



GOMMA PHOTOGRAPHY GRANT 2021

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GOMMA GRANT, 2021. FINAL RESULTS

**The Winner of the 8th Gomma Photography Grant is:
Hyunmin Ryu, with the series 'KIM SAE-HYUN'.**



*"Although he is my best friend,
there will be a gap between his
and my memories."
Hyunmin Ryu*



Hyunmin Ryu's pictures depict the intricate unique world a child surrounds itself with while growing up.

Ryu transforms, through his lens, the everyday life of his nephew into a macrocosm in which the viewer can immerse themselves in: ephemeral moments and fragile emotional landscapes unfold; and he achieves it with an authentic lyrical aesthetic.

At instants Ryu's nephew is portrayed like if he was isolated from the restrictions of reality and capable to transform any space into an adventure - yet caught in a world that is built to cater to the needs of adults.

There is a sense of closeness and intimacy yet fragility and isolation to the pictures which in our opinion encapsulates the strange world of growing up, at the same time revealing that the world of adults is mostly void of adventures and wonders.

With global events like the pandemic it expands to manifesting the sense of being entangled in one's own thoughts and feelings, divided from the normal we knew, left to rediscover the borders of our comfort zones, like tiny knights with plastic guns or imaginary sea creatures.

<https://hyunminryu.com>



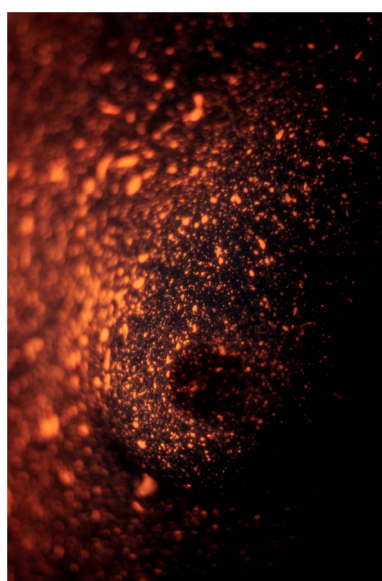
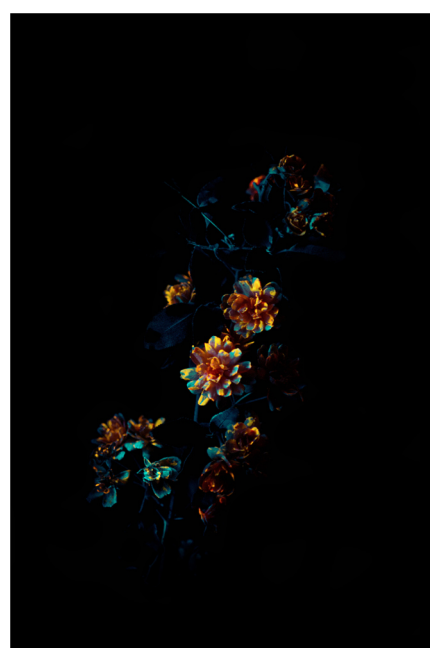
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**The Second Prize goes to:
Emilie Arfeuil, with 'HYLÉ ὕλη'.**



In ancient Greek, **Hylé** is the raw and primary material of the world, from which all the things perceived by our senses are made of.

Deriving from this concept this work was born, which crafts a world that appears to be populated by chimeras and where matters answer one another and merge.

A world where it is almost impossible to differentiate living entities from non-living, organics from minerals or cosmic beings.

This new balance of life brings visibility to the type, the gender and the body shapes escaping the tangible and all moral judgment.

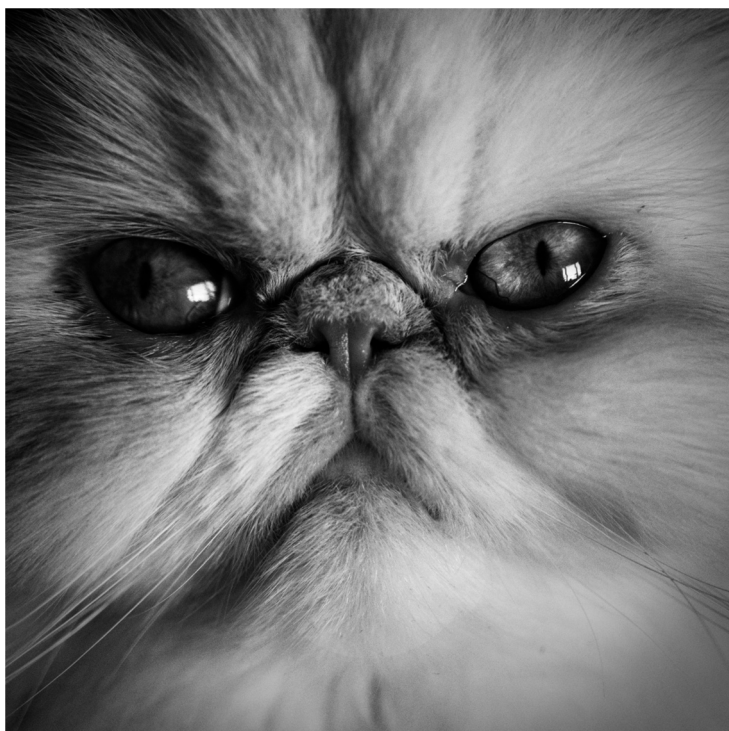
In a new utopian perception, Hylé was composed as a new «order» of nature that would welcome the «disorder» and thus reveal its beauty.

<https://www.emiliearfeuil.com/>



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Third Prize: Jonas Larsson Folkeson with 'Catcultism'.



People and their daily struggles - their circles - routines and troubles.

The true absurdity of what we obsess ourselves with on a daily basis is exposed through the eyes of a feline... Graceful, misplaced, curious and pitiable; it is placed in the midst of the human game.

A beautiful black and white work that heightens the fragility of emotions and interactions, amongst sentient creatures.

"These cats bring a sense of joy and security that cannot be described in words. In times of uncertainty, of sorrow and of chaos they are the one focal point that serves as a reminder that everything is in fact all right. These cats can be a pain in the ass. But they also call forth the extraordinary in the mundane day-to-day life". JLF

<https://www.jonasfolkeson.com>





GOMMA GRANT, 2021. FINAL RESULTS

**We are delighted to award the Honorable Mention to:
Sarah Mei Herman and Younes Mohammad.**



Sarah Mei Herman, with the series 'Solace'.

"The beauty of things lies in the mind that contemplates it." (English Proverb)

In an ideal world, constituted and thought out for the people by ideas of an overpowering system, it is a challenge to find one's identity, especially if its comfort lies beyond the boundaries, that seem irrefutable.

This tender body of work invites us to partake in the process of becoming open minded and living one's identity undefined by external circumstances, not through harsh resistance but humbleness and the embrace of all what makes us human.

<http://www.sarahmeiherman.nl>



Younes Mohammad, with 'Open Wounds'.

In times of conflict and war, the eyes of the world look on in terror, as destruction rampages. But once the dust is settled, the people must live on.

In this intimate work, portraits are shown of people, marked by war, freed of the context of location, as conflicts roam globally - yet their humanity shines on, their defiance, their hope and hunger for life.

"Despite all they suffered, they often said they would go back to the fight again if ever called. They would do this for their children, their families, their people, and the wider world."

<https://www.younesmohammad.com/>





GOMMA GRANT, 2021. FINAL RESULTS

Best Documentary Award: Giacomo D'Orlando with 'Nemo's Garden'.



"According to the IPCC, the desertification brought on by climate change in recent years has already extensively reduced agricultural productivity in many regions of the world. Agriculture represents 70% of the freshwater use worldwide and current population projections see an estimated increase up to 10 billion by the end of the century. It is urgent to find an alternative method of cultivation that is ecologically sustainable for our future. With this in mind the **Nemo's Garden, the first underwater greenhouses of terrestrial plants in the world** was created. This completely self-sustainable project with no environmental impact represents an alternative farming system, particularly dedicated to those areas where environmental or geo-morphological conditions make the growth of plants almost impossible.

The encouraging results of recent years, where more than 40 different species of plants have been successfully cultivated, give us hope that we have found a sustainable agricultural system that can help us to tackle the new challenges brought on to us by climate change."



<https://giacomodorlando.com>

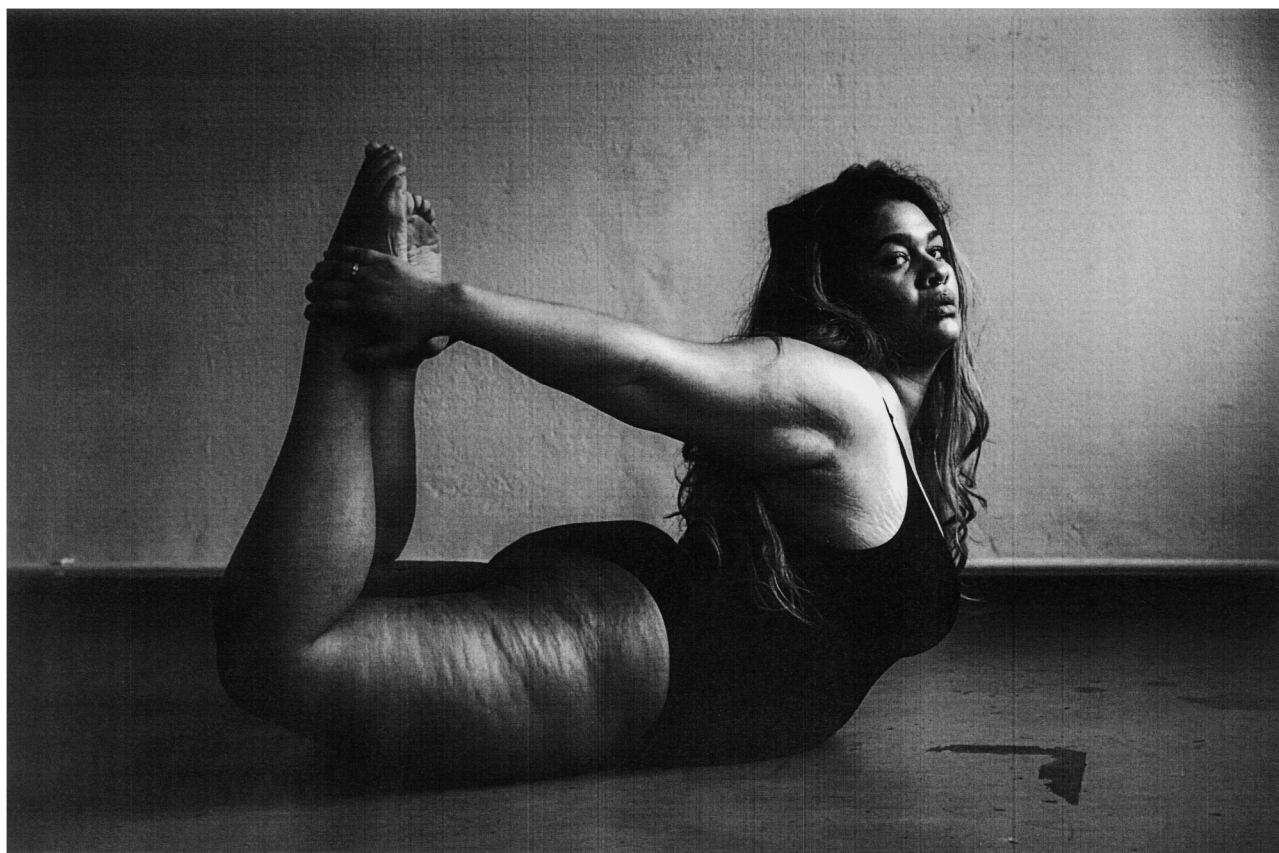




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Best Black and White Award:

Alexa Vachon with S/KIN BERLIN: 52.49° N, 13.42° E



S/KIN BERLIN: 52.49° N, 13.42° E is about people and bodies in revolt. The images focus on the body as a site of rebellion, through which to interrogate themes of power, oppression, agency and opposition. It considers what we do to our bodies (consensually and non-consensually) but also how our bodies can become subjects at the hands of others.

Inspired by my own physical limitations at the beginning of this research, the photographs were made over the course of six weeks, in one room in Berlin; the container mirroring the restrictions of my body. The work was created through intimate collaboration with the participants, each of whom brought their own experiences to the *stage*.

<https://alexavachon.com>





GOMMA GRANT, 2021. FINAL RESULTS

**The 2021 GNF: Gomma New Flavour,
goes to David Cossini, with 'Grande Bruto'.**



This truly is an exceptional piece of work. Compositions that suck us into alcohol fueled escapades with slurred fun fare tunes playing in the background.

The confidence, almost cockiness in which the main culprit, Leo and his affiliates embrace their chaotic dissent into trouble, is unmatched.

"Leo navigates circumstances that are by turns unfortunate, astonishing, unlikely, hilarious, traumatic, and romantic."

Through this head-on approach to the camera, that is, everpresent, everready to be challenged - the general take on life and all its challenges is revealed in such a heartwarming and comedic way, it draws in the viewer and spreads the emotion of the experience.

A life lived unapologetic yet open to receive, develops and we cheer for it.

"From the depths of alcohol dependence and a stint in a psychiatric hospital to his mateship with Glen, finding love, changing his lifestyle and marrying for the third time. Will it be third time lucky?"

The simple approach to picture compositions, bold colors, movement and interaction give this body of work a feel of spontaneity, yet privilege to have been in the right moment and a sense of connection through the openness of the models. <https://www.davidcossini.com/>

*The GNF, Gomma New Flavour, is the rebranded Rising Talent.
It encapsulates the style, the audacity and the originality of Gomma.*

