ALINE PAPENHEIM

Not-knowing is not an absence of knowledge, but a way of staying open to relation.
My work questions inherited ways of seeing: systems that control, extract, classify, and separate humans from the natural world. Drawing from postqueer, ecological, and sociological thought, as well as lived experience, I explore what becomes possible when we move beyond these structures. I grew up in the German countryside, in a rural Christian village shaped by rigid social norms, hunting culture, and a collapsed monocultural forest. Returning to this landscape as a fluid and neurodivergent person, I approach both nature and people through relation rather than separation. I stay with contradictions, uncertainty, and surprise, asking what happens when diversity and interdependence are understood as conditions of life. My research asks how photography itself can move from representation towards relation. Rather than making images about landscapes or other beings, I create situations within them. Walking, waiting, swimming, touching, listening, collaborating, and repeatedly returning have become as important as taking a photograph. People, animals, plants, microorganisms, landscapes, and technologies all influence how the work develops. Rather than using photography to explain or master what I encounter, I use it to pay attention without needing to fully understand. Technologies associated with observation and control (such as trail cameras, night vision, microscopes, and drones) are repurposed as tools for curiosity and proximity. Across photography, film, installation, writing, and relational encounters, my practice becomes a way of practising different forms of relation within the worlds we already share. Keywords: relational photography, postqueer, queer ecology, embodied research, more-than-human, not-knowing, interdependence

WEBSITES

personal website

www.alinepape.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/aline.pape/
www.linkedin.com/in/aline-pape-009845246/

EDUCATION

2023 - 2025	MA Photography & Society Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma
2017 - 2022	BA Communication Design Fachhochschule Aachen
2014 - 2017	Vocational Diploma & Training as a Design-technical-assistant Berufskolleg Bergkloster Bestwig

EXHIBITIONS

2026	Queer Art Show The Hague COC The Hague The Hague, Netherlands The Queer Art Show The Hague was born out of visual artist Rae Romero's desire to give queer artists from The Hague—who haven't yet received much exposure—a chance to make their artistic voices heard. The art world is dominated by cis, straight, white people, resulting in the absence of essential perspectives, voices, and perspectives. The Queer Art Show fills that gap. The result is an exhibition in which six queer artists will showcase their highly diverse works and visions. Group
2026	In The Forest Behind My Father's House Berghaus Stockum Sundern (Sauerland), Germany n the Forest Behind My Father's House was presented as a site-specific solo exhibition at Berghaus Stockum in the Sauerland, Germany, from June to August 2026. Located close to the forest and village where the long-term documentary project originated, the exhibition brought the work back into the social and ecological context from which it emerged. Combining photography, film, sound, scent, and text, the installation explored ecological transformation, rural structures, queerness, neurodivergence, and questions of belonging. The forest—shaped by monoculture, climate change, and human intervention—became a space through which relationships between diversity, control, and resilience could be examined. The exhibition was accompanied by a public programme of guided tours, a reading, and conversations on queerness, neurodivergence and society, creating encounters between contemporary artistic practice and local communities. The project was supported by Culture Moves Europe, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Goethe-Institut, and by Stroom Den Haag through the SPOT grant.

Solo

2026 In the Forest Behind My Father's House Our Songs Came Through — BredaPhoto Festival 2026 Breda, Netherlands In the Forest Behind My Father's House was presented at BredaPhoto Festival 2026 as part of Our Songs Came Through, a festival edition exploring resilience, recovery, and hope in times of ecological and social uncertainty. Installed in a glass pavilion at Breda Central Station, the work brought together photography, film, text, and installation. The presentation extended the project's exploration of the collapsing spruce monoculture in the Sauerland as a starting point for questions around diversity, belonging, control, and resilience. For BredaPhoto, the installation introduced a new visual layer inspired by the traces of the bark beetle—an insect associated with the destruction of weakened monocultural forests. Its branching tunnel structures spread across frames, images, and the architecture of the installation, connecting the individual works into a larger ecosystem. Rather than approaching collapse only as an ending, the installation considers what can emerge from disruption: new forms of diversity, interdependence, and life. In this way, the work responds to Our Songs Came Through by searching for hope not in returning to what existed before, but in the possibilities that can grow from transformation.
bredaphoto.nl/photographer/aline-papenheim/
Group

2025 push pull shift Živi Atelje DK Zagreb, Croatia
Group

2024 Fragments in Transit Beetroot Studio Thessaloniki, Greece
Group

2024 00:05:59 Paradise The Hague, Netherlands
Group

2023 Modern Gender Galerie M Paris, France The Modern Gender, Masculinities project by non-binary photographer and artist Aline Pape is an exploration of the limiting effects of binary gender concepts on society. Through her project, Pape challenges the traditional representations of 'masculinity' and offers an alternative perspective that goes beyond the binary. Her approach involves working with men and people assigned masculine at birth, offering them traditionally 'feminine' attributes to experiment with their 'gender expression' to see how their 'gender performance' and therefore their 'habitus' transformed. By questioning the problematic and normalised representations of 'masculinity', Pape's project becomes a social experiment, attempting to see how far photography can influence social processes. Through this exhibition, Aline Pape offers an intimate and immersive experience, presenting her photographs at eye-level and life-size. This approach creates a sense of closeness and vulnerability and invites the audience to join in the conversation about 'masculinity' and gender norms. The project is a powerful example of an intersection of sociology and photography that allows for experimental research and raises important questions about gender norms and expectations. Through her project, Aline Pape provides a platform to explore and challenge the concept of 'masculinity'. It is a call for inclusivity, diversity, and breaking free from the constraints of binary gender roles.
galeriem.eu/modern_gender.php

Solo

2023 Modern Gender GE59 Berlin, Germany The Modern Gender, Masculinities project by non-binary photographer and artist Aline Pape is an exploration of the limiting effects of binary gender concepts on society. Through her project, Pape challenges the traditional representations of ‘masculinity’ and offers an alternative perspective that goes beyond the binary. Her approach involves working with men and people assigned masculine at birth, offering them traditionally ‘feminine’ attributes to experiment with their ‘gender expression’ to see how their ‘gender performance’ and therefore their ‘habitus’ transformed. By questioning the problematic and normalised representations of ‘masculinity’, Pape's project becomes a social experiment, attempting to see how far photography can influence social processes. Through this exhibition, Aline Pape offers an intimate and immersive experience, presenting her photographs at eye-level and life-size. This approach creates a sense of closeness and vulnerability and invites the audience to join in the conversation about ‘masculinity’ and gender norms. The project is a powerful example of an intersection of sociology and photography that allows for experimental research and raises important questions about gender norms and expectations. Through her project, Aline Pape provides a platform to explore and challenge the concept of ‘masculinity’. It is a call for inclusivity, diversity, and breaking free from the constraints of binary gender roles.
www.ge59.space/news-events/fotoausstellung-und-buchtour-modern-gender
Solo

2023 Modern Gender Studio Hausen Hamburg, Germany The Modern Gender, Masculinities project by non-binary photographer and artist Aline Pape is an exploration of the limiting effects of binary gender concepts on society. Through her project, Pape challenges the traditional representations of ‘masculinity’ and offers an alternative perspective that goes beyond the binary. Her approach involves working with men and people assigned masculine at birth, offering them traditionally ‘feminine’ attributes to experiment with their ‘gender expression’ to see how their ‘gender performance’ and therefore their ‘habitus’ transformed. By questioning the problematic and normalised representations of ‘masculinity’, Pape's project becomes a social experiment, attempting to see how far photography can influence social processes. Through this exhibition, Aline Pape offers an intimate and immersive experience, presenting her photographs at eye-level and life-size. This approach creates a sense of closeness and vulnerability and invites the audience to join in the conversation about ‘masculinity’ and gender norms. The project is a powerful example of an intersection of sociology and photography that allows for experimental research and raises important questions about gender norms and expectations. Through her project, Aline Pape provides a platform to explore and challenge the concept of ‘masculinity’. It is a call for inclusivity, diversity, and breaking free from the constraints of binary gender roles.
moderngender.eu/
Solo

2023 Modern Gender &wieder Cologne The Modern Gender, Masculinities project by non-binary photographer and artist Aline Pape is an exploration of the limiting effects of binary gender concepts on society. Through her

project, Pape challenges the traditional representations of ‘masculinity’ and offers an alternative perspective that goes beyond the binary. Her approach involves working with men and people assigned masculine at birth, offering them traditionally ‘feminine’ attributes to experiment with their ‘gender expression’ to see how their ‘gender performance’ and therefore their ‘habitus’ transformed. By questioning the problematic and normalised representations of ‘masculinity’, Pape's project becomes a social experiment, attempting to see how far photography can influence social processes. Through this exhibition, Aline Pape offers an intimate and immersive experience, presenting her photographs at eye-level and life-size. This approach creates a sense of closeness and vulnerability and invites the audience to join in the conversation about ‘masculinity’ and gender norms. The project is a powerful example of an intersection of sociology and photography that allows for experimental research and raises important questions about gender norms and expectations. Through her project, Aline Pape provides a platform to explore and challenge the concept of ‘masculinity’. It is a call for inclusivity, diversity, and breaking free from the constraints of binary gender roles.
moderngender.eu/
Solo

2023 Up And Coming – Förderpreis für junge Buchgestaltung 2023 einBuch.haus Berlin, Germany www.stiftung-buchkunst.de/foerderpreis-fuer-junge-buchgestaltung/die-shortlist/
Group

2023 Allianzen Aachen Fotofestival 2023, Raststätte Aachen, Germany Alliances – Aachen Photo Festival 2023 What is meant by ‘modern gender’? This is the question posed by photographers Aline Papenheim and Iris Hilgers in their exhibition on the theme of gender boundaries. They believe it is important to treat people who cannot and do not want to identify with their biological gender with sensitivity. The photographers address this issue by allowing their male models to appear as they feel comfortable, bearded, wearing make-up and beautiful clothes. In their photographic works, the photographers call for tolerance and encourage discussion about equality, which is still overshadowed by prejudice. Yet women wearing trousers or suits are now a matter of course. Iris Hilgers, for example, goes into a former factory hall to ask what constitutes masculinity, femininity and diversity. With her magnificent project Modern Gender, photographer Aline Pape questions whether and how this image of masculinity can and must be made more flexible. Rigid categories are dissolved by ‘Modern Gender’. A new perspective is important to both photographers – they offer moving motifs and take up the current discussion artistically. raststaette.org/termine/fotografie-festival-modern-gender/2023-08-19/
Duo

2023 Nouvelles Masculinités Galerie M Paris, France Talking about new masculinities reflects current thinking about the place of masculinity (and, implicitly, femininity) in our relationships with others. The exhibition ‘New Masculinities’ offers us nine perspectives, nine sensibilities, nine approaches from nine contemporary artists who present their ways of addressing, confronting or simply observing masculinity.
galeriem.eu/nouvelles_masculinites.php
Group

2022 Fun in the Sun Schnörres Cologne, Germany
Group

2021 Aachener Kunstroute BOA - Bunker of Art Aachen, Germany
Group

2021 Poebel BOA - Bunker of Art Aachen, Germany
Group

2020 Positur#1 Stadtteilzentrum Nordstadt Hannover, Germany www.artrabbit.com/events/positur-1-stadtteilzentrum-nordstadt-ev
Group

2020 Urbane Nachwelt Glashalle Aachen Aachen, Germany
Solo

2020 Aachener Kunstroute BOA - Bunker of Art Aachen, Germany
aachenerkunstroute.de/images/2020/pressematerial/brosch 2020.pdf
Group

2019 Streaming Pictures MAKK, Museum für Angewandte Kunst Cologne, Germany
www.dgph.de/aktuelles/streaming-pictures-hochschulen-stellen-sich-vor-2019
Group

PROJECTS

2025 Baby, I Have Your Back Eindhoven, Den Haag, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands marinamp.info/baby.html
baby, i have your back is a performance about embracing femininity and walking in public spaces at night collaboratively. the goal is to highlight the complexities faced by women and feminine-presenting people in public spaces, and to share these experiences with trans women, women, feminine-presenting people, and locals. from march 2024, my team (max oosterholt–walking partner, aline papenheim–photographer, and myself) have been getting ready in many locations in the netherlands. we conducted walks in public spaces, documented the experiences, and reflected on the transformations. our walks have taken place in eindhoven, amsterdam, rotterdam, and the hague, almost all at night. each walk involves a getting-ready routine with makeup, accessories, and costumes (see photos of the process documented by aline). we have talked about questions that help tap into a more feminine side. these processes are documented, and mantras are written on notes placed in costume pockets. we have completed eight walks and a self-defense class.

2025 The Forest Behind My Fathers House Royal Academy of Art The Hague The Hague / Sauerland GER, Netherlands
alinepape.com/in-the-forest-behind-

PUBLICATIONS

2025 In The Forest Behind My Father's House Book selfpublished Aline Papenheim The Hague, Netherlands A co-creation with the dying monocultural forest that raised me; hunters and rangers who showed me how they rule the land; deer sleeping in the gorse of the new grounds; the Witches' Rock that carries history; my neurodivergent mother; and my hardworking father. Type Design Anne-Dauphine Borione

2023 Modern Gender Book Gravur Aline Papenheim Aachen, Germany
moderngender.eu/

my-fathers-house In the Forest Behind My Father's House is a multi-sensory, letter-based video and text work that explores the entanglements of ecological collapse, inherited belief systems, and queer identity. Situated at the intersection of environmental grief and embodied resistance, my practice draws on lived experience to question dominant systems of land governance, knowledge production, and belonging. Through poetic narration and tools repurposed from surveillance and control (nightvisioncameras, drones and microscopes) I reclaim ways of listening, not only to the land, but to those historically silenced by it. This work invites into a world of layered perspectives, where care and contradiction coexist, and where new relational ethics begin to take root.

2021 Modern Gender Aachen, Cologne, Berlin, Leipzig, Hamburg, Germany alinepape.com/modern-gender Modern Gender is a collaborative project exploring masculinity through sociology and photography in various German cities. From 2020 to 2022, participants —men and individuals assigned male at birth—were invited to experiment with traditionally "feminine" attributes like clothing, jewelry, and makeup. For many, it was their first time engaging in this form of self-expression, creating a playful space to question Western gender norms.

2020 Between Aachen, Germany alinepape.com/between Het project ‘Between’ is een doorlopend project sinds 2019, waarin ik het menselijk lichaam verken door middel van analoge fotografie.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2026 In The Forest Behind My Father's House Culture Moves Europe Sundern, Germany Awarded an Individual Mobility Grant by Culture Moves Europe, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Goethe-Institut. The grant supported the continued development of "In the Forest Behind My Father’s House", including artistic research, fieldwork, and new photographic production in the Sauerland, Germany.

2026 In The Forest Behind My Father's House (sinds 2004) Stroom, Den Haag Sundern, Germany Awarded by Stroom Den Haag in support of the solo exhibition In the Forest Behind My Father’s House at Berghaus in Sundern, Germany. The grant supported the production and presentation of new

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2025 - 2027 Co-Teacher New Photo Economy KABK On-going

2025 - -- workshop leader, FH Aachen Photography Department On-going

2025 - 2025 co-member wanderstories with Remco de Vries, Utrecht On-going

2025 - -- Founder Sofatalks with Gundega Strauberga On-going

2019 - 2022 Scientific Assistant, FH Aachen Photography Department

photographic work and the continued development of the project.

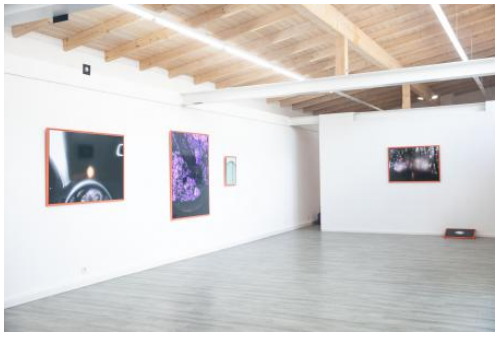
2026 In The Forest Behind My Father's House Wüstenrotstiftung & Folkwang Museum Essen, Germany Recipient of the Wüstenrot Foundation Award for Documentary Photography 16, a biennial award supporting outstanding graduation projects in documentary photography, for In the Forest Behind My Father's House. The award supports one year of further development of the project, followed by a publication and a touring exhibition across several museums in Germany from 2027–2029. Part of the work will also become part of the Museum Folkwang collection.

2023 Berlin Young Book Design Award Stiftung Buchkunst Berlin, Germany Shortlisted for the Berlin Young Book Design Award with Modern Gender

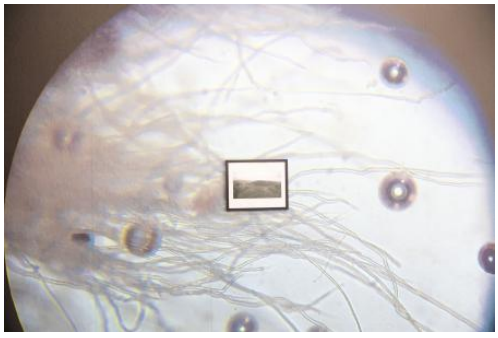
2022 Scholarships Ministerium für Kultur und Wissenschaft, NRW Aachen, Germany In order to publish my first book, I received a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Science, North Rhine-Westphalia.

2022 German Design Award 2023 – Newcomer German Design award Germany Nominee German Design Award 2023 – Newcomer

2021 Scholarship Stipendium der Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes Aachen, Germany From 2021 to 2025, I have been selected for the scholarship from the German National Academic Foundation.



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2026



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2026



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2026



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2026



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2026



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2026



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2026



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2026



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2025
13:28



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2025
print, 55 x 40 cm