

AnOther

THE BEST PHOTOS OF 2021: TEN POWERFUL PROJECTS BY WOMEN PHOTOGRAPHERS

Violet Conroy
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Does the female gaze actually exist? Sure, if we're speaking broadly – women do tend to see the world differently to men, in both life and art. But after compiling a list of the ten best photographic series published on *AnOthermag.com* over the past year, I can attest that not one single woman in the lineup has a similar perspective on the world, nor on photography, to the next. Themes of intrigue, joy, anger and empathy crop up frequently in their work, but they are expressed in a myriad of different ways.

Intrigue is surely the preliminary emotion that causes photographers to pick up their camera and go out into the world. That's what led Czech photographer Marie Tomanova to move to the Big Apple to make it as an artist, Jet Swan to invite strangers into temporary studios around Yorkshire so that she could shoot them, and Hoda Afshar to travel to the Persian Gulf. Joy is the driving force behind Nadine Ijewere's work, who believes positivity to be an important part of her depictions of Black women. Likewise, joy and transcendence can be found in the work of Vinca Petersen, who sees raves and riots as "autonomous zones," or in Tara St Hill's photo zine, where she makes the transition from muse to creator. Deanna Templeton treats girlhood with charm and empathy, while Annie Lai searches for belonging with her portraits of Chinese women making a home for themselves in London. Finally, Donna Ferrato's razor-sharp photojournalism charts women in protest against the patriarchy, while Bostonian photographer Jackie Nickerson worries about what we are doing to the planet – her *Salvage* series encourages us to rethink our relationship with consumption.



***New York New York* by Marie Tomanova**

Like many before her, Czech-born photographer Marie Tomanova moved to New York City to make it as an artist. “There is a dream here, in New York, and the young are not afraid to follow it, to be themselves, to find themselves, and to be open,” she says. Recalling the gritty, freewheeling mood of Ryan McGinley’s early photographs of downtown New York, Tomanova’s second monograph *New York New York* captures the frenetic energy of the city via uncompromising portraits of young Americans hanging out at parties, art openings, parks and in their apartments. Plus, original New York it girl Kim Gordon wrote the foreword.

Images: From *New York New York* by Marie Tomanova, Courtesy of Hatje Cantz

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