

PHOTOMUSE
FESTIVAL 2026
OF PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOMUSE

THE MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

BETTER ART FOUNDATION

Established in 2014 under the public charitable trust 'The Better Art Foundation, PhotoMuse is India's first public museum dedicated exclusively to the art, history and science of Photography. Through the pursuit of photography and photographic history, PHOTOMUSE documents, interprets and promotes the natural and cultural inheritance of the country and beyond. With photography-based outreach and educational programs, the museum emphasizes education, conservancy and India's photographic legacy. It aims to build a generation that loves art, conserves nature and respects humanity.

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES & COLLECTIONS

The museum has organized 340 programs until now that include photographic exhibitions, photographic workshops, Nature educational camps, and documentation projects on tangible and intangible heritage. The museum already has 15640 objects in its collection which include photographic equipment, historic photographs, documents and books. The collection policy is inclusive of the Indian and international photo history as well as local socio-political and cultural

histories and individual-based micro histories. The museum encourages and educates women on the technology and aesthetics of Photography with an aim to empower them as artists as well as breadwinners. The museum also reaches out to school children to instil interest in the land's cultural heritage and conservancy.

MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS & GALLERY

The Museum publishes an annual 'PhotoMuse Journal' which carries articles and photographs by national as well as international artists, photo-historians and curators. The Museum showcases works of various Indian and international artists in its 'PhotoMuse Museum Gallery' with recurring in-house exhibitions. The gallery opens up a cultural space for artists of all levels and an opportunity for the rural children and the general public to access art, photography and motion picture documentaries on various subjects.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Museum's social media platform has more than 19,000 members. It is a vibrant space for discussions on various topics of art, culture, conservation and photo-aesthetics.

PHOTOMUSE FESTIVAL 2026 OF PHOTOGRAPHY

DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2026 - JANUARY 31, 2027

MAIN VENUES

PHOTOMUSE MUSEUM GALLERY, CHUNGAL, THRISSUR

KERALA LALIT KALA ACADEMY, THRISSUR

ART MUSEUM OF LOVE, KODAKARA, THRISSUR

PARALLEL VENUES

SEVERAL PARALLEL EXHIBITIONS IN THRISSUR, ERNAKULAM, KOLLAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MALAPPURAM, PALAKKAD, CALICUT, KANNUR

FESTIVAL THEME: OPEN ORIGINS - OPEN ENDS

The PhotoMuse Festival is founded on the PhotoMuse Museum's mission to promote and propagate photography in all its forms. Rooted in humanism and camaraderie, the Festival seeks to bridge divides across gender, race, and nationality. At its core is a belief in photography's power to reshape perspectives, shift attitudes, and foster empathy across the world.

PHOTOMUSE FESTIVAL 2026 OF PHOTOGRAPHY

THE SELECTORS



Herbert Ascherman Jr. is an internationally acclaimed photographer with over 50 years of experience in fine art and portrait photography, renowned for his black-and-white and platinum prints. His work has been exhibited and published across the United States, Europe, Japan, and India. He has served as an advisor to PhotoMuse – The Museum of Photography, India, since its inception in 2014.



Deepak John Mathew is a designer, educator, and photographer, serving as the Innovation Ambassador for the Indian Innovation Council and Professor & Head of the Department of Design at Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. A former Commonwealth Fellow and NID professor, his work bridges design, innovation, and conceptual photography.



Leonard Murray Metcalf is the founder and head teacher of Lens School of Photography in Australia. Len is renowned for his exquisite photographs and supportive, gentle teaching style. His broad experience both as an art educator, juror of several photo events, photographer and fine-art print maker sets him among the top photo artists of his country. Len has been a Mainline photo product Ambassador for many years now.

THE CURATOR



Michael Weil is a distinguished photographer and art historian specializing in the history of photography. He holds a Ph.D. in Art History from Case Western Reserve University and has taught at several institutions, including Case Western Reserve University, the Cleveland Institute of Art, and Cleveland State University. His work combines fine art photography with scholarly research, contributing significantly to the study of photographic history.



Aditya Arya is a renowned Indian photographer whose career began in 1980. He is the founding director and curator of Museo Camera, South Asia's largest not-for-profit photography museum, and is widely recognized for his contributions to advertising, corporate, and documentary photography.



Dr. Unni Pulikkal S. is an Indian photo-artist, printmaker, author, educator, and physician. A Senior Fellow in Creative Photography from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society, London, he is the founder and curator of PhotoMuse – The Museum of Photography and the Art Museum of Love in Kerala. His work spans photographic art, curation, photo history, and contemporary visual culture.

PHOTOMUSE FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY 2026

COLLABORATORS

International Photography Festivals
Association, Barcelona



Museo Camera, Gurgaon, India



Nostra Collective, Italy



Mexico Street Photo Festival, Mexico



Freezer International Photography
Festival, Argentina



DiaFragma International Photography &
Visual Arts Festival, Portugal



Experimental Photo Festival, Spain



Sao Paulo Festival of Photography, Brazil



Abuja Photo Festival, Nigeria



Kerala Museum, Edappilly
Kerala, India



Art Museum of Love, Kerala, India



Team Professionals Group, Kerala, India



TKM School of Architecture, Kollam,
Kerala, India



8 Point Art Cafe, Kollam, Kerala, India



Techno Gypsie, Kerala, India



Rome Photo Lab, Italy



G-Nome, Thrissur, Kerala, India



Light Magic Photoschool, Malappuram,
Kerala, India



Pura Art Casa, Kerala, India



Gramani Gallery, Palakkad, Kerala, India



Olattayil Art Gallery, Malappuram,
Kerala, India



Oorali, Theatre, Thrissur, Kerala, India



Confluence Handcrafted Photo Prints
Bangalore, India



PHOTOMUSE FESTIVAL 2026 OF PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTOMUSE FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY 2026

The PhotoMuse Festival of Photography 2026 is a celebration of photography in all its forms—its art, history, technology, and evolving role in contemporary visual culture.

Organized by the PhotoMuse Museum of Photography, the festival will be held from October 2, 2026 to January 31, 2027, with the PhotoMuse Museum Gallery as its main venue, alongside exhibitions and programs at partner venues across Thrissur and other parts of Kerala.

Bringing together photographers, visual artists, researchers, students, and art enthusiasts, the festival seeks to create a vibrant space for viewing, learning, dialogue, and exchange.



VISION

The festival aspires to become a significant artistic and cultural platform for photography in Kerala, bringing fresh energy and new perspectives to the medium.

It celebrates the diversity of photographic expression while engaging with the changing nature of contemporary visual culture. Through exhibitions, conversations, and learning programs, the festival encourages new ways of seeing, thinking, and engaging with photography.



MISSION

Photography is more than an art form. It is a visual language and a powerful means of documenting, interpreting, and preserving society, culture, history, and the world around us.

The festival will present the work of photographers and visual artists from India and beyond, bringing together diverse themes, perspectives, practices, and approaches to the medium. These exhibitions will offer audiences an enriching visual experience while opening up new ways of looking at photography and the world it reflects.

A diverse program of events will accompany the exhibitions, including seminars, panel discussions, artist interactions, training programs, documentary screenings, and knowledge-sharing sessions.

Together, these programs will explore the creative and technical dimensions of photography, encourage meaningful conversations, and create opportunities for emerging photographers and young practitioners to learn, connect, experiment, and grow.

Through this festival, PhotoMuse seeks to build a lasting community around photography—one that celebrates its past, engages with its present, and imagines its future.

PHOTOMUSE FESTIVAL²⁰²⁶ OF PHOTOGRAPHY

2026 OCT. 2 - 2027 JAN. 31

122 DAYS



490

Photo-Artists participate



1530

Photographs Exhibited



31

Countries Represented



7

International Photo
Festivals Collaborate



3

Museums Collaborate



36

Print Exhibitions



34

Projected Exhibitions



11

Documentary Screenings



3

Photo History Exhibitions



5

Artist Talks



7

Academic Talks on Photography



2

Contemporary Performances



22

Exhibitions and Talks in
Schools and Colleges

PHOTOMUSE FESTIVAL 2026 OF PHOTOGRAPHY

OCTOBER 2, 2026 - JANUARY 31, 2027
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 2

 PhotoMuse Museum,
Chungal, Thrissur

1. **Inauguration** / PhotoMuse Museum / 3.00 PM
2. **INNERSCAPES** / Theo Berends / The Netherlands /
Print Exhibition of Photography / until Oct 15
3. **Vivek Vilasini** / India / Projected Image Exhibition / 5.00 PM
4. **THE EVOLUTION OF CAMERA – An exhibition of antique
photographic equipment** / until Dec.30

OCTOBER 2

 Vijayakumar Menon
Memorial Gallery, Kodalay, Thrissur

5. **NOTES OF LIGHT Edn. II** / Print Exhibition of
Photography / Group show curated by
Nandakumar Moodadi / until October 31

OCTOBER 3

 Art Museum of Love,
Kodakara, Thrissur

6. **Photo-Based Murals** / Ramesh Kovummal / India /
Painting Exhibition / until October 15 / 3.00 PM
7. **K. Jayanandan** / Print Exhibition of Photography /
until October 15 / 3.00 PM
8. **Painting & Photography – Interdisciplinary Evolution** /
Dr.Shaju Nellai, Art historian / Talk / 3.30 PM
9. **Artist's Talk** / K. Jayanandan / India / 4.30 PM
10. **DiaFragma International Photography & Visual
Arts Festival** / Portugal / Projected Exhibition / 5.00 PM
11. **Abuja Photo Festival** / Nigeria / Projected Exhibition / 5.30 PM
12. **BALKOWITSCH** / Documentary film / 6.00 PM

OCTOBER 4

 Ooraly Theatre,
Manakkodi, Thrissur

13. **FLOATING BODIES** / Abheesh Sasidharan / India /
Performance / 6.00 PM

OCTOBER 7

 Darbar Hall Art Center,
Ernakulam

14. **Thaha Muhammed** / India / Print Exhibition of
Photography / until October 13 / 4.00 PM
15. **Cibachrome Printing** / Thaha Muhammed/
Lecture Demonstration / 4.30 PM

OCTOBER 9

 Art Museum of Love,
Kodakara, Thrissur

16. **EDAKKAL CAVES** / A.T. Mohanraj / Dr. N. Sajan /
Documentary Film / 11.00 AM
17. **144 YEARS OF WAITING** / Claire Laborde / France /
Projected Exhibition / 12.30 AM

OCTOBER 11

 Darbar Hall Art Center,
Ernakulam

18. **Indian Entries to ROME PHOTOLAB Exchange
Exhibition** / Digital Exhibition / 5.00 PM

OCTOBER 12

 TKM College of Architecture,
Kollam

19. **Niranjan Das Sharma** / India / Print exhibition /
until October 16 / 10.00 AM
20. **Artist's Talk** / Niranjan Das Sharma / 10.30 AM

OCTOBER 16

 Art Museum of Love,
Kodakara, Thrissur

21. **Sethu A.N.** / India / Print Exhibition of Photography /
until October 22 / 3.00 PM
22. **Ashlin Joshi** / India / Print Exhibition of Photography /
until October 22 / 3.30 PM
23. **UNDER THE SAND** / Jaan Albalushi / Behrain /
Documentary Film / 4.00 PM
24. **Indian Entries to ROME PHOTOLAB Exchange
Exhibition** / Digital Exhibition / 5.00 PM

OCTOBER 17

 PhotoMuse Museum,
Chungal, Thrissur

25. **REBUILDING MEMORIES – PhotoMuse Festival
Juried Exhibition I** / Print Exhibition / until October 27 / 3.00 PM
26. **144 YEARS OF WAITING** / Claire Laborde / France /
Projected Exhibition / 4.00 PM
27. **Sao Paulo Festival of Photography** / Brazil /
Projected exhibition / 4.30 PM
28. **THE EYE OF CLEVELAND** / Jim Koenigsaecker / USA /
Documentary Film on the life of Herbert Ascherman / 5.00 PM

PHOTOMUSE FESTIVAL 2026 OF PHOTOGRAPHY

OCTOBER 2, 2026 - JANUARY 31, 2027
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 23

 Art Museum of Love,
Kodakara, Thrissur

- 29. **CLOSED BODY** / Sudheer C. / India / Print Exhibition /
until October 30 / 3.00 PM
- 30. **NATURE'S ABSTRACT ART** / Anil T. Prabhakaran / India /
Print Exhibition / until October 30 / 3.30 PM
- 31. **BLEEDING OF THE EARTH** / Anil T. Prabhakaran / India /
Projected Exhibition / 4.00 PM
- 32. **ARTIST'S TALK** / Anil T. Prabhakaran
- 33. **Rome Photo Lab** / Italy / Projected Exhibition / 4.30 PM
- 34. **THE EYE OF CLEVELAND** / Jim Koenigsaecker / USA /
Documentary Film on the life of Herbert Ascherman / 5.00 PM

OCTOBER 28

 Darbar Hall Art Center,
Ernakulam

- 35. **SCAPES** / Print Exhibition / Bijulal M.D. / Curated by
Vincent S. / until Nov. 1

OCTOBER 30

 Prajyothinikethan College,
Puthukkad, Thrissur

- 36. **OPEN ORIGINS – OPEN ENDS** / Projected Exhibition of
photographs & Talk / Nandakumar Moodadi / 10.00 AM
- 37. **PHOTOGRAPHY AS A TOOL FOR THE BETTERMENT OF
THE SELF** / Talk / Unni Pulikkal S. / 10.30 AM

OCTOBER 30

 Clint Art Gallery,
Ernakulam

- 38. **Bony Keyar** / India / Print Exhibition /
Curated by Thaha Muhammed / 5.00 PM

OCTOBER 31

 Art Museum of Love,
Kodakara, Thrissur

- 39. **Rajeev Mannayam** / Print Exhibition of Photography /
until November 12 / 10.00 AM
- 40. **LOVE IS BLOSSOMING** / Nisha Menon / India /
Print exhibition / until November 12 / 10.00 AM

OCTOBER 31

 PhotoMuse Museum,
Chungal, Thrissur

- 41. **MEMORIES OF EARTH – PhotoMuse Festival Juried
Exhibition II** / Print Exhibition / until November 12 / 2.00 PM

- 42. **DiaFragma International Photography & Visual Arts
Festival** / Portugal / Projected Exhibition / 3.00 PM

- 43. **Experimental Photo Festival, Barcelona** / Spain /
Projected Exhibition / 3.30 PM

- 44. **Mexico Street Photo Festival** / Mexico /
Projected Exhibition / 4.00 PM

- 45. **BETWEEN ASHES & ROOTS** / Sabrina Fiore / Italy /
Projected Exhibition / 4.30 PM

- 46. **RAPINOSA** / Giulio Messina / Italy /
Projected Exhibition / 5.00 PM

- 47. **BALKOWITSCH** / Shane Balkowitsch/ USA /
Documentary film / 5.30 PM

NOVEMBER 1

 PURA Art Casa, Kodaly,
Thrissur

- 48. **The Ethnic Eye / Exhibition of Child Art** /
Curated by Priya Shibu / 5.00 PM

NOVEMBER 1

 Vijayakumar Menon
Memorial Gallery, Kodaly, Thrissur

- 49. **NOTES OF LIGHT Edn. III** / Print Exhibition of
Photography / Group show curated by
Nandakumar Moodadi / until November 30

NOVEMBER 4

 Kannur University Campus

- 50. **Photography Presentation** / Deepaprasad T.K,
Times of India / 10.00 AM

- 51. **EDAKKAL CAVES** / A.T. Mohanraj / Dr. N. Sajan /
Documentary Film

NOVEMBER 13

 Gramani Gallery, Thiruveappura,
Pattambi, Palakkad

- 52. **STREET: HER STORY** / Meera Sreekumar / India /
Print Exhibition / until November 20 / 4.00 PM

- 53. **INTO THE WILD** / Sreekumaran M.S. / India /
Print Exhibition / until November 20 / 4.00 PM

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 14

 Art Museum of Love,
Kodakara, Thrissur

- 54. **WISPERS IN BLACK AND WHITE** / Prasanth S. / India /
until November 26 / 10.00 AM
- 55. **A SLICE OF MY COMMUNITY** / Niranjan Das Sharma /
India / until November 26 / 10.00 AM
- 56. **DiaFragma International Photography & Visual Arts
Festival** / Portugal / Projected Exhibition / 10.30 AM
- 57. **Mexico Street Photo Festival** / Mexico /
Projected Exhibition / 11.00 AM
- 58. **Sao Paulo Festival of Photography** / Brazil /
Projected exhibition / 11.30 AM

NOVEMBER 14

 PhotoMuse Museum,
Chungal, Thrissur

- 59. **JOURNEY OF MEMORIES – PhotoMuse Festival
Juried Exhibition III** / Print Exhibition /
until November 26 / 3.00 PM
- 60. **UNDER THE SAND** / Jaan Albalushi / Behrain /
Documentary Film / 4.00 PM
- 61. **Rome Photo Lab** / Italy / Projected Exhibition / 5.00 PM
- 62. **Abuja Photo Festival** / Nigeria / Projected Exhibition / 5.30 PM
- 63. **Indian Entries to ROME PHOTOLAB Exchange
Exhibition** / Digital Exhibition / 6.00 PM

NOVEMBER 18

 Lalit Kala Academy,
Calicut

- 64. **SCAPES** / Print Exhibition / Bijulal M.D. /
Curated by Vincent S. / until Nov. 24

NOVEMBER 28

 Art Museum of Love,
Kodakara, Thrissur

- 65. **TEAM PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP** / India /
Print Exhibition (Group) / until December 17 / 10.00 AM
- 66. **THE LAND AND MOTHERHOOD** / Shaji Hussain /
Qatar / until December 10 / 10.00 AM
- 67. **Vivek Vilasini** / India / Projected Exhibition / 10.30 AM
- 68. **Experimental Photo Festival, Barcelona** / Spain /
Projected Exhibition / 11.00 AM

- 69. **BETWEEN ASHES & ROOTS** / Sabrina Fiore /
Italy / Projected Exhibition / 11.30 AM

- 70. **RAPINOSA** / Giulio Messina / Italy /
Projected Exhibition / 12.00 PM

NOVEMBER 28

 PhotoMuse Museum,
Chungal, Thrissur

- 71. **CONFLUENCE** / Group exhibition of handmade prints /
until December 10 / 3.00 PM

- 72. **BALKOWITSCH** / Documentary film / 4.00 PM

DECEMBER 1

 Vijayakumar Menon
Memorial Gallery, Kodaly, Thrissur

- 73. **NOTES OF LIGHT Edn. IV** / Print Exhibition of
Photography / Group show curated by
Nandakumar Moodadi / until December 30 / 5.00 PM

DECEMBER 5

 Kerala Lalit Kala Academy,
Thrissur

- 74. **'TRAVELLING THROUGH KERALA WITH A CAMERA
IN 1983'** / Robin Jeffrey / Canada /
Curated by Adity Zacharias / Kerala History Museum,
Edappally, Ernakulam / Until December 30 / 2.00 PM

- 75. **Curator's Talk** / Adity Zacharias / Director of Kerala
Museum, Edappally / 2.30 PM

- 76. **ANNIHILATOR** / Madhuraj / India / Print Exhibition /
until December 17 / 3.00 PM

- 77. **Artist's Talk** / Madhuraj / India / 3.30 PM

- 78. **Vivek Vilasini** / India / Projected Exhibition / 4.00 PM

- 79. **Sao Paulo Festival of Photography** / Brazil /
Projected Exhibition / 4.30 PM

OCTOBER 5

 Black Box Theatre,
Sangeetha Nataka Academy

- 80. **ANASWARA PRAKASHAM** / Performance /
Fawas Ameer Hamsa / India / 6.00 PM

DECEMBER 6

 Olattayil Art Gallery,
Ponnani, Malappuram

- 81. **THE SUFI PATHS OF PONNANI** / Salam Olattayil /
India / until December 13 / 4.00 PM

PHOTOMUSE FESTIVAL 2026 OF PHOTOGRAPHY

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 7

 Kathirur Art Gallery,
Thalassery, Kannur

82. **DISPERATE VISIONS** / Print Exhibition of Photography /
Group / 3.00 PM

DECEMBER 12

 Art Museum of Love,
Kodakara, Thrissur

83. **MENTALLY DOUBTFUL** / Arun Inham / India /
Print exhibition / until December 17 / 10.00 AM
84. **Rome Photo Lab** / Italy / Projected Exhibition / 10.30 AM
85. **BETWEEN ASHES & ROOTS** / Sabrina Fiore / Italy /
Projected Exhibition / 11.00 AM
86. **RAPINOSA** / Giulio Messina / Italy /
Projected Exhibition / 11.30 AM

DECEMBER 12

 PhotoMuse Museum,
Chungal, Thrissur

87. **HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT MAKING** /
Exhibition of photographic prints – from historic to the
modern / until December 24 / 3.00 PM
88. **200 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY** / Seminar / 3.30 PM

DECEMBER 18

 Art Museum of Love,
Kodakara, Thrissur

89. **IN THE LIGHT OF THE WILD** / Krishnakumar Mechoor /
India / Print Exhibition / until December 30 / 3.00 PM
90. **ENDANGERED LIVES** / Suneer Muhammed / Qatar /
Print Exhibition / until December 25 / 3.00 PM
91. **THE EYE OF CLEVELAND** / Jim Koenigsaecker / USA /
Documentary Film on the life of Herb. Ascherman / 4.00 PM

DECEMBER 19

 Kerala Lalit Kala Academy,
Thrissur

92. **BARBEQUE REPUBLIC** / Hariharan S. / India /
Print exhibition / until December 30 / 3.00 PM
93. **THE EYE AND THE ARCHIVE** / Hariharan S. / Talk / 3.30 PM
94. **Abuja Photo Festival** / Nigeria / Projected Exhibition / 4.00 PM
95. **Experimental Photo Festival, Barcelona** / Spain /
Projected Exhibition / 4.30 PM

96. **Mexico Street Photo Festival** / Mexico /
Projected Exhibition / 5.00 PM

DECEMBER 26

 PhotoMuse Museum,
Chungal, Thrissur

97. **HISTORY IN THE MAKING: The Visual Archives of
Kulwant Roy** / Museo Camera / Print Exhibition /
Until January 28, 2027 / 3.00 PM
98. **UNDER THE SAND** / Jaan Albalushi / Behrain /
Documentary Film / 3.30 PM
99. **144 YEARS OF WAITING** / Claire Laborde / France /
Projected Exhibition / 4.00 PM

JANUARY 31

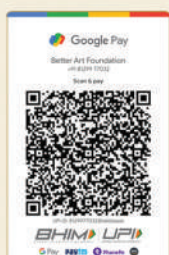
 PhotoMuse Museum,
Chungal, Thrissur

100. **CLOSING CEREMONY** / 4.00 PM

THE PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2027 WILL BE PUBLISHED
IN DUE COURSE



*“200 Years of Photography:
Let’s Celebrate the Ways We See.”*



*Please Donate!
Feel proud.*

Account Details:
Better Art Foundation,
State Bank of India, Kodaly Branch,
A/C No: 67302846487
IFSC: SBIN0070736
ID: betterartfoundation@upi

PHOTOMUSE
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