

AnOther

The Best Photos of 2020: Portrayals of Womanhood by Female Photographers

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY / ANOTHER LIST

From South American cowgirls and teenage runaways, to China's fearless youth and webcam nudes: a look back at the most inspiring photo series exploring womanhood published on AnOthermag.com in 2020

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TEXT Miss Rosen

Notions of the “female gaze” and the “woman artist” are often in flux, a reflection of ever-shifting cultural mores of the times in which we live. The enduring need to claim and assert one’s identity after it has been marginalised, oppressed, and erased reveals the space where the personal and the political have become one.

In 2020, we find ourselves in highly factionalised times, divisions so deep and tensions so high, a hair trigger could set things off at any time. Into this morass, artists offer a balm, a space for meditation and mediation on transcendental truths about the sanctity of life and the fragility of it all. Their work reveals a profound desire to uplift, protect, and honour womanhood in all its forms. Here we reflect on the work of ten women artists who explore ideas of gender within the complex terrain of the female mind, body, and soul in the infinite splendor of limitless charms.



GALLERY / 10 IMAGES

Girl Pictures by Justine Kurland

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Originally made 20 years ago, Justine Kurland's captivating series *Girl Pictures* was this year made available via a publication from Aperture. Inspired by girl bands like The Runaways, Kurland brings us into an idyllic world where her "standing army" of teen girl runaways have decamped across the United States to create their own utopian community built on living in harmony with nature and one another. "If you simply refuse to grow up and toe the line – why would you want to, anyway? – you can create a world for yourself, one that's bearable to live in," Kurland said.