

LIP Janet Hall Memorial Lecture at PHOTOFUSION Brixton

5 June 2025 Christiane Monarchi: The Next Photographic Idea

London Independent Photography has organised an annual lecture with renowned photographic practitioners over the past 20 years since our co-founder member Janet Hall passed away in 2005. The Janet Hall Memorial Lecture series is a tribute to the memory and legacy of Hall, an energetic, creative and original program organiser and a driving force in establishing London Independent Photography in 1987. Previous speakers who have shared unique insights into their practice and recent works have included Martin Parr, Brian Griffin, Simon Norfolk, Roger Ballen, Mark Power, Mischka Henner, Alixandra Fazzina, Peter Fraser, Tom Hunter and Laura Pannack.

This year, LIP invites Christiane Monarchi for the Janet Hall Memorial Lecture. Monarchi is founding co-editor of [Hapax Magazine](#), a biannual print publication commissioning new photographic ideas since 2021, currently working on its seventh issue. She is the founding editor of Photomonitor which has published more than 1,400 online features since 2011 and is now working in partnership with University for the Creative Arts and bookRoom. Christiane is a curator, lecturer, writer, artist mentor and frequent reviewer and jury member, and her professional career has been anchored by a fascination with new photographic ideas.

What makes an artist initiate a new project, where does the idea come from, how does the project grow, what stories are being told? In her LIP lecture, Monarchi will share insights from more than 200 artists interviewed on Photomonitor in the past 14 years, as well as the 45 new projects commissioned so far in Hapax, which are published only on the pages of the magazine and not shared online. For every artist considering how they will start their next idea, and all of those who enjoy seeing and hearing something new.

In the first half of the presentation, Hapax co-editor and artist Gordon MacDonald will introduce and facilitate a roundtable discussion with our selected keynote speaker Christiane Monarchi and her roundtable guests Alexander Mourant, Ali Mobasser and Laura El-Tantawy. The second part (after a short break) will be presented by Christiane Monarchi.

Christiane Monarchi is a founding co-editor of Hapax Magazine, a biannual print publication commissioning new photographic ideas since 2021. She is the founding editor of Photomonitor which has published more than 1,400 online features on photography since 2011 and is now working in partnership with University for the Creative Arts and bookRoom. Christiane is a curator, lecturer, artist mentor and serves on the steering committee of Fast Forward, Women in Photography, and as a trustee of the Centre for British Photography.

Gordon MacDonald is an editor, curator, writer and Artist based in Brighton, UK. He was the founding Editor of Photoworks magazine and Head of Projects, before becoming Head of Publishing. He was a founder of Brighton Photo Fringe and chairperson of the board for over a decade. Gordon was co-founder of GOST Books and it's Editorial Director. He is currently co-Publisher and co-Editor of Hapax magazine alongside Christiane Monarchi and one half of the collaborative partnership MacDonaldStrand with Clare Strand.

Alexander Mourant is an artist, educator and writer based in London. His first publication, *The Night and the First Sculpture*, was published by Folium, 2024. Recent exhibitions include *To Walk in the Image*, Lismore Castle Arts, Ireland (2023), *At the Farthest Edge: Rebuilding Photography*, NÓUA, Norway (2023) and *A Sudden Vanishing*,

Seen Fifteen Gallery, London (2023). Mourant is a recipient of grants from Arts Council Norway, Arts Council England and ArtHouse Jersey. He has been commissioned by FT Weekend Magazine, Hapax Magazine and The Greatest Magazine, and included in BJP, The Guardian, Photograph, Photoworks, METAL Magazine and Photomonitor. He won the Free Range Award and was nominated for the Foam Paul Huf Award. Mourant is a Member of Revolv Collective and Contributor at C4 Journal. He achieved BA Photography at Falmouth University, and MA Photography at Royal College of Art, London. He is a Lecturer in Photography at Kingston University.

Ali Mobasser is a lens-based artist based in London whose work explores the effects of the Iranian Diaspora. His concepts are all pieces to a story told through collecting, documenting and re-childhood and family experiences and learning to see the hidden meanings behind that, which has become normalized and familiar. Ali's use of sequencing aims to turn painful experiences into beautiful and meaningful patterns with the purpose of rerouting unhealthy hereditary and environmental habits. He collaborates closely with AG Galerie in Tehran, Iran and alongside his art practice, he is an Integrative Arts Psychotherapist working with young asylum seekers and refugees arriving in the UK.

Laura El-Tantawy is an award winning British/Egyptian documentary photographer, book maker & mentor. In 2005 she moved to Cairo and started her most celebrated work, *In the Shadow of the Pyramids*. She is the first Egyptian to be awarded the prestigious W. Eugene Smith Memorial Fund Award, which honours photographers whose work reflects the humanistic tradition and compassionate dedication of W. Eugene Smith. In 2016, she was among the four artists nominated and exhibited as part of the prestigious Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize, awarded annually to a photographer who made the most significant contribution to the photographic medium in Europe in that year. She is also the recipient of Prix Virginia and PhMuseum awards. Her work has been widely exhibited across global galleries and festivals, with notable features in *The New Yorker*, *Afar*, *Le Monde*, *Wall Street Journal*, *National Geographic*, *Time*, *New York Times*, *Huck*, and *Foam*. Since 2020, Laura has been a Canon Global Ambassador, representing the future of visual storytelling and innovation, while also honouring the 'silent heroes'—the staff and visionary engineers who make her work possible.