

Exhibition

# Rethinking Photography

Presence-Absence,  
Visible-Invisible

25  
04



29  
06

Press kit

# Rethinking Photography

Presence-Absence, Visible-Invisible

25/04/2025  
— 29/06/2025  
11:00 - 19:00

Cercle Cité  
Luxembourg

Free entrance

Following *Rethinking Nature* in 2021 and *Rethinking Identity* in 2023, this tenth edition of the European Month of Photography in Luxembourg is continuing the cycle in 2025 under the all-inclusive title of Rethinking Photography. Taking as its point of departure the interrogations of the previous editions, this third chapter of the trilogy marks a new stage in thinking about the medium, its meaning and its essence as photography.

In an era flooded - if not polluted - by a constant stream of visual information, much of it of questionable authenticity, this renewed engagement with photographic imagery aligns with both artistic inquiry and social critique. Amid concerns over “fake news” and the increasing use of AI to generate images, some photographers are developing new ways to present and circulate their work - either by resisting technology or by repurposing and deconstructing it.

The history of photography offers countless examples of images exploring the very notion of presence or absence. Every image inherently points to what lies substantially outside the frame, beyond time, beyond space. Today, as the sheer volume of images grows exponentially, emerging visual anthropology offers fresh ways of seeing, revealing hidden, latent, or otherwise invisible realities.

Luxembourg-based artist **Yann Annicchiario**, explores worlds that seem visually inaccessible through his photographs and installations. By redefining our relationship with space and time, he challenges the scale of objects, revealing new sensitive ways of seeing. Using a scanner placed at ground level, he “photographs” the nocturnal world of insects, bringing fleeting, marginal existences into focus - lives often overlooked by human-centered perspectives. Here, the photographic image becomes a record of both the visible and the invisible, of presence and absence.

On a different level, Belgian artist **Lucas Leffler**’s multimedia art engages repeatedly with the ontological aspects of the image. As a visual artist and photographer, he revisits photographic history and techniques while critically examining the industrial legacy of major companies like Agfa and Kodak. By creating his own photosensitive emulsions from silver-rich sludge found in polluted waterways, he addresses the ecological impact of the photography industry while rethinking the practice in a digital age.

Through the appropriation and alteration of archived photographs, **Paulo Simão** explores themes of presence and absence, visibility and erasure in a historical and political context. His series *Erased* draws inspiration from Robert Rauschenberg’s *Erased De Kooning Drawing*, reworking images from the archives of the U.S. Library of Congress - specifically, photographs of statues depicting influential historical figures, some of whom are now the subject of controversy. By removing these figures from the images, Simão highlights an “absence” that is historically charged, questioning representations of power, public monuments, and the role of the artist in contemporary society.

The concept of Erasure takes on a more destructive dimension in *Embers of Narratives* (رمج لا تاي درس) by German-Iraqi artist Raisan Hameed, who is expanding on themes of destruction from his earlier cycles *Risse* and *ZerStörung*, in a more abstract manner. Using images from Google Street View of his hometown, Mosul, he manipulates them with a thermographic tool that mimics the traces of fire - evoking the war-torn landscapes of his childhood. This experimental, hands-on process, combined with thermal printing, produces

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dark, abstracted surfaces, partially obscuring the original image. Hameed's work is a profound meditation on memory and the fragility of visual narratives.

A narrative woven with poetic imagery is a recurring element in **Marco Godinho's** conceptual art, an artist of Luxembourg-Portuguese origins. In some works, he employs lenticular photography to create multidimensional spaces, where the viewer's position generates new images and activates shifting temporalities.

In *Blind Memory (The Eyes of the Tiger)*, a double portrait of Jorge Luis Borges based on a 1969 photograph by Eduardo Comesaña, Godinho - always relying on the audience's positioning - triggers an additional new image at the intersection with the former one, a shadowy third eye - an allusion to Borges' fascination with time, symbolized in his work by the figure of the tiger.

In the work *The Hidden Library*, Godinho, playing with the notions of the visible and invisible, "invites us to continue the experience of physical and mental displacement, where absence and presence, distance and proximity, help us translate the intimate and poetic value of a photograph into a collective and political aesthetic value." He explains: "Through a most subtle and delicate gesture (termed "inframince" by Marcel Duchamp), travel and research photographs are hidden within a public library, transformed into bookmarks, as each image steps beyond the frame, becoming a temporal and spatial marker of my creative process."

This close relationship with the viewer - whose encounter with the installation allows for an ever-repeating resurgence of meaning - can be seen in different forms throughout all of Godinho's other works which challenge the limits of the photographic image while opening new avenues for perception and interpretation.

### Organisation

Cercle Cité

### As part of the

European Month of Photography (EMOP)

### Curator

Paul di Felice (Café-Crème)

## Biography of the artists

**Yann Annicchiario** (\*1983, Luxembourg) confronts our human nature with worlds that are inaccessible to us, exploring their potential spaces. Inextricably linked to a stationary or moving body, the act of perception in Annicchiario's work is the vector for an awareness of the limits of our understanding, and, in turn, their transcendence. Yann Annicchiario has presented solo exhibitions at Künstlerhaus Bethanien (2023), Réfectoire des Nonnes in Lyon (2021), KIT – Kunst im Tunnel in Düsseldorf (2020), Nosbaum Reding Projects in Luxembourg (2019), and Centre des Arts Pluriels in Ettelbruck (2018), as well as group exhibitions at MUDAM - Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean in Luxembourg (2021), Museo Archeologico del Chianti Senese in Italy (2019), and Villa Medici - Académie de France in Rome (2015). He has been an associate artist-researcher with the ACTH - Art Contemporain et Temps de l'Histoire group, in partnership with the École des Beaux-Arts in Lyon, since 2011.

**Marco Godinho** (\*1978 in Salvaterra de Magos, Portugal) is a Portuguese-Luxembourgish visual artist who lives and works between Luxembourg and Paris. In 2019, he represented Luxembourg at the Venice Biennale and participated in the 2017 Lyon Biennale, as well as in collective exhibitions such as *Exils. Regards d'artistes* at the Louvre Lens in 2024. At the end of 2023, he co-founded the independent publishing house *LUAR EDITIONS* in Luxembourg with Keong-A Song and Fábio Godinho. His approach, characterized by a certain economy of means, leads him to use various media as active environments: installations, performative

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gestures, videos, sound pieces, drawings, sculptures, photographs, as well as his writings, collaborative works, typographic compositions, artist books, and stage designs. Influenced by literature, poetry, and philosophy, and shaped by a life marked by constant movement and cultural diversity, Marco Godinho's work questions the notions of exile, hospitality, geography, and immigration. It often results from encounters with the living, blending everyday objects and elements of language. Defining himself as a «nomadic traveler,» he traces the contours of a world map shaped by personal, biographical, and multicultural trajectories, thus inviting us to question our perception of the space and time in which we live.

**Raisan Hameed** (\*1991) is an Iraqi-German multimedia artist based in Leipzig. He is currently a Meisterschüler with Prof. Tina Bara at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst in Leipzig, after completing his Diploma in Photography. His work has been featured in various international exhibitions, including the Prix Photoforum Biel, Bundeskunsthalle Bonn and the *Carte Blanche* Exhibition in Paris. Hameed's practice is defined by a subtle and metaphorical visual language, profoundly impacted by his personal experiences of loss, trauma, and displacement. At the heart of his work is the transformation of intimate visual memories into universal narratives, as exemplified in one of his most acclaimed projects, *Zer-Störung*. Recontextualizing damaged family photographs that bear the scars of his hometown, Mosul, Hameed explores the destruction inflicted upon his family while reflecting on human themes of resilience and survival. Intertwining personal history with collective memory, Hameed's practice sheds light on the wounds imposed on societies by political violence. His work engages with ongoing discourses about conflict and remembrance. Transcending photography, Hameed incorporates various media such as archival research and Google Street View. The enduring relevance of his practice is fueled by a nuanced perspective on our fragile world, one that is perpetually shaped by violence and displacement.

**Lucas Leffler** (\*1993, Belgium) is living and working in Brussels. He received his MA at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent (BE) and post-graduate at Le Fresnoy (FR). His work is represented by galleries Intervalle (FR) and Lee-Bauwens (BE). His work has been exhibited at Musée de l'Elysée (Lausanne, CH), FOMU (Antwerp, BE), Hangar Photo Art Center (Brussels, BE), Eleven Steens (Brussels, BE) and was presented in many art fairs in Europe including Art Paris and Paris Photo. His book *Zilverbeek* (Silver Creek) was released in autumn 2019 with Dutch publisher *The Eriskay Connection*. In 2022 he was laureate of second edition of residency *Picto Lab - Experimenting the image* and integrated a post-graduate course at *Le Fresnoy - Studio National*. In his work, Lucas Leffler questions the ecological footprint of the medium of photography. Based on archival research, photographic traces, and experimental image-making, his projects reenacts history and questions processes of industrialization and mass production. His exploration of the industrial world of 20<sup>th</sup> century chemical image technologies questions the place of humans in factory-laboratories, as well as the toxicities inherent in this production.

**Paulo Simão** (\*1973, Santarém) lives and works in Lisbon, Portugal. With a background in advertising, he works as a graphic designer and photographer. Between 2013 and 2017, he studied photography at Ar.Co – Centro de Arte e Comunicação Visual, learning from renowned artists such as Daniel Malhão, João Paulo Serafim, Pedro Tropa, and Valter Ventura. He further honed his skills through workshops and artistic residencies with Peter Fraser (*Escaping the Library*, Madrid, 2017), António Júlio Duarte (*Documentary Photography*, Lisbon, 2017), and Diogo Saldanha, Pedro Tropa, and Nuno Faria (*Câmara Escura a Céu Aberto*, Golegã, 2017). He also attended the Ursel August Art Residency in Cascais under Daniel Blaufuks in 2019 and 2020.

As a visual artist, Paulo Simão merges painting's stylistic techniques with design and advertising codes. His work draws inspiration from painter Giorgio Morandi, designer and visual artist Bruno Munari, writer and filmmaker Guy Debord, and philosopher Jacques Derrida. He has exhibited individually and collectively at institutions such as Stadtmuseum Aarau (Switzerland), Galerie Bohai (Hanover), Otopia Studio (Lisbon), and Fundação do Oriente Goa (Panjim). His work has been published in magazines including the *British Journal of Photography*, Germany's *HANT – Magazin für Fotografie*, and Portugal's *Propeller*, where he was

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selected through an open call on the theme of Fiction. Since 2014, he has participated in several photography festivals, including *Les Boutographies*, *Encontros da Imagem*, *Lenzburg Photo*, *Oslo Negativ*, *Getxophoto*, *Kaunas Photo*, *Photo Israel*, and *JaipurPhoto Festival*. His work explores themes of identity, history, society, and politics, intersecting with mass production, communication, and object perception. He examines the individual's relationship with media and social networks in an era defined by image accumulation and saturation.

## Programm around the exhibition

### ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

#### **Rethinking Photography: Visual stakes in the age of AI**

20.05.2025 at 6.00 pm

Henri Beck Auditorium (entrance : 2, rue Genistre)

As part of the exhibition *Rethinking Photography: Presence-Absence, Visible-Invisible*, Cercle Cité is hosting a roundtable discussion moderated by curator Paul di Felice, featuring artists Yann Annicchiarico, Marco Godinho, and Lucas Leffler, all of whom are exhibited at the *Ratskeller*.

This event will offer the public an opportunity to discover the artists' work, explore their individual journeys, and delve deeper into the exhibition's theme.

In French.

Free entry, registration on [cerclecite.lu](http://cerclecite.lu)

### LECTURES

#### **When Photography Becomes Art – A Brief History of Photography**

13.05.2025 at 11.45 am

*Ratskeller* exhibition space (rue du Curé)

The Cercle Cité invites the public to dive into the fascinating history of photography, from its beginnings to the contemporary era, in the company of Stéphanie Breydel de Groeninghe, art historian, art advisor and co-founder of Ts'ART.

Photography occupies a central and dynamic place in the art world, acting as both a means of expression and a tool for reflection on our reality. Since its invention, it has transformed our perception of the world, capturing fleeting moments and deep emotions with remarkable precision. As an artistic medium, photography transcends traditional boundaries, embedding itself in various movements such as surrealism, documentary, and conceptual art. Today, photography goes far beyond mere representation; it questions, provokes and engages the viewer. Contemporary artists use it to explore complex themes such as identity, memory, and society, while experimenting with digital techniques to push the boundaries of creativity.

The conference will be preceded by a guided tour of the exhibition *Rethinking Photography: Presence/Absence, Visible/Invisible* as from 11:45 am.

It will be followed by a drink, accompanied by a light lunch (for a fee).

In French.

Free entry, registration on [cerclecite.lu](http://cerclecite.lu)



Cercle Cité  
Place d'Armes BP 267,  
L-2012 Luxembourg

T (+352) 46 49 46-1  
[info@cerclecite.lu](mailto:info@cerclecite.lu)  
[www.cerclecite.lu](http://www.cerclecite.lu)

The City of Luxembourg  
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**Conversation between Stéphanie Breydel de Groeninghe and Paul di Felice**

17.06.2025 at 11.45am

Ratskeller exhibition space (rue du Curé)

The Cercle Cité invites the public to an enriching conversation between Stéphanie Breydel de Groeninghe, art historian, art advisor and co-founder of Ts'Art and Paul di Felice, doctor of visual arts, curator, critic and artist, who is also co-director of EMOP Luxembourg and president of the European Month of Photography network. This meeting will be an opportunity for an enriching reflection on photography, its meaning and its essence.

How to rethink photography in 2025? In a world saturated with images, how do artists use this medium? What are the thoughts and approaches to adopt in the face of new technologies and artificial intelligence? What place should the photographer still occupy: should he adapt or resist? These fascinating questions will be at the heart of the exchange between Stéphanie Breydel de Groeninghe and Paul Di Felice. Don't miss this opportunity to explore contemporary issues in photography!

The conference will be preceded by a guided tour of the exhibition *Rethinking Photography: Presence/Absence, Visible/Invisible* by Curator Paul di Felice from 11:45 am. It will be followed by a drink, accompanied by a light lunch (for a fee).

In French.

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**WORKSHOPS**

**Capturing photographic chemistry: the art of emulsion transfer**

workshop by Chloé Sobczyk

While photography seems to have completely dematerialized in recent years, come discover the value and beauty of the physical image.

After a guided tour of the *Rethinking Photography: Presence/Absence, Visible/Invisible* exhibition, you will discover that photography is much more than just a memory stored on your phone, computer or in the Cloud. By making an emulsion transfer from a snapshot, you will be able to capture the delicacy of photographic chemistry and sculpt the image with your own hands.

All material is provided.

Workshop for ages 12 and up, in French and in English

Free entry, registration on [cerclecite.lu](https://cerclecite.lu)

**Portrait pluriel**

Workshop by Thomas Godfrin

14.06.2025 from 10.00 to 11.30am

Conference Center, room 501 (entrance : 2, rue Genistre)

Creating a portrait is both personal, intimate, and yet also influenced by all the other photographs we've seen before. A window into the inner self, which is also inspired by all the other windows into the outside world.

During this workshop, you will have the opportunity to create a portrait that is unique: the result of your choices, emotions, and creativity!



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We will draw inspiration from the work of artists exhibited at the *Ratskeller* (feel free to explore them beforehand) as well as famous photographs. We will also discuss their history.

Scissors and glue (provided), along with your imagination (bring it with you), will be the main tools for your creations!

All material is provided.

Workshop for ages 12 and up, in French

Free entry, registration on [cerclecite.lu](http://cerclecite.lu)

### **GUIDED TOURS**

#### **Free guided tour every Saturday at 3pm**

26.04 (FR)

03.05 (EN)

10.05 (LU/DE)

17.05 (FR)

24.05 (EN)

31.05 (LU/DE)

07.06 (FR)

14.06 (EN)

21.06 (LU/DE)

#### **Curatorial visit by Paul di Felice**

28.06.2025 at 3.00pm (FR)

*For all guided tours: free entrance and without registration*

## **Practical information and press contact**

Exhibition	« Rethinking Photography : Presence-Absence, Visible-Invisible »
Dates	From April 25 <sup>th</sup> until June 29 <sup>th</sup> 2025
Opening hours	Free entrance, every day from 11:00 to 19:00
Venue	<i>Ratskeller</i> exhibition space, entrance on rue du Curé
Accessibility	Exhibition accessible to people with motor disabilities and reduced mobility
Press visuals	<a href="http://cerclecite.lu/en/press">cerclecite.lu/en/press</a>
More information	<a href="http://cerclecite.lu">cerclecite.lu</a>



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