

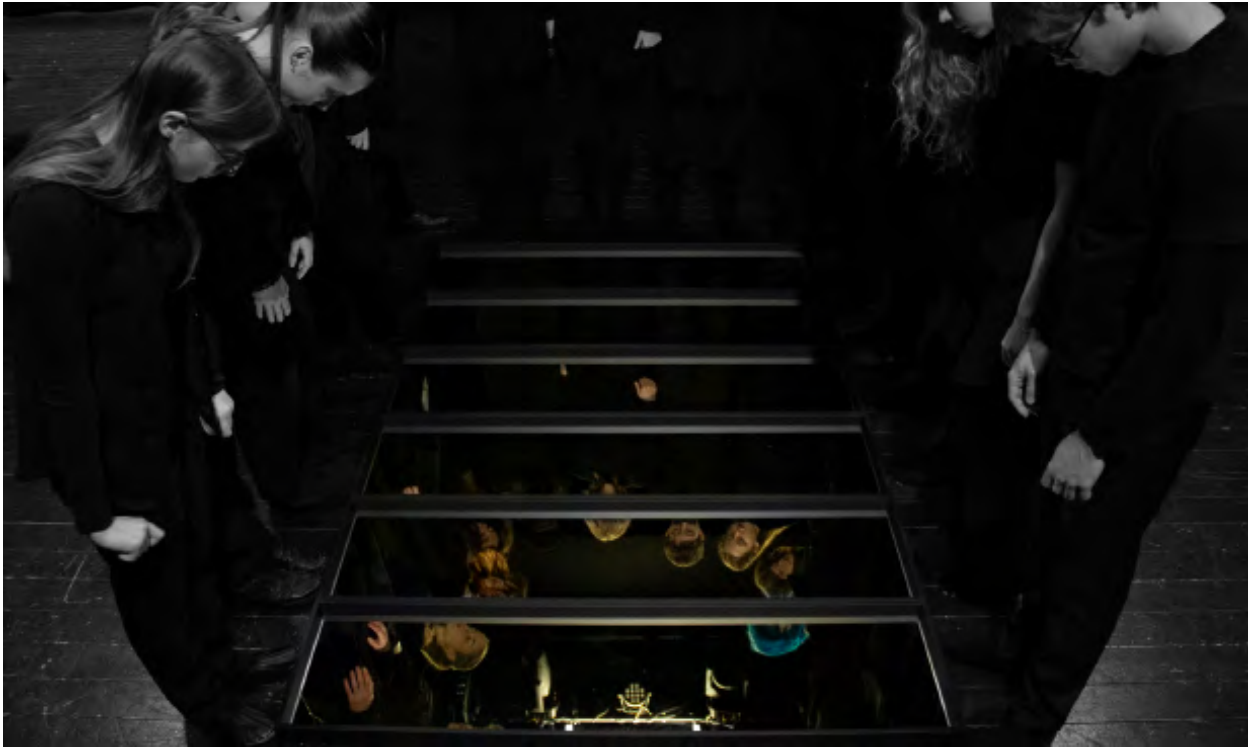


Young people in the 21st century

2026

Young people in the 21st century
XVIII International photography competition

Jaunas žmogus XXI amžiuje
XVIII tarptautinis fotografijos konkursas



XVII tarptautinis fotografijos konkursas-paroda

JAUNAS ŽMOGUS XXI AMŽIUJE 2025

Parodoje pristatomose fotografijų serijose atsiskleidžia šiuolaikinio žmogaus gyvenimo akimirkos. Nuotraukose žmonės, įvykiai ir detalės, atspindinčios jaunų žmonių požiūrį į XXI amžiaus pasaulį.

Organizatoriai

MTKC.LT

Rėmėjai

KAUNAS

oho!

Kartlandas

1000 PLYTELIU

Partneriai

KAUNO KOLEGIJA

MENŲ IR UGDYMO FAKULTETAS

XVIII tarptautiniam fotografijos konkursui „Jaunas žmogus XXI amžiuje 2026“ buvo gauta 1180 nuotraukų, kurias pateikė 259 autoriai iš Estijos, Lietuvos, Lenkijos, Ukrainos, Kanados, Vengrijos, Australijos, Čekijos, Turkijos, Taivano.

Rėmėjai

Kauno miesto savivaldybė

Partneriai

Kauno kolegijos menų ir ugdymo fakultetas

Vertinimo komisija

Lietuvos fotomenininkų sąjungos narys
VDU šiuolaikinių menų katedros profesorius
Romualdas Požerskis

Lietuvos fotomenininkų sąjungos narys,
VDU šiuolaikinių menų katedros vedėjas
Tomas Pabedinskas

Fotomenininkė
Aura Šimkienė

Fotografė, tyrėja, meno fotografijos dėstytoja,
IPMA Festival valdovė
Svetlana Batura

Lietuvos dokumentinės fotografijos kūrėjas
Artūras Morozovas

Organizatoriai

Kauno moksleivių techninės kūrybos centras

For the 18th International Photography Competition “Young Person in the 21st Century 2026,” 1,180 photographs were submitted by 259 authors from Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Canada, Hungary, Australia, Czech Republic, Turkey, and Taiwan.

Sponsors

Kaunas City Municipality

Patners

Faculty of Arts and Education at Kaunas University of Applied Sciences

Jury members

Union of the Lithuanian art photographers, Member
Professor of VMU Faculty of Arts
Romualdas Požerskis

Member of the Lithuanian Photographers Association,
Head of the Department of Contemporary Arts at Vytautas
Magnus University
Tomas Pabedinskas

Photographer
Aura Šimkienė

Photographer, researcher, lecturer in fine art photography,
Director of IPMA Festival
Svetlana Batura

Chairman of the Lithuanian Photography Art Society, documentary photographer, lecturer
Artūras Morozovas

Organisers

Kaunas youth technical creativity center Head of VMU

We are grateful to organizations and tutors listed below

Estonia

Johvi, Photo Club “F8” (tutor Dmitryj Vorobjov).

Photo Club “Search” (tutor Dmitri Vorobjov).

Lithuania

Šiauliai, Šiauliai technology training centre (tutors Renata Chvoinkovienė, Lina Mišeikienė, Giedrė Navickienė).

Šiauliai, Department of arts and beauty services of Šiauliai technology training centre (tutor Renata Chvoinkovienė).

Kaunas, Kaunas youth technical creativity centre (tutor Greta Vainauskaitė).

Mažeikiai, Mažeikiai children and youth multifunctional centre (tutor Renata Montvydaitė).

Vilnius, Žemyna gymnasium (tutor Sigita Kaminskienė).

Kaunas, Kaunas information technology school (tutor Greta Vainauskaitė, Meilė Lesevičiūtė).

Kupiškis district, Alizava primary school (tutor Danutė Miknevičienė).

Šilalė, Šilalė art school (tutor Ilona Venckienė).

Vilkaviškis, Vilkaviškis children and youth centre (tutor Jonas Juškevičius, Andrius Birštonas).

Vilkaviškis, “Aušros” gymnasium (tutor Andrius Birštonas).

Vilkaviškis, Salomėja Nėris primary school (tutor Andrius Birštonas).

Molėtai, Molėtai gymnasium (tutor Jolanta Liubeckaitė).

Kulautuva, Kulautuva primary school (tutor Kolomba Bulotienė).

Kaunas, Vytautas Magnus university “Rasos” Gymnasium (tutor Virginija Gedeikienė).

Kaunas, Maironis university gymnasium (tutor Jūratė Petrauskienė).

Alytus, Dainava progymnasium (tutor Arūnas Vaitkus).

Šiauliai, Saulius Sondeckis art gymnasium (tutor Aida Juškaitė).

Kaunas, Kaunas international school (tutor Natalija Brizickaja-Zumbrickienė).

Klaipėda, KMSC studio “Febas” (tutor Valdas Ramanauskas).

Druskininkai, “Saulės” primary school, Photography non-formal education programme (tutor Ieva Dovidauskienė).

Kaunas, LSMU gymnasium (tutor Jolita Grabliauskaitė).

Klaipėda, Žaliakalnis gymnasium (tutor Jana Ananjeva).

Vilnius, “Laisvės” gymnasium (tutor Marius Janulevičius).

Marijampolė, Rimantas Stankevičius progymnasium (tutor Andrius Birštonas).

Kaunas, Juozas Grušas art gymnasium (tutor Aidas Augustis, Erlendas Bartulis).

Panevėžys, Mintis engineering gymnasium (tutor Renata Tamošiūnaitė).

Kaunas, Tadas Ivanauskas progymnasium (tutor Erlendas Bartulis).

Pumpėnai, Pumpėnai gymnasium (tutor Aida Aurelija Garastaitė).

Juodupė, Juodupė gymnasium (independent participant).

Druskininkai, “Ryto” gymnasium (tutor Virginijus Sutkus).

Kaunas, Kaunas Cadet lyceum (tutor Erlendas Bartulis).

Vilnius, Vilnius schoolchildren creativity and training centre (tutor Aušra Griškonytė-Kavaliauskienė).

Panevėžys, Vytautas Mikalauskas arts gymnasium (tutor Asta Mincytė).

Panevėžys, Mykolas Karka primary School.

Kaunas, Herojus gymnasium (tutor Milda Urbšytė).

Kaunas, arts and design training centre (tutor Kristina Valasevičienė).

Alytus district, Simnas gymnasium (tutor Loreta Matulevičienė).

Vilnius, Karoliniškės gymnasium (tutor Rimantas Kisielius).

Poland

Warsaw, Bullerbyn primary School (tutor Karolina Galera).

Koszalin, Władysław Hasiór state secondary school of fine arts (tutor Katarzyna Gwardiak-Kocur).

Bielsko-Biała, Julian Fałat state secondary school of fine arts (tutor Joanna Chudy).

Koszalin, State High School of fine arts named after Władysław Hasiór in Koszalin (tutor Katarzyna Gwardiak Kocur).

Ukraine

Chernivtsi, Chernivtsi center for young technicians named after Leonid Kadenyuk, Photo Studio “Po-glyad” (tutor Mykola Oleksiyovych Yemelyanov).

Vyshneve, City center of scientific and technical creativity of student youth “Shans” (tutor Diana Moteluk, Oksana Skrypnyk, Nataliya Liesova, Svitlana Razlomova).

Mykolaiv, Photo Studio “PhotoKrok” (tutor Iryna Guziy).

Mykolaiv, Higher Vocational School of Technology and Design (tutor Iryna Guziy).

Sumy, Photo Studio “My” (tutor Liubov Bospala).

Hungary

Dunaújváros, Pannon education centre (tutor Ádám Cser).

Australia
Newcastle, Merewether High School (tutor Yelena Dawson).

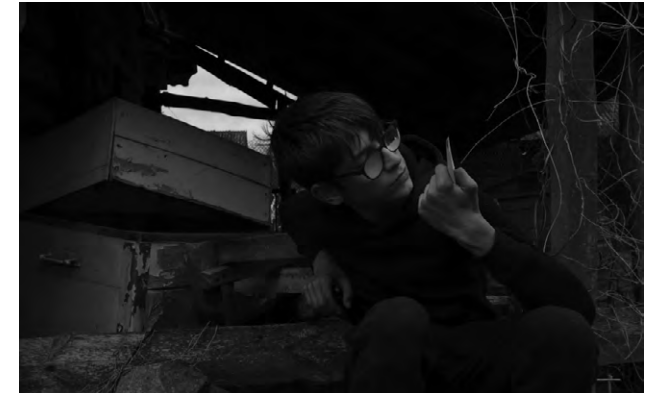
Czech Republic
Prague, Gymnázium Evolution.



Grand Prix 12-16 years: Justė Bernotaitė,
aged 16, Lithuania
“Between the parts and the whole”

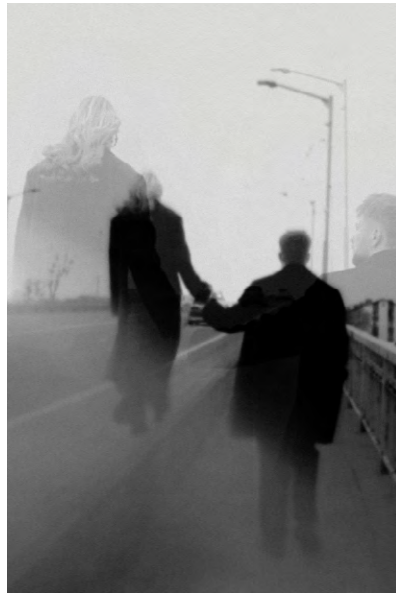


1st place 12–16 years: Hlieb Suprun,
aged 11, Ukraine
“Alter ego: Materialisation”



A young person does not seek memories casually; the past is important to them. They strive to understand their past because it helps them understand themselves and shapes their personality and character. Memories become a quiet refuge that teaches appreciation for simplicity and provides inner peace in a changing world. They not only connect us to the past but also allow us to maintain a bond with those who are no longer present. This series shows the importance of memories and the past for a young person.

1st place 17–19 years: Kamilė Kaveckaitė,
aged 17, Lithuania
“Traces of memories”

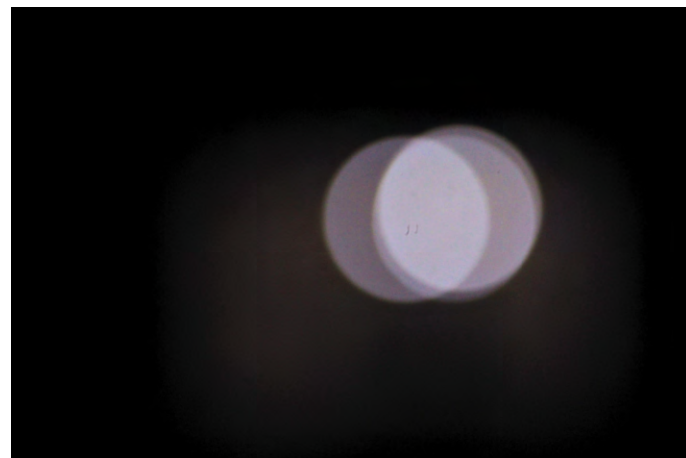
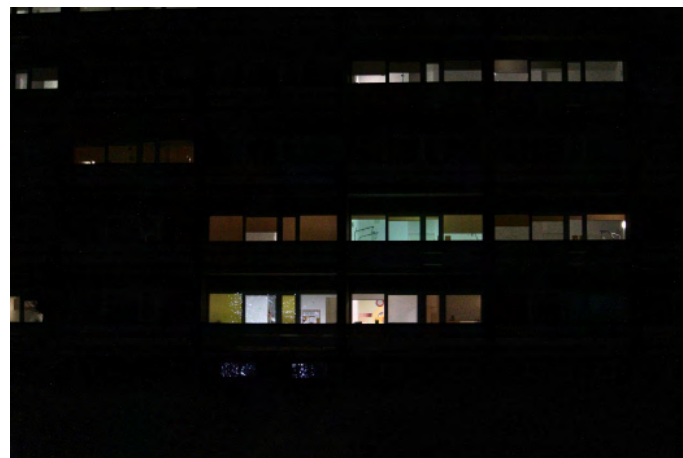
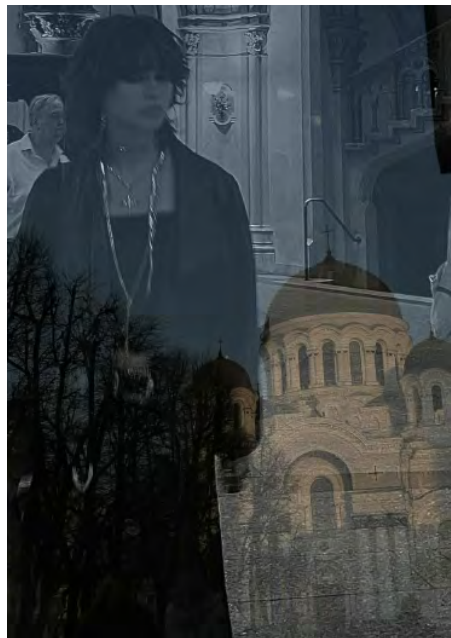


I met them on a bridge, at a moment when the city was moving at its usual pace, yet they seemed outside of it. They stood close, speaking quietly, their gestures saying more than words. In a world where everything becomes faster and more accessible, the need to be seen and understood remains. Yet intimacy does not always match distance — it exists in pauses, glances, and what is left unsaid. This series is not about a meeting, but about what emerges between people.

1st place 20–29 years: Oksana Parts-Farforovski,
aged 27, Estonia
“Between what remains”



2nd place 12–16 years: Emilis Vaičekas,
aged 16, Lithuania
“Life is strange”



2nd place 12–16 years: **Elzė Laurutėnaitė**,
aged 16, Lithuania
„Episodes”

2nd place 17–19 years: **Gustė Ramanauskaitė**,
aged 18, Lithuania
„Sonder”



This series is a visual narrative about a young person exploring urban spaces and encountering the (in) openness of the city. The story begins with lowered blinds and red traffic lights, symbolizing boundaries and inaccessibility. The journey continues through bus windows until it reaches sealed doors with code locks—barriers created by the city within our everyday lives.

However, behind every restriction lies an opportunity: a stairwell becomes a space of freedom and unconventional rest, while library shelves open the door to a world of knowledge. The series culminates in an emotional scream captured from above—an ultimate release, a reconciliation with the environment, and a reclaiming of personal space. This story invites reflection on how the city restricts us and how, despite everything, we manage to find our own paths and unique forms of expression.



2nd place 17–19 years: Ieva Ivanauskaitė,
aged 18, Lithuania
„(In)openes of the city”



2nd place 20-29 years: Zuzanna Wruszczak,
aged 20, Poland
„Deceit”



2nd place 20-29 years: Zuzanna Wruszczak,
aged 20, Poland
„Monimit”

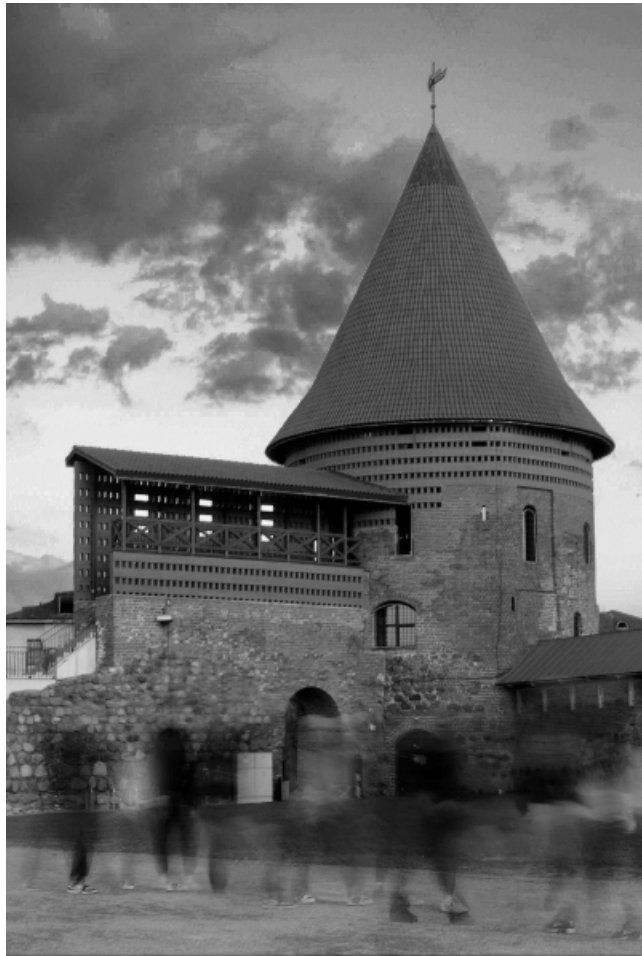


3rd place 12–16 years: **Doğa Ergün**,
aged 15, Turkey
„Controlled oceans, wild souls”



My photography series called „SOLUS” is mainly focused on the feeling of loneliness among young people. Word „solus” comes from latin language and it basically means „alone”. Ai is creating connections with young people by using numbers and calculations Not EMOTIONS
It just chooses between options like GREEN or RED
Right or Wrong
People my age tend to use it a lot. to study to talk to feel
They all want to belong somewhere
Me too
But with an AI bot nothing truthly real
Its all calculated cold

3rd place 12–16 years: **Magdalena Malcharek**,
aged 16, Poland
„Solūs”



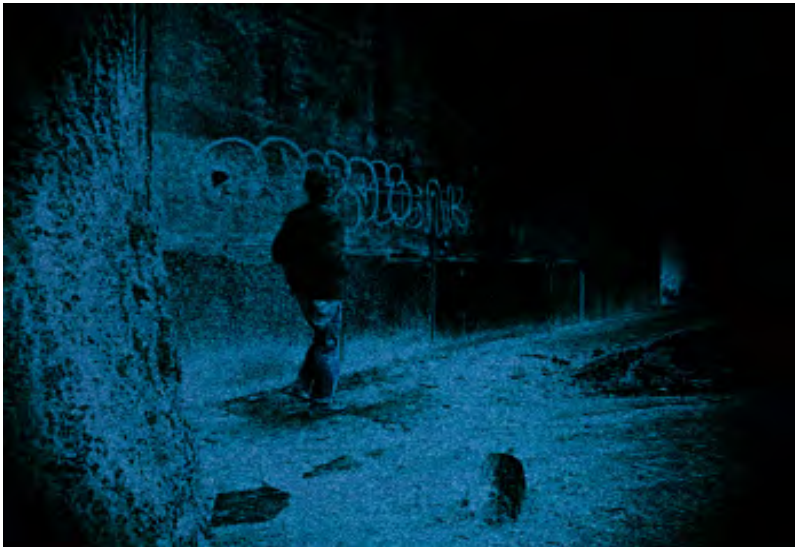
3rd place 12–16 years: Anna Indykova,
aged 16, Ukraine
„Beyond time”

3rd place 17–19 years: Alina Morozova,
aged 19, Lithuania
„Timeline”

Timeline is a collection of fragments: memories, moments, and observations of people. They emerged during a period of inner exhaustion, when there is a particularly strong desire to preserve what is slipping away, and time feels blurred. Everything layers upon itself, merging into a single sensation in which people and their feelings remain.

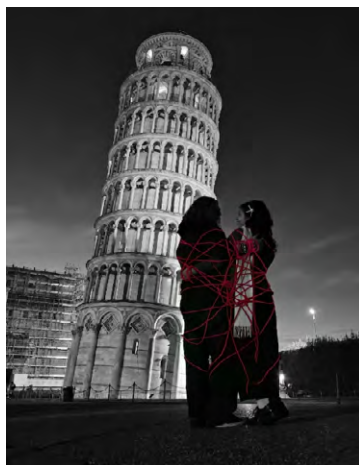
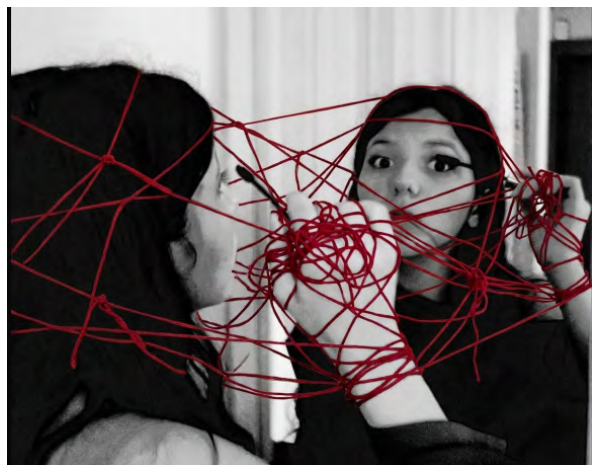


3rd place 17–19 years: **Alina Morozova**,
aged 19, Lithuania
„Timeline”



The vague visions of your everlasting
memory.

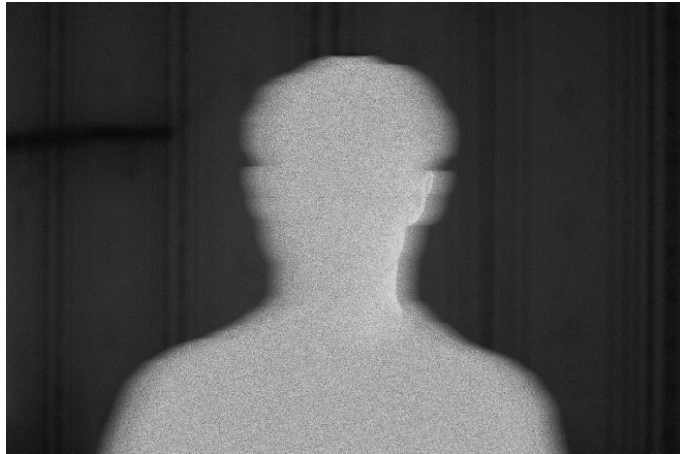
3rd place 17–19 years: **Serafimas Sergius Štefans**,
aged 17, Lithuania
„Elusive Memories”



Nomination for a creative search: Milena Menta Alves,
aged 18, Lithuania
„Hidden Connections”



Nomination for a creative search: Oksana Parts-Farfovski,
aged 27, Estonia
„Home: Prison and shelter”



3rd place 20–29 years: Aurelijus Janavičius,
aged 24, Lithuania
„Noise”



Nomination: AI Interpretation. 1st place:
Goda Kononenkaitė,
aged 16, Lithuania
„Reality”



Nomination AI Interpretation:

Nora Pilypaitytė

aged 15, Lithuania

„Young people in the age of artificial intelligence”

Nomination AI Interpretation.:

Adrianas Šleževičius

aged 16, Lithuania

„Digital Wave”

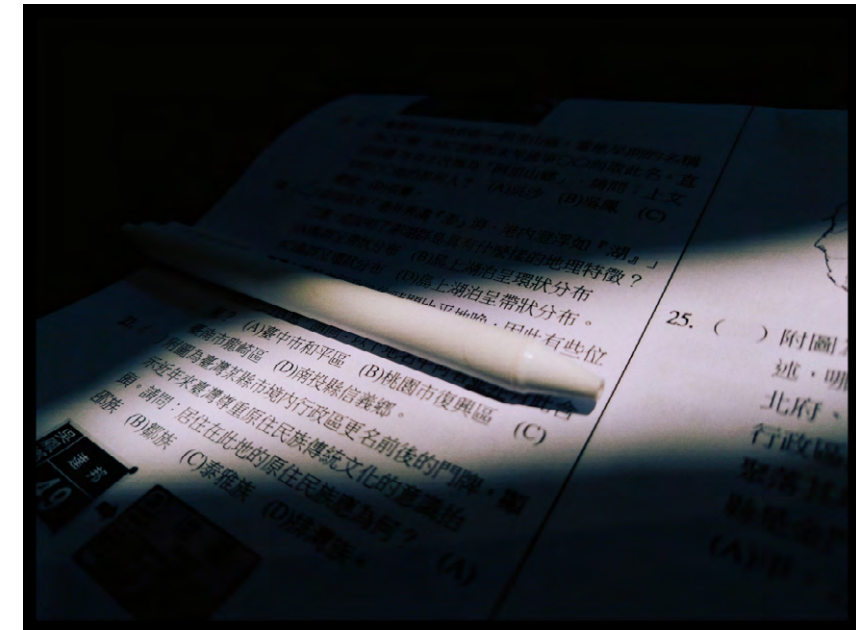
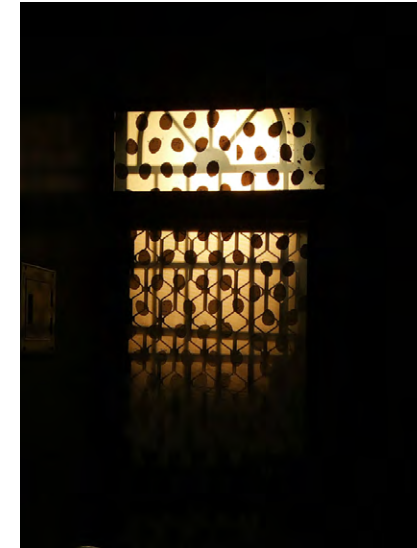


Winter Kids follow the quiet poetry of a single repeated gesture: the climb and the fall, the effort and the release. Each frame holds a moment that is both fleeting and eternal — a child mid-descent, arms out, wholly present. A parent standing at the top, watching. Bare trees reaching into a pale winter sky. Long shadows stretching across the snow like hands on a clock, measuring an afternoon that nobody wants to end.

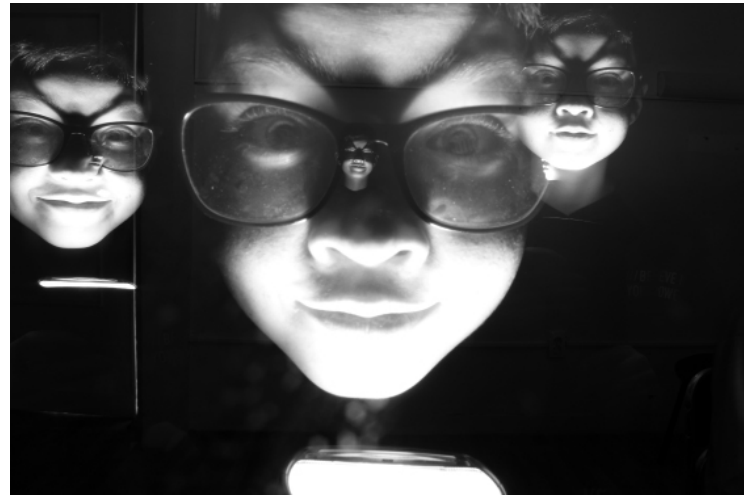


Winter Kids are a love letter to the season, and to the children who remind us how to live inside it. To the hill that asks nothing of you except that you show up. To the winters we remember, and the ones we are still living.

Nomination for a creative search: Edvinas Petraitis,
aged 16, Lithuania
„Winter Kids”



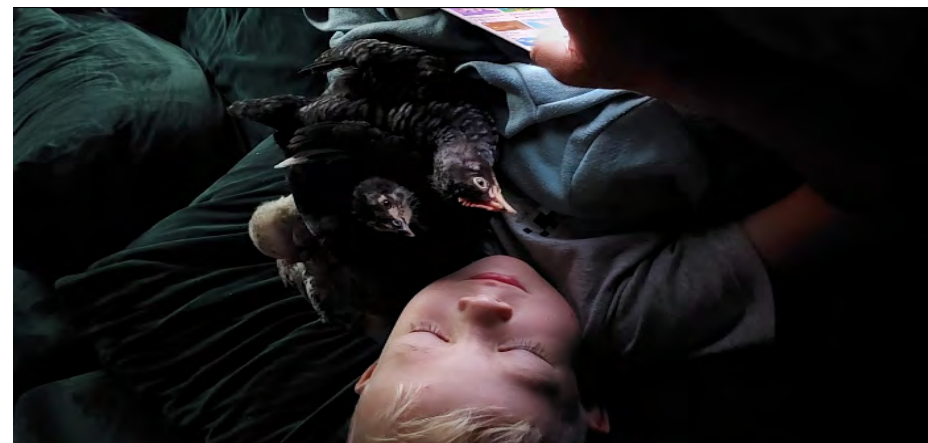
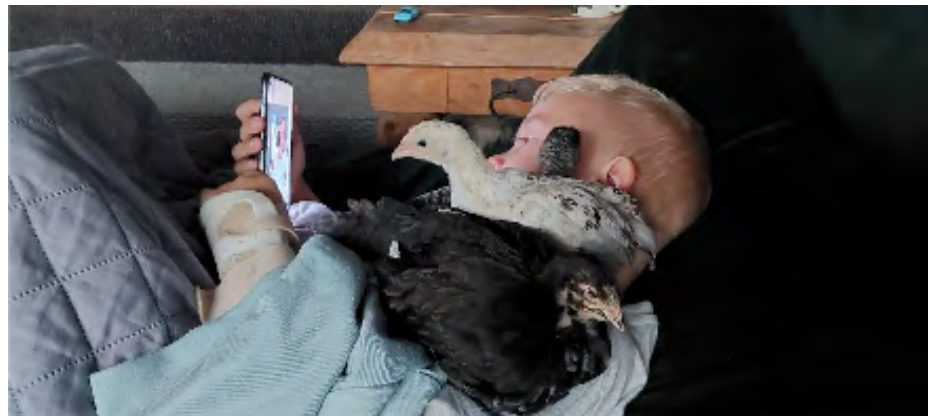
Nomination for a creative search: Pǔxī Ōuyà,
aged 15, Taiwan
„Life light”



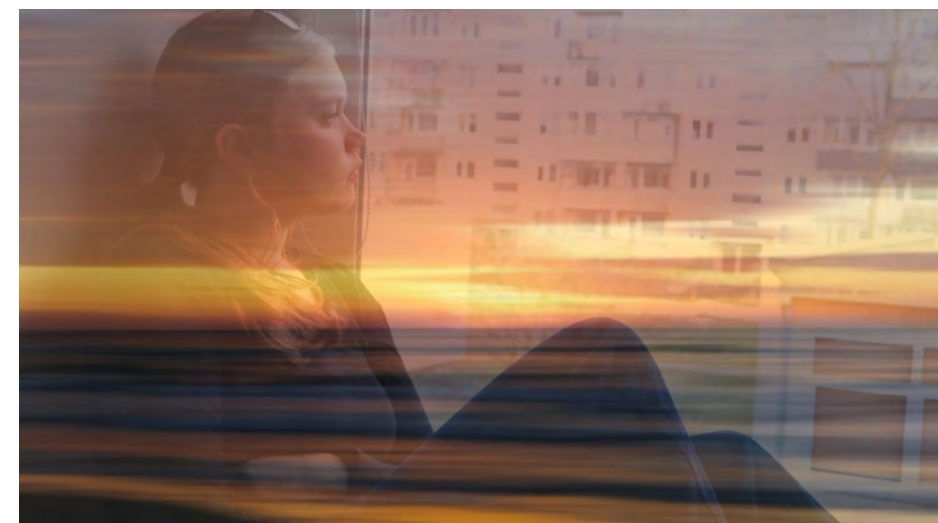
Nomination for a creative search: Gintaras Šilobrit,
aged 13, Lithuania
„Self-Portrait”



Nomination for a creative search: Eivinas Venckus,
aged 16, Lithuania
„Rehearsal”



Nomination for a creative search: Dominyka Tamulevičiūtė,
aged 13, Lithuania
„Connection”

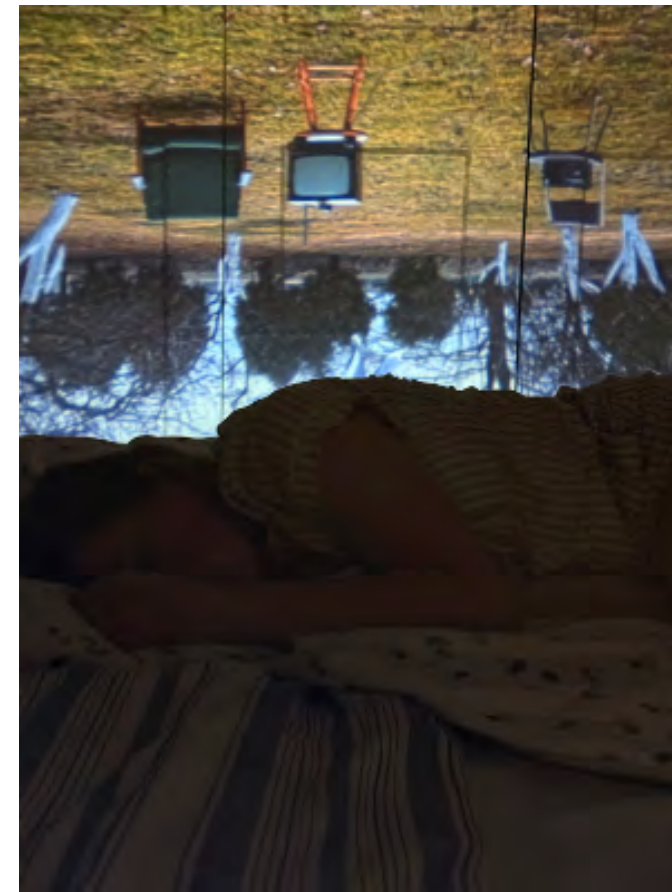
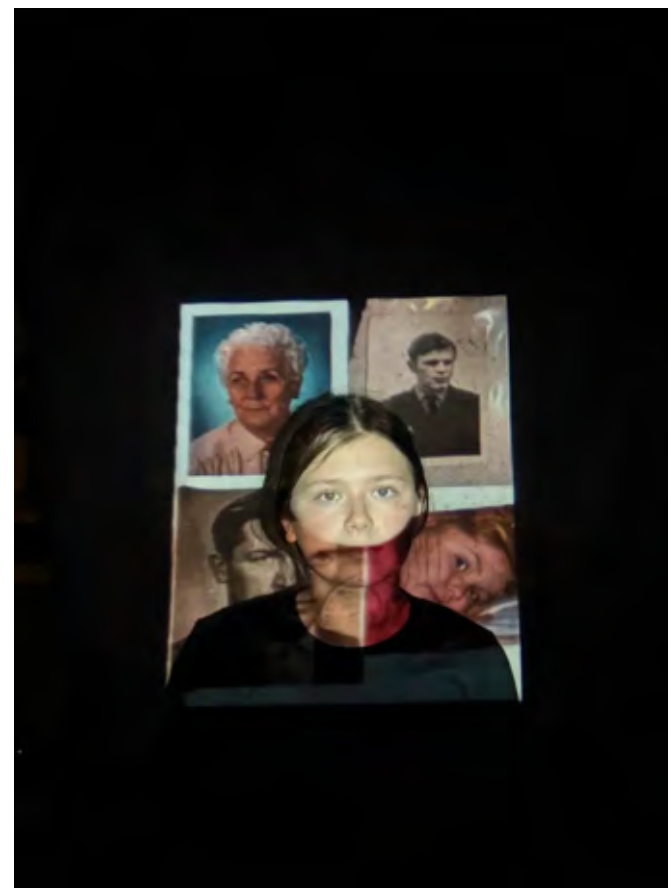


Nomination for a creative search: Gustė Škirkaitė,
aged 15, Lithuania
„Between Moments”

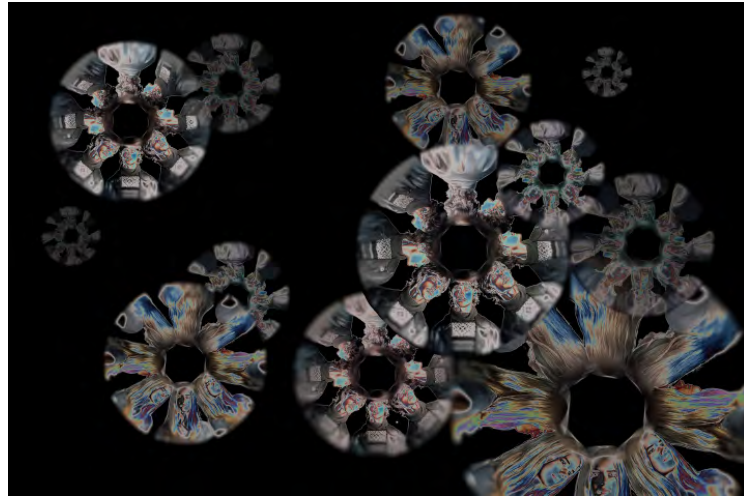
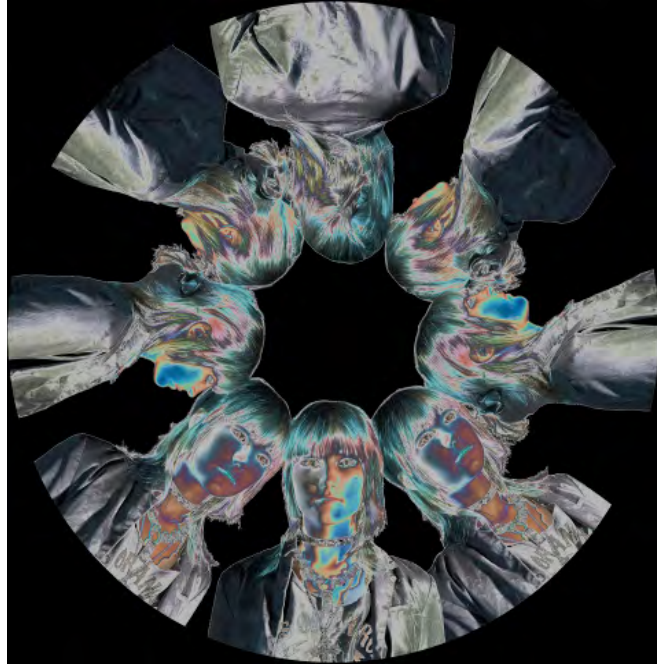
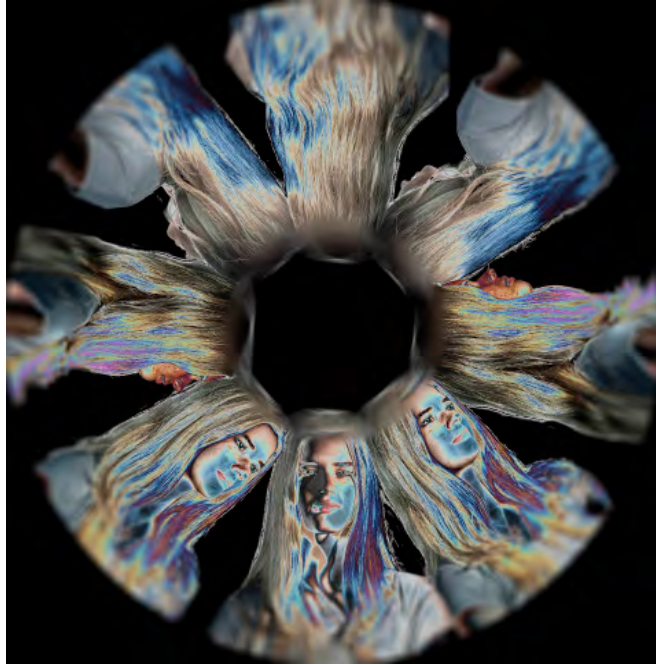
There are quiet pauses where everything feels still. In those moments, thoughts take over and time seems to fade.



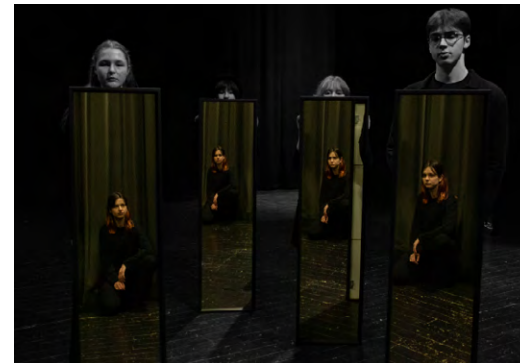
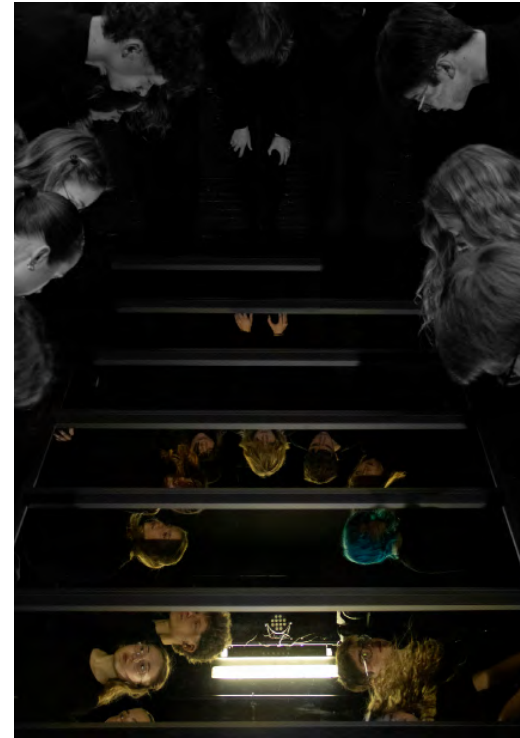
Nomination for a creative search: Karina Laada,
aged 15, Estonia
„Mind glitches”



Nomination for a creative search: Amelia Jęcek,
aged 17, Poland
„Ilusion of childhood”



Nomination for a creative search: Aleksandra Konert,
aged 18, Poland
„Vision”



Nomination for a creative search: Kamilė Šeikytė,
aged 18, Lithuania
„Colorful in Black and White”

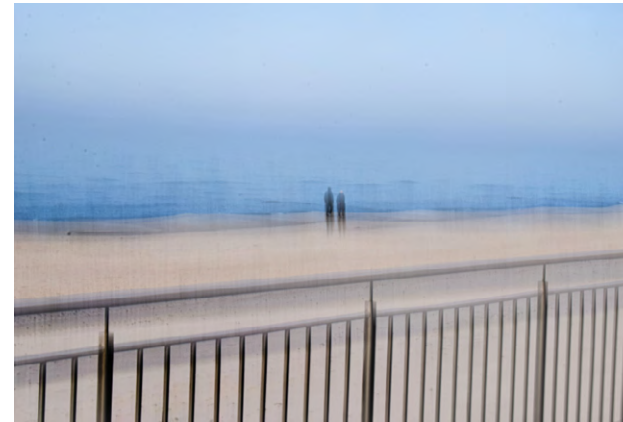


Vision is rarely immediate or complete. At times it is hidden, distorted, or uncertain before clarity emerges. The eye becomes a symbol of perception, a place where inner experience and the outside world meet. Moving between concealment and exposure, these images explore the fragile moment when seeing begins to take shape. Each gaze holds traces of thought, memory, and emotion, suggesting that understanding the world is not only about looking, but also about learning how to see.

Nomination for a creative search: Deina Gudelytė,
aged 19, Lithuania
„Between seeing and perception”



Nomination for a creative search: Liepa Ignatavičiūtė,
aged 17, Lithuania
„The Generation in Motion”



Taken during a local concert in Šiauliai, Lithuania, this series captures young musicians and audiences immersed in live performance. Between smoke, movement, and spontaneous energy, the images explore how music becomes a form of identity, community, and self-expression for a new generation.

Nomination for a creative search: Lukas Milgedas,
aged 18, Lithuania
„Šiauliai live”

Nomination for a creative search: Roksana Mazurek,
aged 17, Poland
„Memories”



Oksana Parts-Farforovski,
aged 27, Estonia
„Discreoancy”



This series of photos is called “Mistica Orbis Terrarum”. It pictures the mystical world only our mind can imagine. It shows the connection of nature with the other world.

Nomination for a creative search: Taisiia Babenko,
aged 16, Lithuania
„Touch”



The An-225 “Mriya” made its first flight in 1988 and became a symbol of Ukraine’s strength and engineering genius. In 2022, it was destroyed during the battles for Hostomel. Despite this, the memory of the legendary aircraft lives on. An online contest was held in its honor, where children created models of “Mriya.” A total of 78 children from different regions took part, showing their talent and love for aviation. This proves that “Mriya” continues to inspire the younger generation to dream and create.

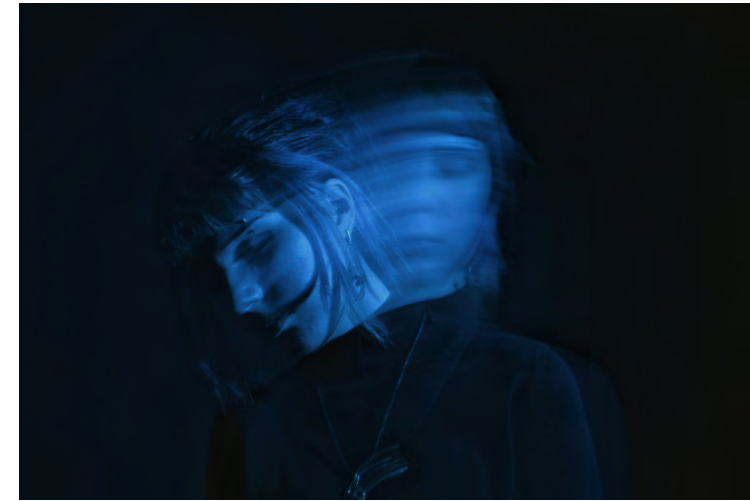
Nomination for a creative search:
Stefanko Anna,
 aged 15, Ukraina
 „A dream takes flight again”



Beatričė Villuveit,
 aged 24, Lithuania
 „Stopped Time”



Gabrielė Brukštutė,
aged 17, Lithuania
„Artist”



We may be driving through the highway of our life but have no hold over ourselves until we reach the end. It associates with young people in the XXI century the way we disconnect the mind from the body while experiencing constantly shifting moments.

Beatričė Sutkutė,
aged 17, Lithuania
„Highway hypnosis”

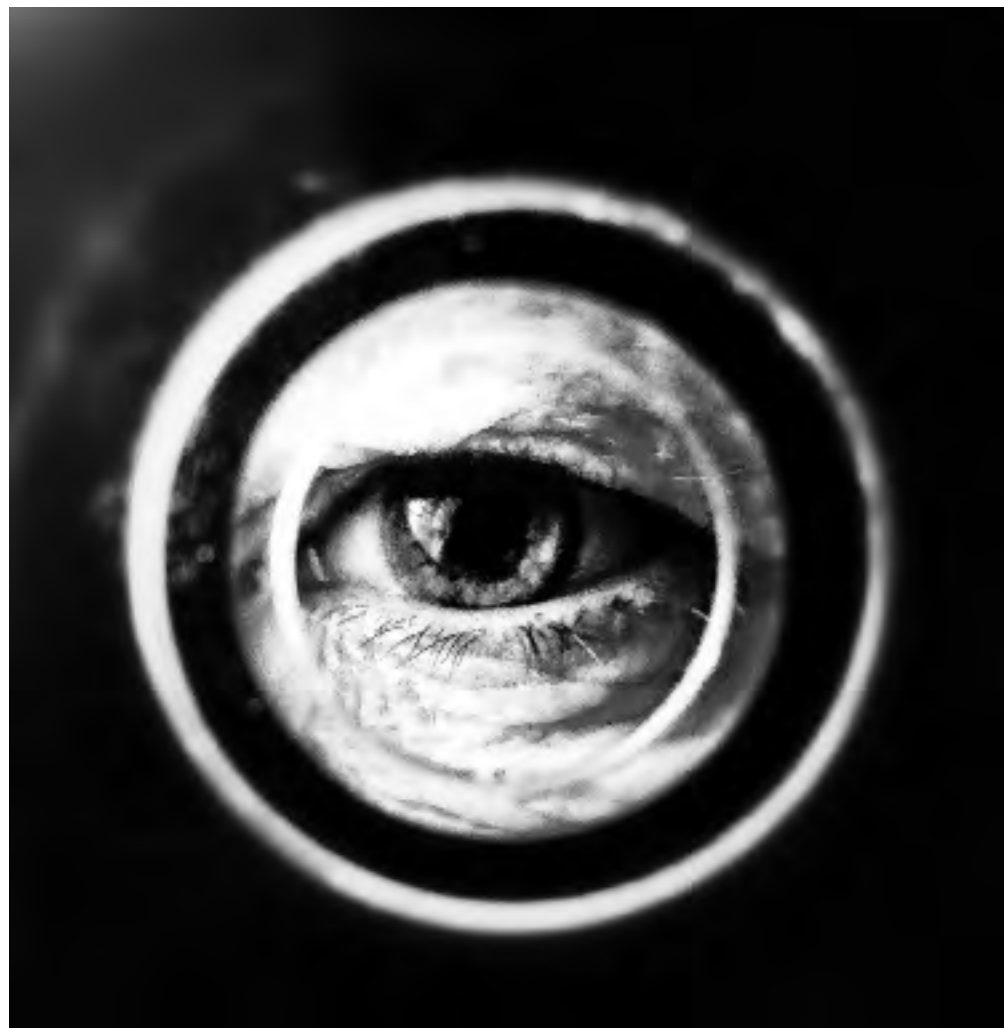


Glass seems eternal – transparent, solid, as if untouched by time. Yet it is not the glass that is fragile, but the people who create it. Their hands, once mastering fire, are quietly fading, almost unnoticed. The craft is disappearing, turning into nothing more than an image on a screen. For a young person, it feels distant, almost unnecessary. And while the glass remains, its creators slowly vanish.

Renata Montvydaitė,
aged 22, Lithuania
„Things the younger generation will no longer learn”



Nikita Sergejev,
aged 23, Estonia
„Childhood”



Armanda Ambrazevičiūtė,
aged 24, Lithuania
„Eyes are the mirror of the soul”

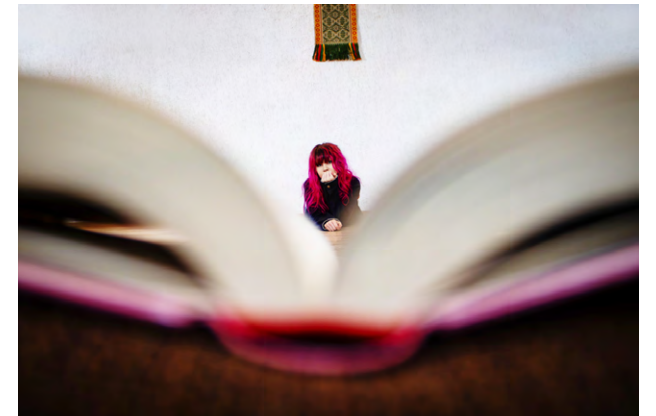


Sometimes it feels like my whole life is endless rehearsals and exhaustion. Over and over again, I practice movements and correct mistakes. It can be hard, but dancing is what truly makes me happy. In the dance hall, I forget about everything...I love this path, even when I have no strength left and want to stop. Because all of it is for the sake of that moment on stage.

Darja Terentjeva,
aged 24, Estonia
„For the sake of the moment”



Adelina Ivanavičiūtė,
aged 20, Lithuania
„Shadows of the Mind”



This photography series demonstrates how perspective can alter our perception of size and space. By using different angles, a person or object appears in an unusual, seemingly impossible situation. The photographs invite viewers to question what they see and to realize that reality can be easily manipulated and interpreted in different ways.

Vakaris Bajalis, Toma Sovaitė,
aged 17-18, Lithuania
„Perspective Illusion”



Everybody, at least once in their lives, becomes lost between their decisions. The weight of making the right choice, taking the correct path at a crossroads, and not turning back—that responsibility hits hard. It’s difficult to live with both decisions, and it’s also hard to commit to just one. But once you clear things out, everything changes—life becomes full of experiences, and the choices you face feel much easier to make. Choose the right path, no matter how long ago you feel you should have done it.

Sibilė Petkevičiūtė,
aged 17, Lithuania
„At a crossroads”

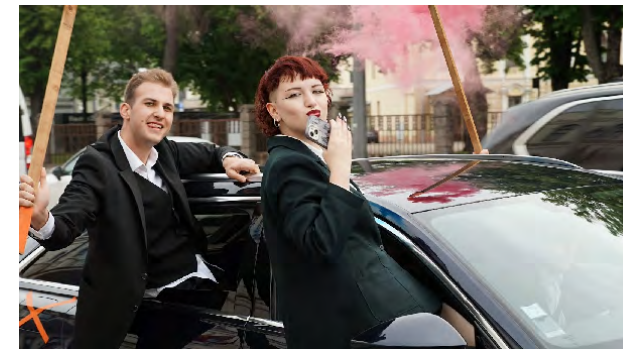


The vague visions of your everlasting memory.

Serafimas Sergius Štefans
aged 17, Lithuania
„Elusive Memories”



Saulė Jančiauskaitė
aged 17, Lithuania
„Dialogues”



Rugilė Jankauskaitė
aged 18, Lithuania
„The Last Call”



Ramūnas Tvaskūnas
aged 17, Lithuania
„Premonitions”



Povilas Januševičius
aged 19, Lithuania
„Dark day”



This photographic series explores the emotional landscape of a young man in the 21st century. Through cold blue tones and blurred natural forms, the images reflect isolation, uncertainty, and quiet introspection. The forest becomes both a refuge and a maze—symbolizing the search for identity in a fast-moving, overwhelming world. The absence of a visible subject suggests invisibility and detachment, while the light breaking through hints at hope and the possibility of finding direction.

Nerija Šerkšnaitė
aged 17, Lithuania
„Lost in the Blue Silence”



This photography series reveals the inner world of a young person through different states of being—movement, concentration, and a silent gaze. Sport, reading, and direct engagement with the viewer become distinct forms of self-discovery. Each frame captures a moment in which growth, uncertainty, and the search for identity emerge. Youth is portrayed here as a constant transformation between action and reflection. It is a story of existing between falling and flying.

Nelius Janavičius
aged 19, Lithuania
„Between the Fall and the Flight”



Matas Bandzinas
aged 17, Lithuania
„My world is always mine”



Mantė Kotryna Beinarytė
aged 19, Lithuania
„Tothebone”



Taken at the Balloon Fiesta in Bristol, this series observes how young people engage with collective moments in the 21st century. Between awe, distraction, and the urge to capture everything on a phone, the photographs reflect a generation experiencing the world both directly and through the lens of technology.

Lukas Milgedas
aged 18, Lithuania
„Baloon fiesta”



Lukas Milgedas
aged 18, Lithuania
„Sun ring”

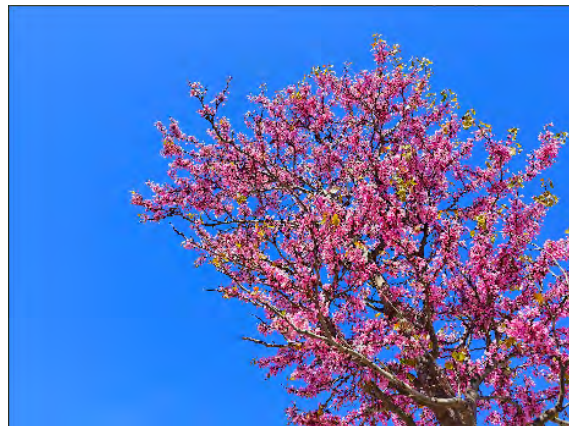


Lidia Balcerzyk
aged 18, Poland
„Miss Infanta”



Play – the first language through which a young person discovers the world and themselves. The freedom to touch, smear, and create turns into early mischief. From these small moments, the journey of a young life gradually begins. After all, life itself is full of small acts of mischief and discovery.

Kamilė Kaveckaitė
aged 17, Lithuania
„Mud Mischief”



Eleonora Barabash
aged 18, Lithuania
„Moments of Mallorca”



Angelika Zieleźnik
aged 17, Poland
„Clown Car”

Many young people struggle with fitting in today's society. Overcoming this difficulty can be troublesome and it takes a lot of effort, that's why the majority of the younger generation "puts on a mask" that covers up their true selves. So in the end we end up making fools of ourselves, for forgetting our genuine personality, trying to please the environment around us.



3rd place 20-29 years: **Deimantė Rauckytė**
aged 21, Lithuania
„The Shadows Within”

Rėmėjai Kauno miesto savivaldybė	Sponsors Kaunas City Municipality
Viršelio Nr. 1 nuotraukos autorė Semas Mištautas, 21 metų, Lietuva „Užslopinta siela”	On the cover No 1 the photo by Semas Mištautas, aged 21, Lithuania „Suppressed soul”
Viršelio Nr. 2 nuotraukos autorė Kamilė Šeikytė, aged 18, Lietuva „Spalvotai nespilvota”	On the cover No 2 the photo by Kamilė Šeikytė, aged 18, Lithuania „Colorful in Black and White”
Viršelio Nr. 3 nuotraukos autorė Aleksandra Konert, aged 18, Poland „Mano draugų asmenybės”	On the cover No 3 the photo to by Aleksandra Konert, aged 18, Poland „The personalities of My Friends”
Maketavo Justina Bilinskienė	Layout designer Justina Bilinskienė
Leidėjai Kauno moksleivių techninės kūrybos centras	Publisher Kaunas youth technical creativity center
Organizatorių adresas Kauno moksleivių techninės kūrybos centras, V. Krėvės pr. 63, Kaunas LT-50356 Lietuva El. paštas youngpeoplexxi@gmail.com Interneto svetainė www.mtkc.lt	Organizer’s address Kaunas students technical creativity center, V. Krėvės pr. 63, Kaunas LT-50356 Lithuania E-mail youngpeoplexxi@gmail.com Website: www.mtkc.lt

