

Born in the Soviet Union, raised in an independent Estonia and educated in the UK, Maria Kapajeva has found herself in an involuntary position of 'the other'. A position, she has embraced and employs as datum in her artistic practice, leads her to explore a diverse spectrum of cultural identity and gender issues within historical and contemporary contexts.

Focusing on women's position in contemporary society, Kapajeva aims to question how identities are formed via subconscious effects of advertising, movies and popular media. A perpetual state of continuous transition, such as from socialist to post socialist or from being young to middle aged, serves as constant inspiration. Being originally from a borderland region, border within postcolonial geopolitical conditions becomes to be the core in her work. She uses various mediums, such as video, photography, textile and installations, to bring to the focus what is often left invisible or stays in peripheral vision.

from 2019 A member of Estonian Artists' Association
since 2015 Higher Education Academy Fellow, UK

AWARDS / GRANTS

2023

Eduard Wiralt's scholarship by Estonian Ministry of Culture

2021

The Kraszna-Krausz Photo Book Award - for book *Dream is Wonderful, Yet Unclear*

Cultural Endowment of Estonia - six-month Artist Fellowship

2020

Cultural Endowment of Estonia - grant for a solo exhibition

A Woman's Work: Creative European Programme - grant for exhibition & publication with Gallery of Photography Ireland

2019

Cultural Endowment of Estonia - grant for a book publication

British Council in Estonia - grant for publication & launch of the artist book *Dream Is Wonderful, Yet Unclear*

2018

Aperture First Photobook Award - shortlisted with the book *You can call him another man*

Runner-Up Award - FOKUS Video Art Festival, Denmark

European Cultural Foundation - STEP Travel Grant

Cultural Endowment of Estonia - grant for a book publication

2017

University of Michigan-Dearborn - bursary for a collaborative research project with Assistant Prof. Anna Muller

British Council in Estonia - grant for solo exhibition and its public programme at NART

Cultural Endowment of Estonia - grant for production a solo exhibition at NART

2016

Gasworks & Triangle Network Fellowship for a new work research at Kooshk Residency, Iran

UNSEEN Dummy Award - shortlisted with the book *You can call him another man*

Self-Publish Riga Dummy Award - shortlisted for Top 10 with the book *You can call him another man*

LATENT Award in collaboration with D.O.O.R. & Materia - shortlisted

Cultural Endowment of Estonia - fellowship for the research and work development at NART

Estonian Gambling Tax Council Grant - grant for production of a new work with a local community at NART

2014

GTKE / Samuel Harn Museum - grant for production of a new work for the exhibition *he, she, me*

2013

The Title Art Prize by Blank Media Collective, UK - shortlisted

2010

PMI2 Award of British Council - bursary for research and work development in India

2009

British Council in Estonia - grant for a solo exhibition at ArtDepoo

2008

PMI2 Award of British Council - bursary for research and work development in India

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024

Listen to My Scream, Hear Their Dreams, Draakoni gallery, Tallinn Estonia

2023

Loose photos, Odds and Ends - Estonian National Archive

Loose photos, Odds and Ends - Võrumaa Museum

2022

Loose photos, Odds and Ends - KUMU Art Museum, Estonia

2021

When the world blows up, I hope to go dancing - Finnish Museum of Photography

2020

When the world blows up, I hope to go dancing - Art Hall Gallery, Tallinn Estonia

Dream is Wonderful, Yet Unclear - Sirius Art Centre, Ireland (cancelled due to covid-19)

Dream is Wonderful, Yet Unclear - Photography Gallery Ireland (cancelled & presented online due to covid-19)

Dream is Wonderful, Yet Unclear - Lithuanian Gallery of Photography, Lithuania

2019

Dream is Wonderful, Yet Unclear - Latvian Museum of Photography, Riga, Latvia

Test Shooting - Digital Art Space, CBS, Copenhagen, Denmark

2017

Dream is Wonderful, Yet Unclear - Narva Art Residency, Estonia, curate by Liisa Kaljula

I just knew... She's been with me ever since - WOAK Gallery, Bialystok, Poland

You can call him another man - Kaunas Photography Gallery, Lithuania

2015

Interiors - The Auckland Photo Festival, New Zealand

2010

Transformation - Narva Art Gallery, Estonia

2009

Call Me Early - ArtDepoo Contemporary Art Gallery, Tallinn Estonia

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023

The annual exhibition - Tallinn Art Hall, Estonia

Look at me! Listen to me!- Tartu Art Museum, Estonia

2022

Decolonial Ecologies - The Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art, Riga Art Space, Latvia

Women on the move - F3 freiraum für fotografie, Berlin Germany

2021

My problem is a woman's problem - Fabryka Sztuki w Łodzi, Poland

(Self-)opinion - Tartu Art Museum, Estonia

2020

Patterns: Kreenholm textile design 1963-2005 - Estonian Museum of Applied Art and Design

2019

First Feminnale of Contemporary Art - Museum of Fine Arts, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

May My Voice Now - curated by Elena Zaytseva, Pushkin House, London

Industrialised - curated by Alex Zawadski, Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery

Photobooks from Baltic States - curated by Evita Goze, Belgrade, Serbia

2018

Field/s ONE - Sluice HQ Art, London, UK

Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Arts - curated by Katerina Gregos, Latvia

Transformations - 44 Gallery Contemporary Photography, Bruges, Belgium

Narratives alongside Him - curated by Gintarė Krasuckaitė, Kaunas Photography Gallery, Lithuania

To J. Alfred Prifrock - curated by Indu Antony, Bangalore, India

2017

Dark Rooms: Photography and beyond - 44 Gallery Contemporary Photography and PAK, Bruges, Belgium

INTERGENFEM - organised by Desperate Artwives, London, UK

he, she, me - an exhibition of two with Tomek Zerek, Oloman Gallery, Detroit, USA

UNA Y OTRA (One And Another) - curated by Rodrigo Orrantia, Espacia El Dorado, Bogotá, Colombia

Hatched - The North Wall Gallery, Oxford, UK

The Censored Exhibition - Copenhagen Photo Festival, Denmark

Leboudoir2.0 - Arles, France

Circulation(s) on theme *Feminine* - Voies Off, Arles, France

2016

Marry Me - One Goa Festival, India

VISION 20/20 - Knowle West Media Centre, Bristol, UK

Between the lines: artists' books - curated by Archipelago, London, UK & at Materia gallery, Rome, Italy

Ouvrage - curated by Archipelago, Twenty14 Contemporary, Milan, Italy

The Photobooks Exhibition - Athens Photo Festival, Greece

Home for Two Days - curated by Chinar Shah, Home Sweet Home, Ahmedabad, India

FATHOM Residency exhibition - Four Corners Film, London, UK

2015

The Space Around Me - curated by Tiiu Talviste, Tartu Art Museum, Estonia

LOOK/15: Exchange - curated by Anna Fox, Tate Liverpool, UK

2014

Traces: Contemporary Baltic Photography - Budapest Centre of Architecture, Hungary

Fotokunstimes - Tallinn, Estonia

Celebrating Europe - Kaunas Photography Gallery, Lithuania

Walls - curated by Elena Zajtseva, Pushkin House, London, UK

he, she, me - Samuel Harn Museum, Gainesville, USA

The Interior (PIX Quarterly 8) - Galerie Max Mueller, Mumbai, India

Family - Guernsey Photo Festival, UK

2013

The Title Art Prize - Blank Media Collective, Manchester, UK

MAPS show - Ambika P3, London, UK

Contested Frequencies: The Position of a Woman - EBRD, London, UK

2012

United Art Fair - New Delhi, India

FAUST II - Photomonth Festival, Budapest, Hungary

The World in London - The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK

Joyful Archipelago - curated by Olga Grotova, Yinka Shonibare's Project Space, London, UK

Travelling Light - Foyer Gallery, NID, Ahmedabad, India (curator)

2011

Sunny Side Up – Margate Photo Festival, UK

Travelling Light – Foyer Gallery, Farnham, UK (curator)

Home-Made / Dialects4 – Pushkin House, London, UK

2010

Distant Closeup – Going global 4 conference of British Council, V&A Museum, UK

Fresh Faced & Wild Eyed – The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK

2009

New Contemporaries – Fairfield's Art Centre, Basingstoke, UK

Memory and Migration – Wall Gallery, Oldknows Studios, Nottingham, UK

London Art Book Fair - with bookRoom, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK

Itchy Scratchy – curated by Jason Evans, Permanent Gallery, Brighton, UK

Eclectic – Old Truman Brewery, London, UK

Open Salon – The Viewfinder Photography Gallery, London, UK

SCREENINGS

2024 The Rencontres Internationales de Paris/Berlin at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin

2024 Daylight Project

2023 The Rencontres Internationales de Paris/Berlin

2023 Videocity, curated program by by Dr Andrea Domesle, Basel, Switzerland

2023 Art Viewer: *A Piano Played By Ear* curated by Paola Paleari

2022 *Spiral Bound* at Von Krahl Cinema by The Estonian Centre for Contemporary Art

2021 ARSi Film Festival, Estonia

2020 VAFT: Visual Art Festival Turku, Finland

2020 Digital Art Space, CBS, Copenhagen, Denmark

2019 TEDx Abay St Women, Kazakhstan

2019 Critical Tourism Studies Conference VIII, Spain

2018 Luminocity Video Art Festival, Canada

2018 *Transcending species, Transcending gender, Transcending nations.* curated by Natalia Skobeeva, Deptford Cinema, UK

2018 FOKUS Video Art Festival, Copenhagen, Denmark

2017 NexT Film Festival, Bucharest, Romania

2017 Berlin Feminist Film Week, Germany

2017 Moving Image at ORGAN VIDA, Zagreb, Croatia

2016 Bomb Factory's Second Artist Film Festival, London, UK

2016 OPEN'16 Moving Image at Brighton Photo Fringe, UK

2016 F_Festival, Dublin, Ireland

2015 Month of Photography, Minsk, Belarus

PUBLICATIONS

ARTIST BOOKS

2024 [*a year-long scream*](#), OPA! Publishing

2020 [*Dream Is Wonderful, Yet Unclear*](#), Milda Books

2018 [*You can call him another man*](#), Kaunas Photography Gallery

OTHERS

2023 [*Vikerkaar 7/8, 2023*](#) - selection of texts

2023 [*Your Time is My Time*](#), Annika Toots & Merilin Talumaa, Mousse Publishing and Roots to Routes

2022 [*Photography - A Feminist History*](#), Emma Lewis, Tate Publishing & Ilex

- 2021 *A Global History of Women Photographers*, (English Edition), Eds. Luce Lebart Marie Robert, Thames & Hudson
- 2021 *Contemporary Ukrainian and Baltic Art. Political and Social Perspectives, 1991-2021*, ed. Svitlana Biedarieva, ibidem Press
- 2020 *A Global History of Women Photographers*, Eds. Luce Lebart Marie Robert / *Une histoire mondiale des femmes photographes*, Textuel (in French. Contribution as an author of an article)
- 2020 *Russian Artists Abroad, 1970-2010 years*. Ed. Starodubtseva / *Русские художники за рубежом, 1970-2010-е годы*. Автор-составитель: Стародубцева, БуксМАрт (in Russian)
- 2017 *Cosmic Shift: Russian Contemporary Art Writing*, Eds. Zaytseva & Anikina, ZED Books
- 2012 *A Joyful Archipelago*, Ed. Grotova, Guest Projects / Sunbury House

RESIDENCIES

- 2024 NART Narva Art Residency, Estonia
- 2023 BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Arts, UK
- 2020 Laznia Centre for Contemporary Art, Gdansk, Poland
- 2017 Narva Art Residency, Estonia
- 2017 Kaunas Photography Gallery, Lithuania
- 2016 Kooshk Art Residency led by Rybon Art Centre, Tehran, Iran
- 2016 Narva Art Residency, Estonia
- 2015 *FATHOM* Residency at Four Corner & Film, supported by Arts Council England, London, UK
- 2014 Bridge Guard Art Residency, Štúrovo, Slovakia
- 2012 HIAP: TOKAMAK Residency, Finland

COMMISSIONS

- 2022 Kumu Art Museum - *Loose Photos, Odds and Ends* exhibition
- 2018 Aspex Gallery: *PONToon* project - a collaborative work with a group of local women
- 2017 Open Eye Gallery: *Culture Shifts* - a community project with a group of women
- 2016 Knowle West Media Centre: *VISION 20/20* - a new work for the 20th anniversary exhibition
- 2014 Harn Art Museum & University of Florida: *he, she, me* - a new work for the exhibition
- 2012 The Photographers' Gallery - a portrait commission for the project *The World in London*

COLLECTIONS

- Fotomuseum Winterthur
- Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art
- Museum of Feminist Art (MoFA)
- Tartu Art Museum

EDUCATION

- 2021- PhD Candidate, practice-based, Estonian Academy of Arts
- 2015 PGC in the Creative Arts Education University for the Creative Arts, UK
- 2013 MA Photographic Studies University of Westminster, UK
- 2009 BA (Hons) Photography University for the Creative Arts, Farnham UK
- 2000 BA (Hons) Economics and Business Administration University of Tartu, Estonia

TEXTS / INTERVIEWS

- 2024
- [SIRP: review of the exhibition by Sveta Grigorjeva \(in Estonian\)](#)
- 2023

Vikerkaar, 7/8

Estonian Radio 4: an interview

Feministeerium: an interview

2022

[SIRP](#): a review of the solo exhibition at Kumu by Dr Ingrid Ruudi (in Estonian)

[Eesti Päevaleht newspaper](#): a review of the solo exhibition at Kumu by Johanna Jolen Kuzmenko (in Estonian)

[Sirp](#) - an article by Ketlin Käpp (in Estonian)

2021

[Art Fervour](#) - an article 'Photography - Self-Publishing, Part III'

[Photomonitor](#) - a book review by Paul Boyling

[The Photographers' Gallery for The Kraszna-Krausz Book Award](#) – online conversation with Sunil Gupta and Monica Allende

[British Journal of Photography](#) – an article about The Kraszna-Krausz Award

[Helsingin Sanomat](#) – an article by Sini Mononen about the solo exhibition at Finnish Museum of Photography

[Arterritory](#) – an interview by Elnara Taidre (in English)

2020

[Arterritory](#) - an interview by Elnara Taidre (in Russian)

[Collector Daily](#) - a review of the book by Blake Andrews

[Sirp](#) (Estonian cultural newspaper) - a review of the solo exhibition by Reet Varblane (in Estonian)

[Sirp](#) (Estonian cultural newspaper) - a review of the book by Elnara Taidre (in Estonian)

[Postimees](#) (Estonian national newspaper) - a review of the solo exhibition by Sveta Grigorjeva (in Estonian)

[Postimees](#) (Estonian national newspaper) - an interview by Maria Arusoo and Sten Ojavee (in Estonian)

[Müürileht](#) (Estonian cultural newspaper) - an interview with Annika Toots and Merilin Talumaa (in Estonian)

ERR (Estonian National Broadcasting) - a review of the solo exhibition by Grete Tiigiste (in Estonian)

Estonian Art magazine (1/2020) - an article collaboratively with Linda Kaljundi

[The Irish Times](#) - an article by Aidan Dunne

[GUP Magazine](#) - an article by Linda Zhengova

[FLOAT magazine](#) - a feature of the book *Dream is Wonderful, Yet Unclear*

[YET magazine](#) - a feature of the book *Dream is Wonderful, Yet Unclear*

[Calvert Journal](#) - an article by Liza Premiyak

[Birds in Flight magazine](#) - an article by Lyolya Goldstein (in Russian)

[OBJEKTIV magazine](#): a feature of the book *Dream is Wonderful, Yet Unclear*

2019

[Unknown Gallery](#) - a feature of the work *You can call him another man* (in Russian)

[Human Sites of Memory: The Story isn't Simple](#) by Colin Pantall

[FK Magazine](#) - a review of the solo exhibition by Santa Remere (in Latvian & English)

2018

[BJP](#) - a feature of the book in *Best of 2018* by Arnis Balcus, Riga Photomonth

[I heart women platform](#): an interview by Laura Hensser

2017

[KUNST.EE magazine](#) - an interview by Liisa Kaljula

[Plekktrumm \(The Tin Drumm\)](#) TV program on ETV2, October 2, 2017 (in Estonian & Russian)

[Твой вечер \(Your evening\)](#) TV program on ETV+, September 28, 2017 (in Russian)

[Postimees](#) (Estonian national newspaper) - a review of the exhibition by Marika Agu

2016

[Brighton Photo Fringe](#) - an interview with myself and Amak Mahmoodian

[vendure engraved 2016 \(4\)](#) - an interview by Jez Riley French

[FK Magazine](#): a video interview by Arnis Balcus

[Eesti Päevaleht](#) (Estonian national newspaper) - an article about the exhibition (in Estonian)

[OSTSEE online magazine](#): an interview

[Edge of Humanity magazine](#). an article about the work *Marry Me*

2015

Photoworks Annual: *Women* - an interview by Anna Fox

[Global Archive Photography online platform](#) - an interview by Karen Knorr

L'Oeil de la Photographie magazine – a feature of a solo exhibition at Auckland Photo Festival

The Daily Star (Bangladesh) – an article by Anata Yusuf on female artists participated at Chobi Mela VIII festival

GUP Magazine – a feature of the series *Interiors*

Documenting Fashion: A Dress History Blog / The Courtauld Institute of Art - an article by Alexis Romano

2014

[n.paradoxa journal, v.34](#) – an article by Joana Monbaron

2013

Photoworks magazine - an article *Photography Family Politics* by Benedict Burbridge

Re-View.org online magazine - a feature of the series *A Portrait of the Artist and a Young Woman*

2012

Book *Behind The Image* by Anna Fox and Natasha Caruana - a feature of the work *One Month*

2011

Krasivaya Zhizn magazine (Estonian, in Russian) - an article by Svetlana Zaitseva

2010

The shots Directory by shots Magazine and YPU - a feature of a portfolio

2009

Estonian newspapers Äripäev, Postimees, Narva Newspaper - reviews of the solo exhibition at ArtDepoo

2008

Viru Prospekt (Estonian regional newspaper) - an interview by Svetlana Zaitseva (in Russian)

Cheese, 27/2008 magazine - a feature of the work (in Estonian & English)

2006

Cheese, 17/2006 magazine - a feature and cover image (in Estonian & English)

Avenüü magazine. 3/2006 - a feature of a fashion series

2004

New Europe international publication - a featured image, Poland

TALKS / PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS

2023

Discussion at a solo exhibition of Janina Sabaliuskaite at DRIFTS gallery, Lithuania

Paper at the conference “Postsocialist memory cultures in transition”

2022

Paris Photo X Elles - discussion panel on women in photography, chaired by Federica Chiocchetti

Latvian Center for Contemporary - *Art Feminist and Women's Movements in the Baltics: Between Regional and Transnational Contexts*

2021

Estonian Photo Museum - Artist talk

WOPHA Congress - presentation as part of a panel A World History of Women Photographers, USA

Peckham24 - chairing a discussion with Etinosa Yvonne and Nina Franco, UK

Narva Art Residency - TOK Curators's discussion: *On the Verge of Post-Industrial Routine*

2020

Red Zenith Collective (Poland) - online conversation

Impressions Gallery Bookfair talk - online book presentation

LCCA: Latvian Centre of Contemporary Arts - an artist talk

DocDocDoc School (Russia) - an artist talk

Conference *Tolerance and mass media in a multinational region of Estonia* - a book presentation

10x10 Photobooks #InstaSalon - a conversation with curator Maria Veits (TOK Curators)

Gallery of Photography Ireland - online conversation with Shoair Mavlian (Photoworks)

Critical Tourism Studies Conference VIII (Denmark) - a presentation of video work *Test Shooting*

2019

Arnolfini gallery: *Huts of Memory* symposium (UK) - an artist talk and discussion panel, chaired by Colin Pantall

University of the Arts Helsinki (Finland) - *Prognostics lectures*: an artist talk

University of Konstanz (Germany) - a discussion panel with writer Georgi Gospodinov

Leporello (Italy) - an artist talk

CBS Digital Art Space (Denmark) - an artist talk

2018

Solidarity Centre in Gdansk (Poland): an international research workshop *Postindustrial Stories*

NIDA: International Photography Symposium (Lithuania) - an artist talk

KUMU Museum (Estonia): a presentation at a research seminar, organised by Tallinn University

European University (St.Petersburg, Russia): a conference *After Post-photography* - an artist talk and discussion panel

One School Goa (India) - an artist talk

2017

Calvert22 Foundation (UK) - a discussion panel *A Feminist Perspective on Dmitri Prigov's Manifesto*

Lithuanian Association of Photography - a discussion panel *Photo books "off centres" and positions of female photo books publishing by ORGAN VIDA Festival*

Fast Forward: Women in Photography: a research workshop at Dillon+Lee Gallery (USA) - an artist presentation

2016

Knowle West Media Centre (UK) - a discussion panel *Photography: artist, activist and innovator?*, organised by FOTONOW

Four Corners Film (UK): Photoforum - an artist talk

Rycicart (Belgium) - an artist talk

Plymouth College of Art: an artist talk at 3rd Annual Visual Culture symposium

2015

Four Corners & Film (UK): an artist presentation at FATHOM symposium at CASS

St.Petersburg State Institute of Culture & Arts (Russia) - a paper presentation at *After Post-Photography* conference

Fotodepartment (Russia) - an artist talk

2014

University of Tartu Narva College (Estonia) - a presentation with scholar Karol Vanamölder at the conference *Narrated towns*

2013

Red Gallery (UK) - a discussion panel *The Archive and Fiction*, chaired by Federica Chiocchetti

The Photographers' Gallery - an artist presentation *My Favourite Photo*

2012

National Institute of Design - a paper presentation at CHHAYA International Photography conference

TEACHING

2024 Supervision of MA Contemporary art student, Estonian Academy of Arts

2020-2021 Visiting Lecturer - Estonian Academy of Arts, Estonia

2012-2021 Associate Lecturer in Photography (MFA&BA) - University for the Creative Arts (UCA), Farnham, UK

2021 Mentor for emerging artists - UZF: Office for Photography, Croatia

2018-2019 Tutor for the emerging artists for PARALLEL Platform

2016 Lecturer in BA Photography - Barking and Dagenham College, London, UK

2014 Lecturer in BA Photography - Canterbury Christ Church University, Broadstairs, UK

2014 Photography Tutor - The Open College of the Arts, UK

2012 Photography Tutor - Farnham Adult Learning Centre, UK

2009-2012 Graduate Teaching Assistant - University for the Creative Arts, Farnham UK

2011 Event Curator for a zine workshop with young people - Brighton Photo Fringe Open'11

2011-2012 Photography Tutor – non-profit school Zoom In Photography, London UK
2008 Photographer in Residence - the Sixth Form Farnborough College, UK

VISITING LECTURER:

2022 V.N.Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine
2022 London College of Communication / UAL, London UK
2021 University of Sunderland, UK
2021 University of Westminster, UK
2021 DocDocDoc School, Russia
2019 University of Fine Arts Helsinki, Finland
2019 University of Konstanz, Germany
2019 London College of Communication / UAL, London UK
2019 University of Central Lancashire, Preston UK
2018 Wimbledon College of Arts / UAL, UK
2017 University of Michigan-Dearborn, USA
2014 University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
2011 National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, India

OTHER RELEVANT WORK

2024 Guest Co-Editor for a special issue journal *Photography & Culture*
Since 2013 Fast Forward: Women in Photography: Project Manager
2019-2022 Narva Art Residency / NART: Advisory Board Member (voluntary position)
2020 Photography & Culture journal: Co-Editor of a double special *Fast Forward* issue (with Profs. Anna Fox & Val Williams)
2019 Katalog magazine: Co-Editor of the special *Fast Forward* issue (with Profs. Anna Fox & Jean Wainwright)
2017 Secondary Art School in Gdynia - Judge on an international photo competition for young people, Poland
2014 Robert Capa Centre For Contemporary Photography - Judge on an international photo and video contest, Hungary
2011-2012 UCA - Coordinator of a series of international research workshops *Inside Out*, supported by UKIERI and in collaboration with International Centre of Photography and New York University (USA), National Institute of Design (India)
2009-2012 UCA - Coordinator of Educational international virtual project *Collective Body* in partnership with 7 other universities from Brazil, India, Canada, Finland, South Korea and the UK