

Danila Tkachenko

CV

Danila Tkachenko was born in Moscow in 1989. In 2014 he graduated from the Rodchenko Moscow School of Photography and Multimedia, department of documentary photography (supervisor Valeriy Nistratov). In the same year he became the winner of the World Press Photo 2014 competition with the project "Escape" which he worked on for 3 years. In March 2015 he finished the project "Restricted Areas" which has already received a number of international awards including European Publishers Award For Photography, Burn Magazine grant, and included in the Dutch magazine Foam Talents. The series was published in such magazines as BBC Culture, The Guardian, IMA Magazine, GUP Magazine, British Journal of Photography. Other series by Danila are "Lost Horizon" and the project "Motherland", completed in 2016 and 2017 year respectively. At the moment Danila Tkachenko is working on two projects which are being shot in a significant part of Russian territory and several neighboring countries.

Contacts

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Education

2011-2014 Rodchenko Moscow School of Photography and Multimedia, department of documentary photography (supervisor Valeriy Nistratov). Moscow, Russia

2013 Workshop with Davide Monteleone. Moscow, Russia

2012 Workshop "How to turn your project into a great photobook" (Hannes Wanderer, Peperoni Books). Moscow, Russia

2012 Workshop "From history in pictures to multimedia presentation" (Bas Vroege, Paradox photography). Moscow, Russia

2009-2010 School of photojournalism "News". Moscow, Russia

Solo shows

2018

- Danila Tkachenko, Russia, 1989, Almanaque Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico
- Lost Horizon, „Zamek” Culture Center, Poznan, Poland

2017

- Motherland, Kehrer Galerie, Berlin, Germany
- Lost Horizon & Restricted Areas, UP Gallery, Hsinchu City, Taiwan
- Ritual (2 artist show, with Davide Monteleone), Galeria del Cembalo, Rome, Italy
- Lost Horizon, Pechersky Gallery, Moscow, Russia

- The Big Unknown (2 artist show, with Mara Sanchez Renero), Almanaque Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico

2016

- Restricted Areas, Skopia Art contemporain, Geneve, Switzerland
- Restricted Areas, Anzenberger Gallery, Vienna, Austria
- Restricted Areas, in the framework of European Month of Photography, Berlin. Fotogalerie Friedrichshain, Berlin, Germany (15 September - 29 October)
- Escape. Blue Sky Gallery, Portland, USA
- Restricted Areas, in the framework of RENCONTRES D'ARLES 2016. Chapelle Saint-Martin du Méjan, Arles, France
- Restricted Areas. Kehrer Galerie, Berlin, Germany

2015

- Restricted Areas. Pechersky Gallery, Moscow, Russia
- Storie Sovietiche (3 artist show). Galleria del Cembalo, Rome, Italy
- Escape, Gallery of Classic Photography, Moscow, Russia
- Escape, in the framework of Baltic Biennale "Photomania-2015", Art Platform "Gateway", Kaliningrad, Russia

2014

- Escape, in the framework of 6th European Month of Photography. 25books, Berlin, Germany

Selected group shows

2018

- The space of Constitution, Meyerhold Center, Moscow, Russia
- Nomadic Mountains, Schunk Museum, Heerlen, The Netherlands
- (anti)thesis of architecture, CCA Zarya, Vladivostok, Russia
- Belgrade month of photography, Belgrade, Serbia
- Fotografia Europea festival, Reggio Emilia, Italy

2017

- International Young Artists Project, Daegu, South Korea
- XII Krasnoyarsk Biennale: "Mir: the village and the world", the Krasnoyarsk Museum Centre, Krasnoyarsk
- E/T, Skopia Art contemporain, Geneve, Switzerland
- International Festival of Photography of Belo Horizonte, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- FotoFestival Naarden, Naarden, Netherlands
- Bienale fotografica Bogota, Bogota, Colombia
- Diffusion: Cardiff International Festival of Photography, Cardiff, UK
- Proyecta 2017, Madrid, Spain

2016

- New East Photo Prize, Rosphoto, Saint Petersburg, Russia

- Dialogue: contemporary art from Russia, Kim Bo Sung Art Center, Seoul, South Korea
- SI FEST, Emilia-Romagna, Italy
- Russiantearoom gallery and curating agency, Paris, France
- Power and Architecture. Calvert 22 Foundation, London, UK
- Riga Photography Biennial. National Museum of Art's Arsenāls Exhibition Hall, Riga, Latvia
- On Disappearing And For Vanishing. Tartu Art Museum, Estonia
- Festival of Political Photography. Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland

2015

- Foam Talent 2015, l'Atelier Néerlandais, Paris
- Delhi Photo Festival, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, India
- IX Krasnoyarsk Book Culture Fair. Krasnoyarsk, Russia
- Gimme Shelter - forts and fictions in the Lowlands. Fort Nieuwersluis, Netherlands
- The Curve, Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe, USA
- Photoparade Uglich. Russia
- The Powers That Be. Station Independent Projects, New York, USA
- Athens Photo Festival. Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece
- The Anatomy of Forgiveness, Metropolitan Building, New York, USA
- I Sought Solitude. South Square Centre, Bradford, UK
- Lensculture Award exhibition at Photo London. Somerset House, London, UK

2014

- "An Ocean of Possibilities". Museum TwentseWelle, Enschede, Netherlands
- "OFF_Festival". Piszatory Palace, Bratislava, Slovakia
- VIII exhibition of the Kandinsky Prize nominees. Udarnik cinema, Moscow, Russia
- "Solitude", in the framework of 21st Noorderlicht International Photo Festival. Natuurmuseum Fryslân, Leeuwarden, Netherlands
- "Twelve Thinking Photographers", parallel event of Manifesta 10. First Cadets' Corpus, St-Petersburg, Russia

2013

- "Die Brücke / Most" festival. Slubice, Poland / Frankfurt an der Oder, Germany
- "On the block". New Holland cultural center, St-Petersburg, Russia

2012

- "Young Russian photography 2012 2/2. Reality/Decoration". Center for Art and Music and Library V.V. Mayakovsky, St-Petersburg, Russia
- "Student Art PROM". ARTPLAY design center, Moscow, Russia

2011

- "Person on the move". Swissotel Krasnye Holmy, Moscow, Russia
- "Young photographer", Fotodepartament, Sankt-Petersburg, Russia

2010

- "Steps". Photo Center, Moscow, Russia

Awards

2017

- Kandinsky Prize (Finalist)

2016

- The New East Photo Prize (shortlist)

2015

- Gabriele Basilico Prize in Architecture and Landscape Photography (Finalist)
- lacritique.org Award - Voies Off (Winner)
- Emerging Photographer Fund grant (Winner)
- Foam Talent (Winner)
- Leica Oskar Barnack Award (Finalist)
- PDN Photo Annual (Personal Category, Winner)
- European Publishers Award For Photography (Winner)
- CENTER Choice Awards (Director's Choice, Winner 1st place)
- LensCulture Exposure Awards (Winner 1st place Series)
- 30 under 30, Magnum photos (Winner)
- Photobook Melbourne Image Award, Australia (Finalist)

2014

- Voies Off, France (Short list / Selections)
- PHOTOVISA, Russia (Photoseries, 2nd prize)
- Organ Vida, Croatia (Finalist)
- Leica Oscar Barnack Award, Germany (Newcomer shortlist)
- PDN Photo Annual, USA (Student Work, Winner)
- World Press Photo, Netherlands (Staged Portraits, 1st prize stories)
- 30 Under 30, Magnum photos (Shortlist)

2012

- Silver camera, Russia (Faces, Special prize)
- Young man in the 21st century, Lithuania (Special prize)

Selected publications

- CNN (UK), 2018
- Neue Zürcher Zeitung, December 2017
- Wilderness (Germany, printed), May 2017
- Fotocult (Italy, printed), February 2017
- Esquire (Russia, printed), February 2017
- Calvert Journal, autumn 2016
- GQ (France, printed), winter 2016-2017
- LIFE magazine (China, printed), July 2016

- RT (online), 30 July 2016
- Wired (Japan, online), 25 July 2016
- Popular Mechanics (online), 21 July 2016
- BBC In pictures (UK, online), 18 July 2016
- Wired Photo (online), 24 May 2016
- The Idea List (Germany, online), 27 April 2016
- Telegraph Magazine (UK, printed), 12 December 2015
- Kommersant newspaper (Russia), 15 December 2015
- NZZ foto-tableau (Switzerland, printed), 14-18 December 2015
- The National Geographic (printed), December 2015
- Wired Italia (printed), December 2015
- Wired UK (printed), November 2015
- New Scientist (UK, printed), 11 November 2015
- Svenska Dagbladet (Sweden, online), 11 November 2015
- BBC Culture (UK), 19 August 2015
- The Guardian online (UK), 5 June 2015
- GUP Magazine (Netherlands, printed), May 2015
- IMA Magazine (Japan, printed), Summer 2015
- Lenscratch, 22 April 2015
- Bird In Flight (Russia), 17 April 2015
- De Morgen (Belgium, printed), 8 April 2015
- The Washington Post, 4 March 2015
- Fotografia Magazine, 16 February 2015
- British Journal of Photography, 7 January 2015
- Camera Austria 127, 2014
- CNN Photo Blog (USA), 17 November 2014
- SPIEGEL ONLINE (Germany), 13 October 2014
- Hatje Cantz fotoblog (Germany), 6 October 2014
- Photonews Blogbuch (Germany), 18 September 2014
- LensCulture, July 2014
- Коммерсант.ru Weekend (Russia), 16 May 2014
- La Mula (Peru), 28 April 2014
- Oitzarisme (Romania), 17 March 2014
- Darwin Magazine (UK), 15 March 2014
- Photographer.ru (Russia), 20 February 2014
- Phases Photography Magazine, 2014
- The Village (Russia), July 2013

Motherland

Danila Tkachenko

Since 1917 Russia's rural population has contracted by more than 80%. The collectivisation of 1928-1937 was the first stage in the destruction of Russian villages. It was implemented to eradicate the historically established social order, and also to forcibly seize property and food from the peasant class for the state. Between 7 million and 8 million people died as a result of hunger and political repression, while over 2 million peasants were sent to the Gulag.

The second stage in the reduction of the rural population occurred in line with a specially drafted plan of the USSR Academy of Construction and Architecture (December 1959) on the resettlement of "unpromising villages" into larger urban population centres. The plan projected a reduction in the number of rural settlements by a factor of six or more (from 705,000 to 115,000). In the "unpromising villages" social and production infrastructure was shut down, while restrictions were imposed on transportation. However, there were insufficient funds for the redevelopment and expansion of individual housing construction in central districts, while numerous rural dwellers displaced from their habitual areas reacted adversely to their change of residence. In 1979 the number of villages had contracted by 60.2% (to 177,100). As a consequence of the centralisation and resettlement of the population, the logistics of harvests were disrupted, resulting in enormous losses in the agricultural sector, followed by rapid growth in food imports and an increase in social and political tension in the USSR.

In modern Russia the trend of a contraction in the number of rural villages has continued. Over the past 20 years 23,000 villages have disappeared from the map of Russia, while small farmers are unable to compete with major corporations. According to the forecasts of some demographers, 96% of rural dwellers will live in cities by 2025. In other words, the rural population will disappear almost entirely.

The project was filmed in territories located far from population centres and woodland. All manner of precautions were taken to prevent the spread of fire. The debris from constructed decorations were dismantled and taken away, while the used decrepit non-functional and destroyed structures were doomed to complete the process of physical disappearance within several years.



4

50 x 62.5 cm
(4/12) + 2 A.P.
2000 Eur



LOST HORIZON

Danila Tkachenko

Project “Lost Horizon” visualises the utopia of constructing the ideal world. Or rather, half-forgotten traces and ruins of this utopia: the Soviet architecture and technical buildings, which symbolically affirmed the technical progress and advance of the communist future.

I make photos of these objects, built by Soviet authorities, by the medium format camera 6x6, during the night and with a powerful light source. Thus I enclose them in a suprematist figure of the black square which refers to the “Black Square” by Kazimir Malevich, the early Russian avant-garde and the origins of the Soviet utopia.

The radical refusal of the old, and the belief in the beginning of the new, ideal cosmic life, devoted to the liberated human, unifies the aesthetic project of the Russian avant-garde and the political project of the Soviet power. If the “Black Square” was the artistic embodiment of utopia, then the Soviet rule was its social implementation.

The time has brought back the original meaning of utopia: u-topos is the absent place, place of nowhere. Presently, USSR is the utopia in its most strict sense.



10. Monument to the Atom. Voronezh, 2016

122 x 122 cm
(2/ 7) + 2 A.P.
4000 EUR

Escape

Danila Tkachenko

I was traveling in search of people who have decided to escape from social life and live all alone in the wild nature, far away from any villages, towns or other people.

The main characters of my project violate social standards for different reasons. By a complete withdrawal from society they go to live alone in the wild nature, gradually dissolving in it and losing their social identity. While exploring their experience, it is important for me to understand if one is able to break free from social dependence and get away from the public to the subjective - and thus, to make a step towards oneself.

I am concerned about the issue of internal freedom in the modern society: is it at all reachable, when you're surrounded by social framework all the time? School, work, family - once in this cycle, you are a prisoner of your own position, and have to do what you're supposed to. You should be pragmatic and strong, or become an outcast or a lunatic. How to remain yourself in the midst of this?

I grew up in the heart of the big city, but I've always been drawn to wildlife - for me it's a place where I can hide and feel the real me, my true self, out of the social context.



9

40 x 50 cm
(3/12) + 1 A.P.
800 Eur

72 x 90 cm
(1/6) + 1 A.P.
1600 Eur



28

40 x 50 cm
(2/12) + 1 A.P.
800 Eur

72 x 90 cm
(1/6) + 1 A.P.
1600 Eur