Rosa Lacavalla / Serena Radicioli / Anie Maki.

Explore the works of 5 emerging talents selected by Photoworks from the annual Luigi Ghirri Emerging Talent Award, Italy, presented in the festival in partnership with the Italian Cultural Institute.

Daniele Cimaglia and Giuseppe Odore are an artistic duo whose photographic work explores the relationship between collective memory and vernacular imagery. Combining community engagement with darkroom experimentation and archival reactivation, they transform private memories into collective narratives as a gateway to explore urgent issues.

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Daniele Cimaglia and Ciuseppe Odore



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Rosa Lacavalla's The Crossing Ceremony is a moving image installation that combines found footage of the Equator-line crossing rituals, both vintage and contemporary, with evocative imagery of the stars. The work invites viewers to embark on a voyage alongside King Neptune, the revered guardian of the oceans, as he prepares for the crossing of the Equator Line journey. The work charts the symbolism of traversing an invisible threshold, intertwined with the unrelenting movement of the night sky.

**Rosa Lacavalla - Still from The
Crossing Ceremony 2**



This is real. It's live.

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Serena Radicioli's *Non sei più tornato* stems from a personal history. In 2012, her father was lost in a clash between two criminal groups. The artist never knew what her father's real job was. When he didn't return home questions remained unanswered until, a decade later, the artist began to research to collect evidence to reconstruct fragments of the story. Radicioli's work combines public and family archives together with her own photographs created in response to unresolved loss and photography's role as a critical tool in rebuilding meaning.

Serena Radicioli, Abandoned Car



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Anie Maki's series titled Milk, Weight, Gravity reconstructs an elusive narrative focused on ancestral histories. It references the psychological and mental health dynamics that had been silenced for decades but had reappeared like ghosts in the artist's life, much like the artist's family album, it was filled with a chaos of voices, faces and untold stories. The artist presents a panorama of characters, connections and place as a non-linear way of reconstructing her family tree and sharing thoughts in response to a century of family stories.

Facilitated Exhibitions

1. University of Brighton

Ground Floor

Exhibition: Putting ourselves in the picture 1 & 2

Friday 2 October – Sunday 1 November

University of Brighton, 154–155 Edward St, Brighton BN2 0JG

Open: Weds – Sun 12pm – 4pm or by appointment

Putting Ourselves in the Picture is an exhibition created from the two books that in combination present a selection of the works created by more than 52 participants who took part in two programmes designed to empower womxn to use photography to tell stories about their own lives.

Edited by Fast Forward: Women in Photography, the projects engaged with refugee and migrant women and nonbinary people, whose stories and compelling photography works are the focus of these two striking books. Participants engaged with leading photographers, educators, and national photography partners to create artworks that open our eyes, enthuse our ideas and crush stereotypes – confronting gender discrimination and the marginalisation of women in our societies.

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Facilitated Exhibitions

1. University of Brighton

Dorset Place Gallery

Exhibition: Two photographs, a forgotten history

Friday 2 October – Sunday 1 November

Dorset Place Gallery, 3 Dorset Pl, University of Brighton, Brighton BN2 1ST

Open: Weds – Sun 12pm – 4pm or by appointment

Artist: Jermaine Francis

A presentation of research in progress produced during a residency, by photographer artist Jermaine Francis and researcher Deborah Ireland at the Royal Geographical Society Archive.

A film and archive research share the story of two photographs, taken by two very different photographers, using different processes, taken within three years of each other, divided by a continent. Both are a testament to the same forgotten history, which is not clear or easy to read and open to misinterpretation. By researching the photographers, their process and intent, it is possible to unravel an account which we forget at our peril. These photographs should have been impossible to take in the 1860s because of the abolition of the slave trade in 1807, with full emancipation in 1838. These photographs, taken in 1860 and 1863 tell a different story.

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Facilitated Exhibitions

2. Jubilee Library

Exhibition: Where We Meet

Friday 2 October – Sunday 1 November

Jubilee Library, Jubilee St, Brighton BN1 1GE

Open: Mon: 10 – 5pm, Tues: 10–7pm, Wed: 10–5pm, Thurs: 10–7pm, Fri: 10–5pm, Sat: 10–5pm, Sun: 11–2pm

Artists: Eva Louisa Jonas, Kairo Urovi & Queer Grounds Participants

Working across staged and improvised image-making, this exhibition explores queer community organising and DIY building culture. Photographs trace moments of engagement with tools, timber, workshop structures, and one another – gathered during a visit to In Our Hands, a queer-led carpentry organisation based in West Sussex.

Developed by artists Eva Louisa Jonas and Kairo Urovi with young people in response to their workshop environment and its material practices, this installation explores how spaces of making can function as sites of learning and connection.

Eva Louise Jonas, Queer Grounds



Facilitated Exhibitions

3. Phoenix Art Space

Exhibition: Photo Fringe Collectives Hub

Friday 2 October – Friday 31 October

Address: Phoenix Art Space, 10–14 Waterloo Pl, Brighton BN2 9NB

Open: Wednesday – Sunday 12pm – 5pm

Photo Fringe presents eight photography collectives in the Collective's Hub at Phoenix Art Space, curated under Phoenix's theme of Future Histories. This theme encourages audiences to explore how the past continues to inform, configure, and sometimes overshadow the present. It also asks us to understand that we are not bystanders in the flow of history and compels us to consider how our actions today will shape tomorrow's history.

Facilitated Exhibitions

4. Brighton Museum and Art Gallery

Exhibition: And So I Watch You From Afar and The Most Beautiful Anthropocene

Friday 2 October - Monday 18 January 2027

Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, Royal Pavilion Gardens, Brighton BN1 1EE

Open: Tuesday – Sunday 10–5pm (note: access is ticketed outside of the facilitated tours)

Artist: Aindreas Scholz

Bringing together two bodies of work, this exhibition explores ecologically sustainable cameraless photography as a fragile record of environmental change.

Coastal edges, vulnerable plant life and unstable landscapes meet within the museum space, forming an island-like installation shaped by erosion, atmosphere, water and time.

Scholz's artmaking focuses on environments affected by human activity, encompassing landscapes transformed by pollution, and the climate crisis. He experiments with alternative and sustainable photographic processes, to highlight the need to critically reflect on our daily carbon footprint.

The two projects presented in this exhibition include stunning cameraless photography images created through sustainable processes, whereby the natural chemicals of photographic image making are cleaned in a cyclical process in an ecological wet room designed by the artist.

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**Aindreas Scholz, The Most
Beautiful Anthropocene #53**



General Exhibitions

Hove Museum of Creativity

Exhibition: Playing With Your Eyes

Friday 2 October - Monday 18 January 2027

Hove Museum of Creativity, 19 New Church Road, Hove, BN3 4AB

Open: Thursday – Monday 10–5pm

Artist: Alma Haser

Known for her complex and meticulously constructed photographs, Alma Haser expands the traditional photograph using techniques such as paper-folding, collage and mixed media to create layers of intrigue and manipulate photographs into bewildering sculptures.

Playing With Your Eyes blurs the lines between two-dimensional and three-dimensional imagery, the real and the imagined. This exhibition is especially aimed at inspiring young people to be creative. Organised by Photoworks in partnership with Thames and Hudson.

General Exhibitions

Phoenix Art Space

Exhibition: Tessa Boffin: Where We Touch The Archive, Draft 3

Friday 2 October – Sunday 18 October

Phoenix Art Space, 10–14 Waterloo Pl, Brighton BN2 9NB

Open: Wednesday – Sunday 12pm – 5pm

Artist: Tessa Boffin Archive, Leah McLaine and Sophie Mak-Schram

Tessa Boffin's artistic practice spanned photography, writing, performance and activism, consistently challenging dominant narratives around gender, sexuality and visibility. Boffin's work remains urgently relevant to contemporary queer and feminist communities and this project asks what it means for an archive to be a generative, collective space.

The exhibition features work by Tessa Boffin archives and newly commissioned work from artists Sophie Mak-Schram and Leah McLaine, developed in direct response to Boffin's images, pedagogy and politics. Both artists and the curatorial team have been immersed in extensive archival research, drawing on collections held by the University for the Creative Arts, The Estate of Tessa Boffin/The Gupta+Singh Archives and Hales Gallery (London and New York).

This project is grounded in a collective, intersectional approach to curatorial research, led by four emerging curators whose practices are rooted in queer and feminist frameworks: Polly Wright (Devonshire Collective, Eastbourne), Jazz Swali (BACKLIT, Nottingham), Ricardo Reverón Blanco (previously Aspex Portsmouth), and Danit Ariel (Photoworks).

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General Exhibitions

Regency Town House

Exhibition: Sam Kaufman

Friday 2 October – Sunday 18 October

Regency Town House, 13 Brunswick Square, Hove BN3 1EH

Open: Wed – Sun 12pm – 4pm or by appointment (this venue has stepped access)

Artists: Sam Kaufman

Sam Kaufman presents Pseudomorphs, a film about cephalopods, doubling bodies, institutional friction, hypnosis and disappearance. It is staged across three locations: a marine biology laboratory studying cephalopod cognition and skin camouflage; a beach home to giant ammonite fossils; and the mesopelagic zone of the sea.

The film takes the pseudomorph as its starting point – a decoy ink body created by cuttlefish, squid and octopuses – to think through disparate instances where the body's boundary against the world becomes unstable and altered. It is narrated through multiple voices: interview fragments, email correspondence, and out-of-body experiences.

Sam Kaufman



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General Exhibitions

Regency Town House

Exhibition: Fighting Fish

Friday 2 October – Sunday 18 October

Regency Town House, 13 Brunswick Square, Hove BN3 1EH

Open: Wed – Sun 12pm – 4pm or by appointment (this venue has stepped access)

Artists: Holly Birtles

Holly Birtles, as part of her Chennai Photo Biennial X Photoworks Darkroom Residency, developed a series titled Fighting Fish. Whilst in Chennai, she reflected on an ongoing body of work inspired by the Thames River London and Estuary in Kent, Essex and Suffolk, where performers and artists contemplate their choreographed roles as ‘Thames Monsters.’

In Chennai, Birtles responded to the Adyar and Cooum river, identifying parallels linked to sentimentality, dedication, care, and destruction.

This exhibition of largescale darkroom prints and AI collaborations recontextualises image generator methodologies to examine speculative ecological struggles through both the material and the digital.

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Holly Birtles, Fighting Fish 4



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General Exhibitions

Gallery Lock In

Exhibition: Bones of Our Land

Thursday 1 October - Sunday 25 October

Gallery Lock In, Little Western St, Brighton BN1 2PU

Open: by appointment for schools

Artists: Tsz Wai Pun & Coşkun Güçlü

Created by artist duo Tsz Wai Pun and ecologist Coşkun Güçlü, this multimedia project focuses on a single hillside undergoing ecological restoration on the Northern slopes of Tai Mo Shan in Hong Kong, tracing its ecological and human history and reading its soil as a record of recent ecological change and deep evolutionary time. The layers of this installation present time as something that accumulates at multiple scales, alongside connection in the midst of uncertainty.

Through film, sound, archival materials, photography, scientific fieldwork, and soil DNA analysis, the artists approach the hillside as a palimpsest, a landscape continuously rewritten across centuries and beyond. Volcanic geology, agricultural history, destructive hill fires, colonial intervention, and ongoing ecological restoration are all layered within the same landscape. In this reading, a single hillside becomes a site of entanglement, where past, present, and future do not unfold in sequence but coexist and refract through one another. Bones of Our Land invites us to listen anew to the soil, the forest, and the living archive buried beneath our feet.

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Tsz Wai Pun and Coskun, 07 Still



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Interested in taking part?

Register your interest by emailing: learning@photoworks.org.uk

Keep an eye out for our Photoworks and Teacher's Newsletters for when booking opens.
Or if you register your interest we will send you the booking form directly via email.

Facilitated sessions will be booked on a first come, first serve basis.

Thank you and we hope to see you at the Photoworks Festival this year!