

GENDER GESTURE

International Photography Competition 2025





Cross Cultural Collaboration



Corporate Partner

SONY





Glimpses of 2024

"Every human actions becomes dangerous when it is deprived of human feeling. When they are performed with feeling and respect for human values, all activities become constructive."
- Dalai Lama

Woxsen University, Hyderabad, and the **University of Creative Arts (UCA), London** jointly explored Gender & Gesture through a photography competition. This collaboration aimed to highlight diverse approaches, prompting reflections on the universality of gestures and connections between gender, class, and cultural identity.

The exhibition unfolded across Woxsen University and IIT Hyderabad, involving core committee members and an advisory board. **Dr. Caroline Molloy** and esteemed figures inaugurated the exhibitions, announced winners, and delivered talks on Gender and Performance in Studio Photography.

Building on the success of 2024, **Gender and Gesture: Thinking Photography Beyond the Visual 2025** explores gender representation within global geo-political complexities. This interdisciplinary platform examines evolving gender narratives, including LGBTQ+ representation, and the critical intersection of climate and gender in an inclusive world.

Through photography, artists, academics, and professionals push the boundaries of visual storytelling, interrogating how gestures and representation intersect with social, cultural, and environmental dynamics.



Themes



Gender Representation in Geo-Political Complexities

Examining how gender is constructed, represented, and politicized in different geopolitical landscapes.

Investigating the role of photography in challenging or perpetuating global power imbalances and stereotypes.

LGBTQ+ Representation in Global Inclusivity

Exploring photographic works that document, celebrate, or critique LGBTQ+ identities and their representation in diverse cultural and political contexts.

Investigating the role of photography in advancing global inclusivity and human rights.



Climate and Gender

Highlighting the intersection of gender and climate through visual narratives.

Documenting the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and LGBTQ+ communities globally.



Objectives



- > To create a dynamic platform for discussing photography's role in addressing global challenges related to gender and inclusivity.
- > To foster collaboration among international artists, academics, and institutions.
- > To emphasize the power of visual storytelling in driving cultural, social, and environmental change.



KEY Outcomes

- › Expanded Discourse
- › Collaboration
- › Public Engagement





Target Audience

- > Academics, researchers, and students from fields such as art history, sociology, anthropology, and visual communication
- > Professional and emerging photographers.
- > Representatives from NGOs, governmental bodies, and LGBTQ+ advocacy groups.





Expected Impact



- > Enrich the global discourse on gender and inclusivity through an interdisciplinary lens.
- > Establish Woxsen University as a leader in using creative mediums for social transformation.
- > Provide a platform for underrepresented voices and foster inclusivity within the arts.



A woman with dark, curly hair is looking slightly to the side. She is wearing a dark top with a floral pattern in white and purple. The background is dark with some blurred lights.

Submission Guidelines

- > Open to undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and skill development students worldwide.
- > Original work only – No copyrighted or offensive content.
- > Participants must retain copyright but grant Woxsen University rights to use images for academic and promotional purposes.

Fees (Proposed):

- > Professional: \$50
- > Emerging: \$25
- > Students: \$5



For registration and payment purposes
Kindly scan the QR Code





Exhibition & Recognition

- > Global tour in partner foreign universities.
- > Social Media Promotions & Features on competition platforms
- > Email Invitations & Networking Opportunities with designers, curators, and industry professionals
- > Winning & Participation Certification to be provided.
- > Global Visibility
- > Media Coverage

Key Dates & Contact

- > Call for Submissions: 31st May 2025
- > Early Bird Submission Deadline: 15th July 2025
- > Final Submission Deadline: 15th August 2025
- > Online Results Announcement: 31st August 2025

For inquiries, visit: arun.gupta@woxsen.edu.in





Core Committee



Dr. UMA ANANDA
Vice Chancellor,
Woxsen University



Dr. ADITY SAXENA
Dean, School of Arts and Design,
Woxsen University



Prof. DEEPAK JOHN MATHEW
Founding Head of Department of Design,
Coordinator, Design Innovation Centre,
Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad



Dr. MANISH ARORA
Professor and HEAD
Department of Applied Arts
Faculty of Visual Arts,
Banaras Hindu University



Prof. Tsholofelo Tshabadiira
Design Junior Lecturer, Design & Studio Art,
Faculty of Humanities, CUT, Africa



Prof. Anze Ermenc
Senior Lecturer, Programme Leader & MFI
Department Showcase Lead,
BA (Hons) Fashion Art Direction,
Manchester Metropolitan University



Prof. KAMALANARAYANAN.K
Programme Director, Communication
Design, School of Arts and Design,
Woxsen University



Prof. Arun Gupta
Faculty Member, Communication Design,
Assistant Dean ERS,
School of Arts and Design,
Woxsen University



Prof. Pradeep Kumar Menon
Faculty Member, Foundation Design,
School of Arts and Design,
Woxsen University





Terms & Conditions

Terms

By entering this competition, you agree to the terms listed below and represent and warrant to the International Photography Competition, Gender and Gestures: Thinking Photography Beyond the Visual, that all registration information you provide is correct and complete.

Eligibility

The competition is open to Professionals and all students at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels. Students enrolled in the skill development programme may also register.

Copyrights and Ownership

All images submitted must be your original works of art. By submitting these images, you affirm that you have not violated any person's or entity's privacy rights, publicity rights, copyright, or other intellectual property rights. You are strictly prohibited from posting, distributing, or reproducing any copyrighted material, trademarks, or other proprietary information without proper authorisation.

By submitting your work, you agree that the distribution, reproduction, and print rights to the submitted material will rest solely with the School of Arts & Design, Woxsen University. The University reserves the right to use these images for academic, promotional, or institutional purposes, including but not limited to online and offline publications, exhibitions, and marketing materials.

Without limiting our rights, the School of Arts & Design has a strict policy of terminating all relationships with any artist who violates copyrights upon receiving notice of infringement from the copyright owner or the copyright owner's legal counsel.

Additionally, it is your responsibility to ensure that the submitted work complies with all applicable laws and ethical standards. Failure to adhere to these terms may result in disqualification or other necessary actions as deemed appropriate by the School.

The Woxsen School of Arts and Design reserves the right to publish the images in the competition's coffee table book, on our websites, social media platforms, and other advertising channels in order to promote your photographs and future competitions.

The coffee table book will be printed and digitally with the name of the artist who clicked the image.



GENDER GESTURE

Woxsen University, School of Arts and Design in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University- UK, IIT Hyderabad & Benaras Hindu University are hosting a photography competition focused on the themes of Gender & Gesture. This collaboration seeks to explore the nuances of gender roles, class, cultural identity, and non-verbal communication through photography. Open to students, professional photographers, and artists worldwide, participants can submit up to three photographs that document, question, perform, or challenge the concepts of gender and gesture.

Selected works will be featured in exhibitions at Woxsen University and its collaborating partner Universities. This competition presents an opportunity for artists to express their interpretation of gender, whether through documentary-style, performative images, or other photographic methods, and gain international exposure