


Through a Mother's & Father's Eyes

International Photography Festival - Festival Partnership Portfolio

Bydgoszcz · Poland



GH MOTHER'S AND FATHER'S
O T O G R A P
NATIONAL FESTIVA



HELLO

Anna Ajtner

I am a photographer, visual artist, educator, and the founder of the **Through a Mother's & Father's Eyes International Photography Festival**.

Born and based in Poland, my work explores the intimate terrain of family memory, identity, and the tender bonds that connect generations. The festival grew directly from this practice - a belief that photography, at its most honest, is an act of love and remembrance.

I am delighted to share this partnership portfolio with you.



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TEL: 020 627 68 68 [HTTPS://THROUGHAMOTHERSEYE.WIXSITE.COM/EXHIBITION](https://throughamotherseye.wixsite.com/exhibition)

About the Festival

Through a Mother's & Father's Eyes is an **international platform dedicated to family photography**, autobiographical storytelling, memory, and intergenerational relationships - organised by the **Wieża Sztuki Foundation** in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

Exhibitions

International, solo & group exhibitions presented locally and as touring programmes

Public Programme

Artist talks, portfolio reviews, masterclasses & workshops for all levels

Education

Structured educational programme for schools, universities and the general public

Open Calls

International open calls inviting photographers from across the world to participate

Our Mission

Photography preserves memory. Photography builds relationships. Photography creates dialogue between generations. Photography connects cultures.

Our festival explores family stories through the lens of contemporary photography - creating a space where the personal becomes universal, and where images become a bridge across time, place, and experience. We believe that family photography, at its most ambitious, is among the most profound forms of documentary practice.



What Makes Us Different

In a landscape crowded with generalist photography festivals, Through a Mother's & Father's Eyes occupies a singular position: a festival entirely devoted to **family photography** in all its depth, ambiguity, and emotional complexity.

Thematic Focus

Long-term documentary projects, autobiographical photography, and intimate family narratives form the heart of our programme.

Photographic Range

We embrace the full spectrum - analogue, digital, and historical photographic processes - celebrating craft alongside contemporary vision.

Travelling Concept

Conceived as an international travelling platform, the festival is designed to move - bringing its exhibitions and programme to partner institutions worldwide.

Education First

Education is embedded at every level - from school programmes to professional masterclasses - making us a meaningful partner for cultural institutions.

CURRENT PHASE

Our Current Challenge

We are in the active phase of building our first editions and establishing a robust international network of institutional partners. This is the moment to join us - to shape the identity of a festival with genuine artistic ambition and a clear long-term vision.

Our immediate priorities include:

- Exhibition exchange and touring exhibition programmes
- Formal international institutional partnerships
- Funding for production, framing, and international transport
- Connections with museums, galleries, and photography festivals

We Are Seeking

- Museums
- Galleries
- Photography Festivals
- Cultural Foundations
- Philanthropic Partners

Travelling Festival Concept

The festival was conceived from its very inception as an **international travelling platform** – not confined to a single city, but designed to move through the world's great cultural institutions.

1

Home Edition

Bydgoszcz, Poland - the festival's founding home and creative base

2

Partner Venues

Touring to museums, galleries and photography festivals worldwide

3

Full Programme

Travelling exhibitions, artist talks and educational programmes travel together

We aim to collaborate with institutions that share our commitment to photography as a vehicle for memory, identity, and cross-cultural dialogue.



Ewa Burns „Charlie Of 2021”



OUR INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

BYDGOSZCZ – POLAND AND BEYOND

Through a Mother's & Father's Eyes is an international festival.

From our home in Bydgoszcz, Poland, we build bridges with artists, institutions and audiences across the world.



PARTNERSHIPS

with museums, galleries and festivals



INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS

from Europe, North America and beyond



TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

designed to move between countries and cultures



TOGETHER

we create dialogue, share stories and build lasting connections



BYDGOSZCZ, POLAND

Home of the festival and the Wieża Sztuki Foundation

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Collaborations with photographers, galleries and institutions

PARIS, FRANCE

Connections with artists, festivals and cultural partners

BARCELONA, SPAIN

Present at IPFA 2026 – building new partnerships and opportunities

TORONTO, CANADA

International artist collaborations

AND BEYOND...

Expanding our network of partners worldwide

“ Festivals should travel. Artists should travel. Exhibitions should travel. Ideas should travel.

LET'S BUILD INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS TOGETHER. ”

FEATURED EXHIBITION

Through a Mother's & Father's Eyes

International Group Exhibition

A curated selection of **20–40 Fine Art Prints** by international photographers, exploring the universal themes of family, memory, belonging, and the passage of time. The exhibition is fully available as a **touring programme**, accompanied by artist talks and a structured educational offer.

20–40 Fine Art Prints

Curated group exhibition ready for touring

Artist Talks

Participating artists available for public programmes

Education

Full educational programme available for schools and universities





FEATURED EXHIBITION

Half Tones of Time

Anna Ajtner - Solo Exhibition

A long-term **analogue photographic project** exploring the layered territory of memory, identity, and the evolving relationship between mother and daughter. Developed over years of intimate documentary practice, the work moves between tenderness and distance, presence and loss.

Shot entirely on film, the images carry the material weight of time - grain, light, and imperfection as poetic devices. A deeply personal body of work with universal resonance, available as a solo touring exhibition.

FEATURED EXHIBITION

Relics of Presence

Anna Ajtner — Solo Exhibition

A **contemporary analogue installation** that interrogates memory, absence, and the inheritance of identity through photography. Objects, images, and traces are assembled into a meditative visual language - exploring what remains when a person is gone and how photography becomes a form of mourning and continuation.

Conceived as both an exhibition and an installation, *Relics of Presence* adapts to the architecture of its host space, making it a compelling proposition for museum and gallery partners.



Invited Artists

Through a Mother's & Father's Eyes brings together an international community of photographers whose practices share a commitment to family, memory, and autobiographical storytelling. Our current programme includes the following collaborating artists - with further collaborations actively in development.

Anna Ajtner

Poland – Festival Founder & Artist

Alain Laboile

France

Milou Dirks

The Netherlands

Danica Sherry

Canada

Ewa Burn

Poland

Anna Gibała-Łazdowska

Poland

Nadia Moreau Stone

International

William Nourry

France

Further collaborations are currently under development. Artist participation depends on funding, exhibition format and availability.

Educational Programme

Education is not supplementary to our festival - it is foundational. Our programme is designed to engage audiences at every level, from schoolchildren encountering photography for the first time to professional practitioners seeking advanced technical knowledge.

Two Curatorial Sections

- Contemporary Digital Photography
- Analogue & Historical Processes



Portfolio Reviews & Artist Talks

One-to-one portfolio reviews with invited professionals; public artist talks open to all audiences.



Alternative Processes

Hands-on workshops in cyanotype, Van Dyke Brown, and other historical photographic processes.



Analogue & Camera Obscura

Darkroom workshops, film photography, and camera obscura sessions connecting participants to the origins of the photographic image.

Festival Development

Through a Mother's & Father's Eyes is a living, expanding project. Future editions will deepen our commitment to both artistic excellence and international reach — growing the festival into a significant institution within the global photography calendar.



What We Offer

- **Travelling Exhibitions**
Solo and group exhibitions fully available for international touring
- **Artist Talks & Events**
Public programmes featuring festival artists available at partner venues
- **Workshops & Reviews**
Photography workshops and portfolio reviews for partner audiences
- **Curatorial Collaboration**
Joint curatorial and educational projects developed with institutional partners
- **Travelling Festival Partners**
Institutions interested in hosting future editions of the festival in their own country.



What We Are Looking For

We seek long-term, meaningful partnerships with institutions that share our values - a belief in photography's power to carry memory, provoke emotion, and build community across cultural and national boundaries.



Museums & Galleries

Hosting touring editions, solo and group exhibitions in established cultural venues



Photography Festivals

Festival-to-festival partnerships, shared programming and artist exchanges



Residencies & Universities

Artist residencies, student programmes and educational institutional exchange



Joint Projects

Co-curated exhibitions, international publications and collaborative cultural initiatives



Welcome to Poland

Beyond presenting our programme internationally, we warmly invite photographers, curators, museum directors, gallery professionals, and festival partners to join us in **Bydgoszcz, Poland.**

Poland has a rich and underrecognised photographic culture. Bydgoszcz - a city of rivers, architecture, and creative energy - offers a distinctive and welcoming context for international cultural exchange. We believe that genuine collaboration moves in both directions: we come to you, and we invite you to come to us.

Why Collaborate With Us?

1

Singular Concept

A festival entirely devoted to family photography - a unique curatorial identity with international appeal and emotional resonance

2

International Vision

Artists, themes, and ambitions that speak across cultural borders - building programmes with genuine global perspective

3

Education Embedded

A full educational offer that enhances the value of any partnership for host institutions and their audiences

4

Long-Term Thinking

We seek enduring relationships - not transactional exchanges - building collaborations that grow stronger with time

5

Travelling Exhibitions

Ready-to-tour exhibitions with flexible formats adaptable to a wide range of institutional contexts and scales

Digital Resources

All further information about the festival, its artists, exhibitions, and programme is available through our digital resources. We invite you to explore our work in depth and to reach out directly.

Website

Full festival information, artist profiles and programme details at www.ajtner.com

Portfolio

Complete photographic portfolio of Anna Ajtner and festival exhibitions available online

Festival Films

Documentary films about the festival, its artists and its vision - available via QR code

Instagram

Follow the festival's ongoing development and featured artists on Instagram

PDF Portfolio

Downloadable partnership portfolio and exhibition information available on request



CONTACT

Anna Ajtner

Founder & Festival Director
Through a Mother's & Father's Eyes
Wieża Sztuki Foundation

Bydgoszcz · Poland

Website: www.ajtner.com

We warmly welcome all enquiries regarding exhibition hosting, touring programmes, institutional partnerships, educational collaborations, and artist exchanges. Every partnership begins with a conversation – please do not hesitate to reach out.

STRONA FESTIWALU
FESTIVAL WEBSITE



<https://www.ajtner.com/about-2-1>

— Archive • Exhibitions • Artists • Festival History —

FILM Z FESTIWALU
FESTIVAL VIDEO



<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1JLMA56cZ/>

— Watch the Festival Experience —

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Thank You

"We believe photography is more than an image. It preserves memory. It builds relationships. It connects generations. It connects cultures."

*Through a Mother's & Father's Eyes · International Photography Festival · Bydgoszcz,
Poland*