

ALINE PAPENHEIM

My practice emerges from a neuroqueer and non-binary perspective, using photography, writing, and soft interventions to imagine new ways of seeing, feeling, and belonging beyond dominant narratives.

Imagine a world where we rethink ourselves, our relationships, and our place within the fragile ecosystem we all share. This vision fuels my artistic practice, which searches for cracks in dominant Western narratives—human-centered frameworks rooted in patriarchal, capitalistic and colonial perspectives. Through photography, I explore what lies beyond these constructs, drawing from queer theory and sociological thought to imagine alternative ways of seeing and being. As a neurodivergent and queer artist, I feel a deep kinship with nature's biodiversity while actively resisting the systems that have shaped and confined me. This tension drives my search for softer, more intuitive forms of expression—visual languages that hold space for emotional and relational complexity. Photography, for me, is not just a medium but a process of care, collaboration, and transformation. My work invites shared, embodied experiences that encourage reflection and connection. Whether through books, film, installations, writing, or relational encounters, I craft emotionally resonant narratives that move beyond the limits of language. Growing up as a fluid, diverse being in a rural Christian German village—far removed from conversations about gender or queerness—I learned to adapt and suppress aspects of myself to survive. Photography offered an entry point into spaces where unlearning and reimagining became possible. These formative experiences now inform my desire to connect with and bridge seemingly opposing audiences. Through my work, I nurture deeper human connection and offer glimpses into speculative, imagined worlds—possibilities that invite new ways of seeing, feeling, and being beyond the known.

WEBSITES

personal website

www.alinepape.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/aline.pape/

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

EDUCATION

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

EXHIBITIONS

- 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/brosch2020.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

PUBLICATIONS

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

Royal Academy of Art The Hague The Hague / Sauerland GER, Netherlands
alinepape.com/in-the-forest-behind-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

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

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

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, 2025
print, 55 x 40 cm



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



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2025
print, 60 x 40 cm



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



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2025
Installation , 3 x 4 m



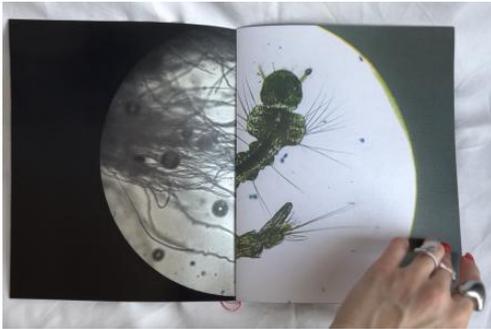
In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2025
framed print, 30 x 20 cm



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2025
print, 30 x 20 cm



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2025
Print Publication, 24 x 20 cm



In The Forest Behind My Father's House, 2025
Print Publication, 24 x 20 cm



Modern Gender, 2023
handmade with silkscreen, thread stitching, 23.5x30cm