



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow

27 Apr 2019

PICKS

## An Unusual Time for Women at the Venice Biennale

With a female majority, the 58th edition of the Venice Biennale proves it is certainly an interesting time to be a woman artist. Charlotte Jansen picks ten whose work is breaking new ground and who are making history their own.

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

[Accept](#) [More Info](#)



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow



We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

Accept [More Info](#)



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow

venice biennale (11 may to 24 november) in 2019, titled may you live in interesting Times. The corollary is, it seems we do. Forty-two of the seventy-nine artists taking part this year are women—that's 53%. In 2015, the number of solo female participants was 33%, and in 2017, 35% of all participating artists were women. It's worth noting, that figures only reflect those who have identified as male or female, and doesn't account for other genders.

The 2019 statistics indicate not only that commissioners are paying closer attention to the representation of gender but that the kind of exposure that women artists are getting is changing: of the forty-three National Pavilions presenting a single artist at the 58th Venice Biennale, some twenty-six are women—an impressive 60%. With a strong female-fronted voice 2019 is an exciting time for everyone, but particularly mid-career women artists who often hit a plateau elsewhere in the commercial and institutional art world. The youngest participant in this year's Biennale is twenty-nine, and is the only artist under thirty being exhibited. The artists are getting older, but the audiences are getting younger, as “more than half of them are under twenty-six years of age”.

According to statistics compiled by the Freelands Foundation in 2017, 50% of women selected in the last ten years to represent Great Britain have been women—this year the mantel is picked up by Cathy Wilkes, curated by Zoe Whitley, (who returns from Italy to start her new role, working alongside the Biennale curator Ralph Rugoff at the Hayward Gallery).

Perhaps most excitingly, women have made history this year: Pakistan selected Naiza Khan to represent the country's first ever appearance at the Biennale, and Shu Lea Cheang will be the first ever woman to represent Taiwan.

Read more about Khan and Cheang—and the other women artists making this Biennale the most exciting yet—below.

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

Accept [More Info](#)



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow



Charlotte Prodger. Photo by Emile Holba

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

Accept [More Info](#)



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow

identity, gender and geography, informed by her upbringing in rural Scotland. She speaks openly about queerness in her work and outside of it. At the Scottish Pavilion, she will present a new video work.

## Shu Lea Cheang, Taiwan

Shu Lea Cheang is the first woman to exhibit her work at the Taiwan Pavilion as a single artist. The artist, born in 1954, has been a pioneer of net art, using film, action and installation to bridge that ever-increasing gap between technology and humanity. She made her name in the 1980s in New York, and she was the first ever artist to be commissioned by the Guggenheim to create a web-based artwork. Her online platform, Brandon (1998-9), addressed the horrific rape and murder of transgender man Brandon Teena. Her art continues to be engaged with activism and anti-racist politics, subjects bubbling over at this Biennale.



We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

Accept [More Info](#)



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow

... and the film tells a journey on her way back through France, to Venice, using metaphor and magic, typical of the Turner Prize-winning artist.

## Naiza Khan, Pakistan

In February it was announced that Naiza Khan would be the first artist to represent Pakistan in Venice. Her work explores life on Manora Island, revealing links between Venice and Arab, Persian and Indian history, through trade routes and empires. The artists began travelling to Manora for time to think and space away from the turbulent and restrictive atmosphere in Karachi, where she is based. From there, ideas began to emerge, and the project evolved into “not just views or scenarios of a city but it’s also very much about a subjective experience of me as a female body traversing a space which is a very public space, which is a very gendered space. So I see that notion of the body very much present in this work.”

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

Accept [More Info](#)



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow



We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

Accept [More Info](#)



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow

Kensmil will cover the walls with seven black female intellectuals: journalist Claudia Jones, feminist science fiction novelist Octavia Butler, anti-colonial writer and surrealist Suzanne Césaire; communist and activist Hermina Huiswoud; black feminist Audrey Lorde, the Pan-Africanist Amy Ashwood Garvey; DJ and singer Sister Nancy and iconic feminist author and critic, Bell Hooks. In the context of the Dutch Pavilion, the past of colonialism, nationalism and modernism in Europe will be radically uprooted.

### **Cathy Wilkes, Great Britain**

Wilkes follows on from Phyllida Barlow's exhibition at the British Pavilion in 2017, and the Northern Irish artist is the twenty-second to have a solo exhibition at the Biennale. Every work presented will be entirely new: sculptures, objects and paintings, experimenting with materials and materiality. The British Pavilion is one of the most anticipated this year—perhaps a contender for the Golden Lion—also due to the intensity of attention on its curator, Zoe Whitley. “[Wilkes’s] inventiveness, curiosity and unique thinking have produced something as ambitious as it is captivating,” Whitley hints.

### **Kris Lemsalu, Estonia**

Lemsalu's world is one we want to live in: and so, apparently, does Sarah Lucas, art critic, Andrew Berardini, the curators, Irene Campolmi and Tamara Luuk, and a bunch of musicians—all part of her team of personal friends who have helped put the show together. At thirty-four, Lemsalu is one of the younger artists to represent her country, but her visual language is already solid, a fairytale landscape of ceramics, costumes and characters.

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

[Accept](#) [More Info](#)

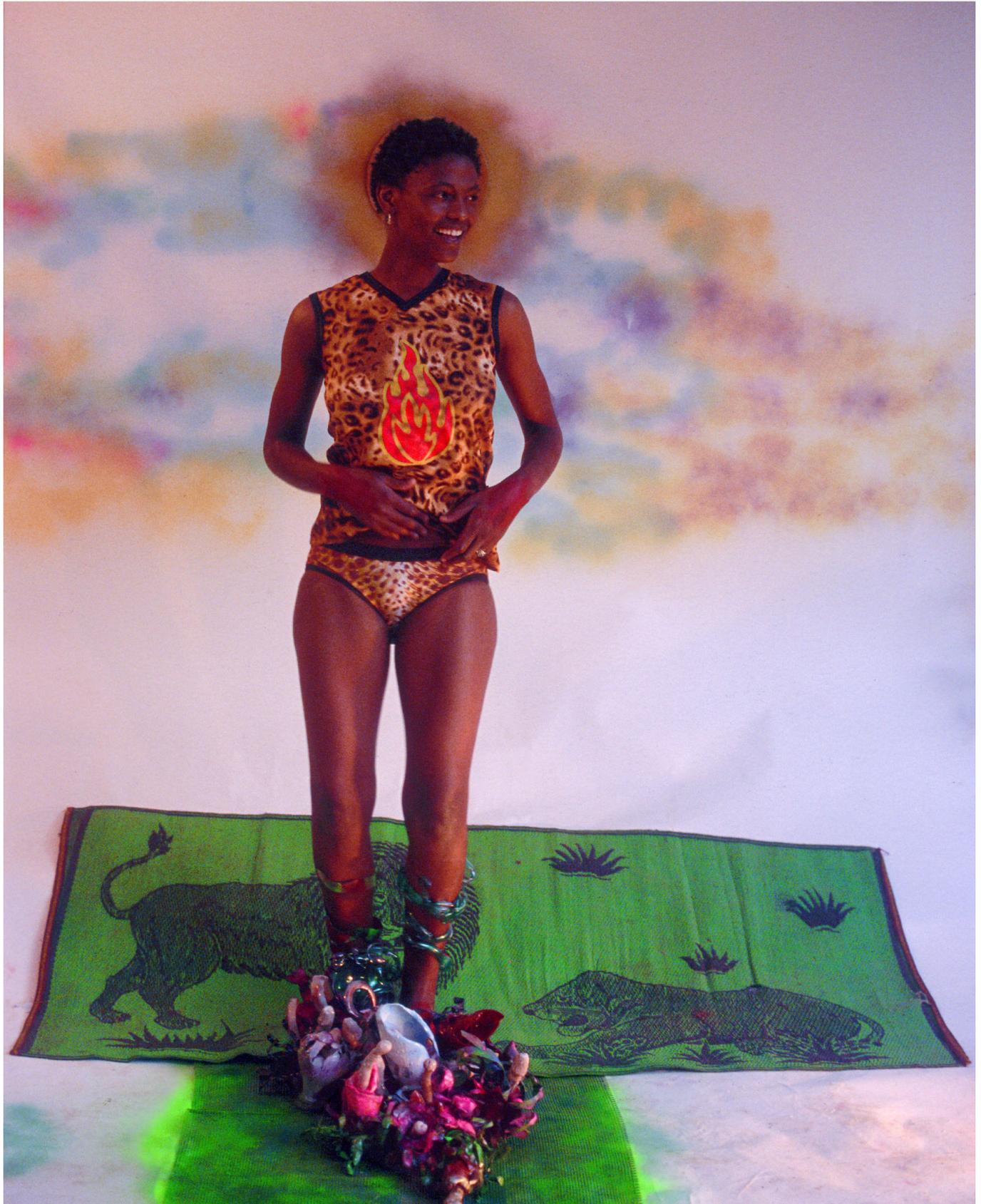


**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow



We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

Accept [More Info](#)



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.



Allow

presentation at the South African Pavilion, she's doing something new, and getting behind the camera to direct the action in a "mancave" she's creating to explore ideas about healing. As she relayed in a recent interview, "I have been asked for the last two Biennales. I said no because they were a mess. I'm not gonna put my name to that. I'm not going to endorse mediocrity." This year she's back, after participating for the last time twelve years ago, but it's on her own terms of course. Her untameable and truly unique work will no doubt rattle a few cages.

### **Kudzanai-Violet Hwami, Zimbabwe**

Painter Kudzanai-Violet Hwami is part of a group exhibition at Zimbabwe's Pavilion, reinterpreting the epic poem by the late African nationalist Herbert Chitepo, the leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union who was assassinated in 1975. Born almost two decades later, in 1993, Hwami left Zimbabwe aged nine amidst political turmoil and has lived in South Africa and the UK since. In her paintings, she finds creates a space for an identity that has been displaced, exploring sexuality, healing, rituals and family life.

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

**Accept** [More Info](#)



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow



Renate Bertlmann. Let's Dance Together. 1978. Black-and-white photograph © Renate Bertlmann / Bildrecht

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

[Accept](#) [More Info](#)



We would like to send you push notifications.

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

Powered by Push Monkey

Allow

er her solo presentation. Erotic, funny, sexy and cool, Borlmann is a role model who loves playing with roles and hierarchy, things we need to be reminded of, in Venice, and beyond.

Share with



SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE

MORE TO READ



We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

Accept More Info



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

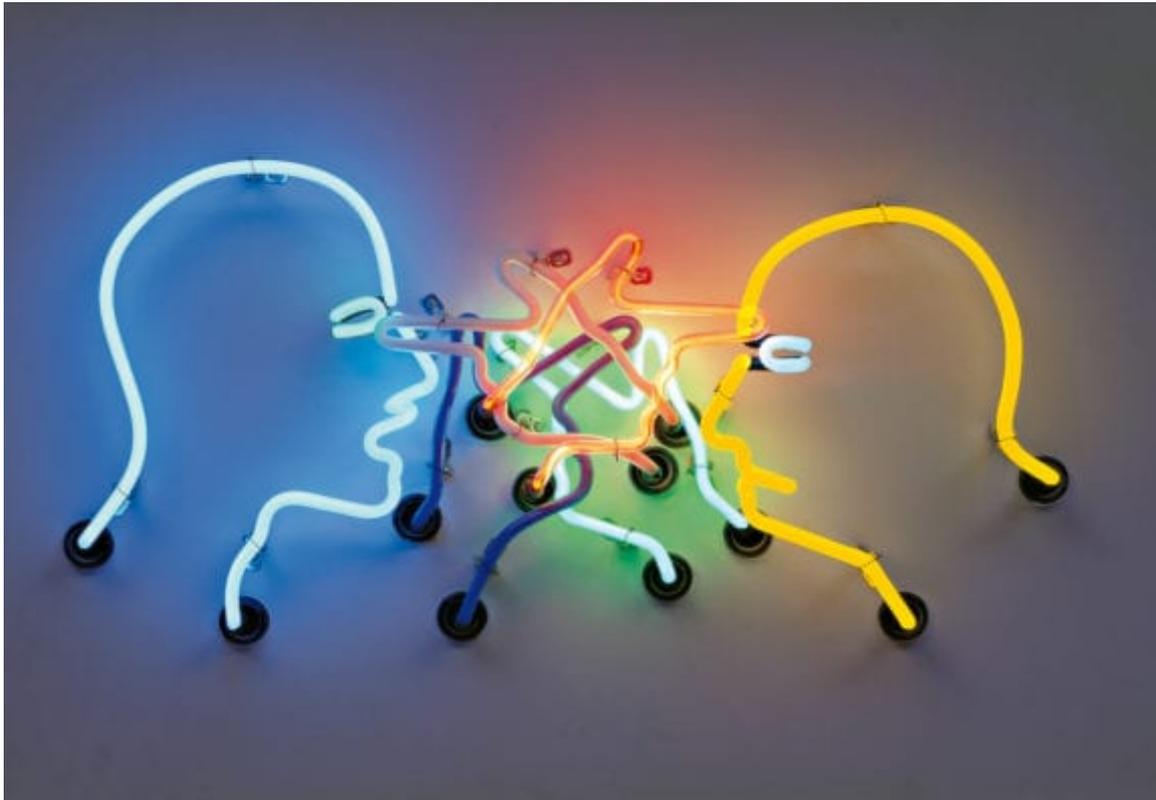
Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

Powered by Push Monkey

Allow

From war reportage to street photography, here are five influential women who have shaped the history of photojournalism.

READ MORE



PICKS

## Five Artists Who Have Changed the Way We See Neon

From Tracey Emin’s handwritten phrases to Romily Alice Walden’s interrogation of wellness, here are five artists who have harnessed the power of “liquid fire”.

READ MORE

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

Accept More Info



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow



PICKS

## The Five Pavilions You Have to See at the Venice Biennale

From a French underwater universe to Ghana's hotly anticipated debut, these are the must-see Venice pavilions.

[READ MORE](#)

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

[Accept](#) [More Info](#)



We would like to send you push notifications.

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

Powered by Push Monkey

Allow



PICKS

# The Artists Depicting African and Black Realities at the Venice Biennale

Long underrepresented, artists from Africa and its diaspora found their place in this year's Biennale—and they are tearing up tradition.

READ MORE

Keep in the loop

Enter email

SUBSCRIBE

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

Accept More Info



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow



PICKS

## Words of Wisdom from Europe's Largest Student Showcase

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

[Accept](#) [More Info](#)



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

Powered by Push Monkey

Allow



PICKS

### The London MFA Shows: Art in a World on the Edge of Change?



We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

Accept [More Info](#)

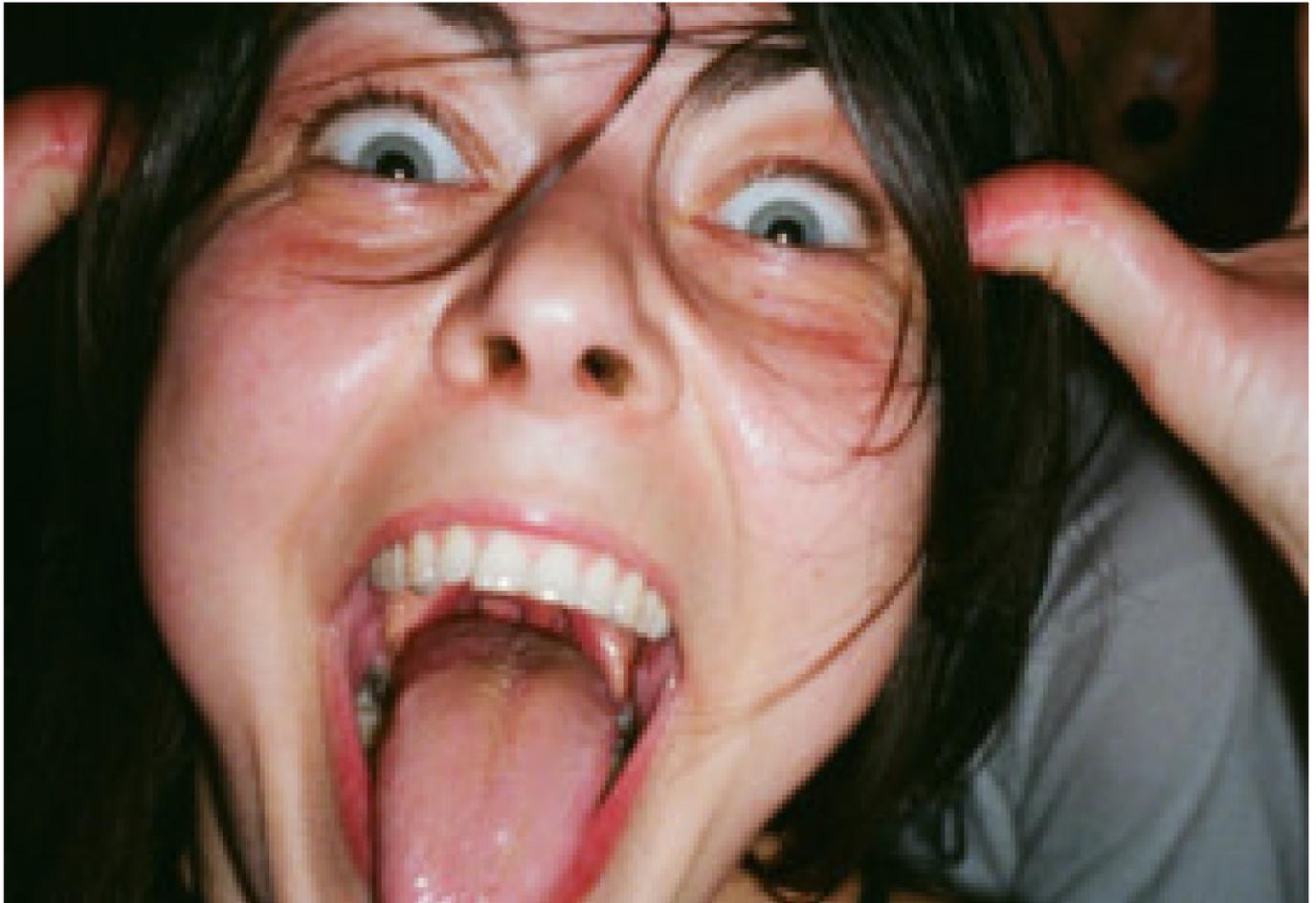


**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow



PICKS

## The Female Photo-Zine Publishers Shaking Up the DIY Scene

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

[Accept](#) [More Info](#)



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.

 Powered by Push Monkey

Allow



PICKS

The Essential West London Guide for the Capital's 2019 Design Festival

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

Accept [More Info](#)



We would like to send you push notifications.

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.



Allow



## Out Now! Issue 41: Rewilding the World

Can art save us? As we find ourselves facing the ever-harsher realities of the climate crisis, this age-old question becomes relevant once again. In this issue, we interrogate the many ways in which animals and the natural world are presented visually—often with either advocate or escapist tendencies—and speak with artists who are suggesting new ways of reconnecting with and caring...

\$16.00

[MORE INFO](#)

[BUY ME](#)

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

[Accept](#) [More Info](#)



**We would like to send you push notifications.**

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings.



Allow

We use cookies for all the usual reasons. Click Accept and this message will go away.

**Accept** [More Info](#)