

QUEER HAVENS

Stories of queer intimacy,
community, and imagination

WORLD PRESS PHOTO

PRIDE

PHOTO

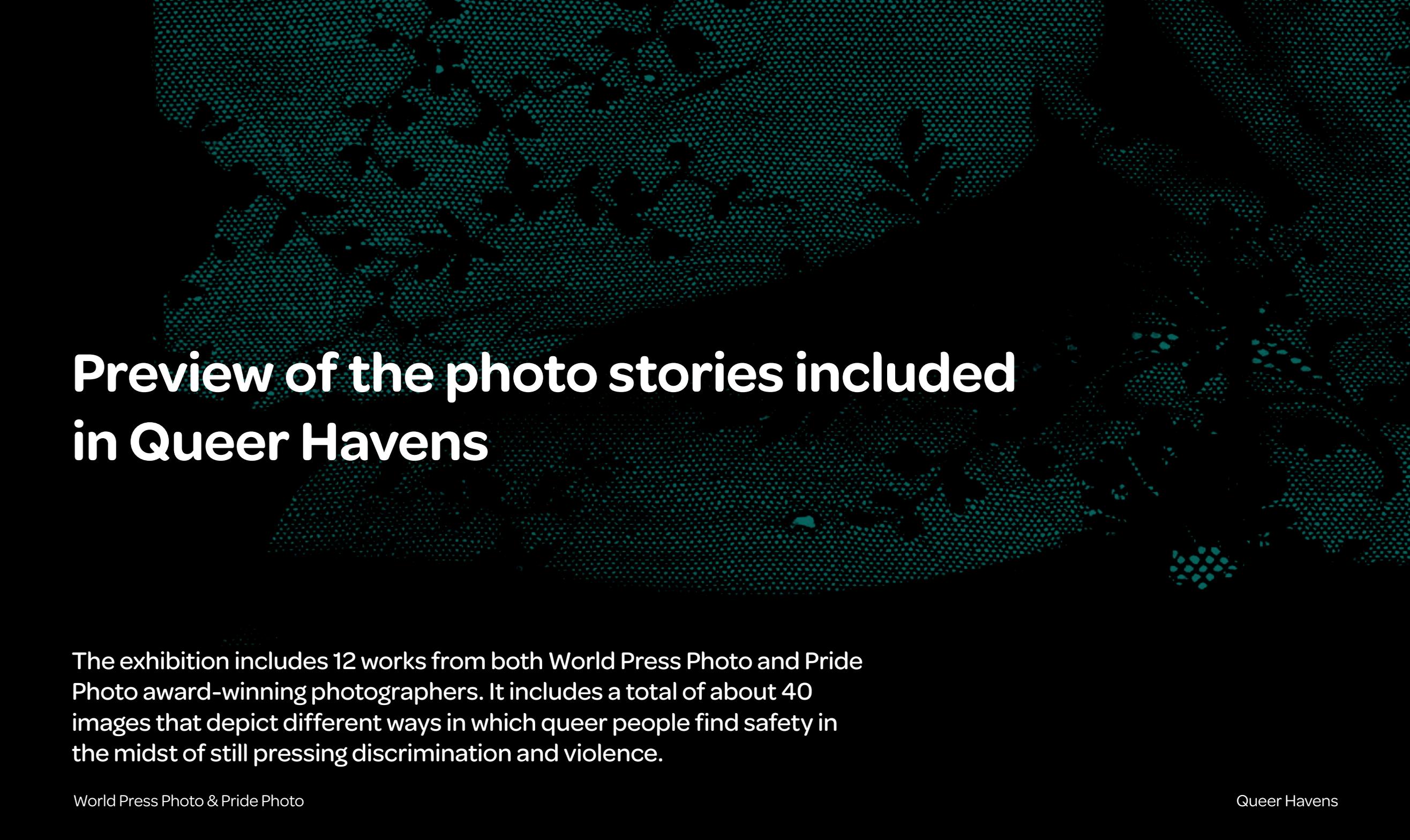
QUEER HAVENS

Stories of queer intimacy, community, and imagination

Since the 1970s, LGBTQIA+ activists and communities have strived to create spaces that protect queer people from the discrimination they frequently encounter in the world. Often referred to as “safe spaces,” these physical and emotional refuges allow queer people to exist freely, without fear of reprisal or bigotry.

What do safe spaces look like? How do we imagine a reality where all LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities can thrive? Bringing together the distinct collections of photography found within the archives of World Press Photo and Pride Photo, this exhibition offers a unique opportunity to create a nuanced representation and celebration of the infinite diversity found within and among Queer voices, visions and identities.





Preview of the photo stories included in Queer Havens

The exhibition includes 12 works from both World Press Photo and Pride Photo award-winning photographers. It includes a total of about 40 images that depict different ways in which queer people find safety in the midst of still pressing discrimination and violence.

Jon and Alex, Mads Nissen, Russia, World Press Photo Contest 2015

Jon and Alex, a gay couple, share an intimate moment at Alex's home, a small apartment in St Petersburg, Russia. Life for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people is becoming increasingly difficult in Russia. Sexual minorities face legal and social discrimination, harassment, and even violent hate-crime attacks from conservative religious and nationalistic groups.

This photograph was awarded the World Press Photo of the Year in 2015.



***The Pink Choice*, Maika Elan, Vietnam, World Press Photo Contest 2013**

The images in Maika Elan's photo story *The Pink Choice* (2013) capture moments of intimacy, love, and mutual understanding between queer couples in Vietnam. As the world is slowly moving towards equality and human rights, these images provide a glimpse into the domestic lives of LGBTQI+ people who find, in their bonds, a space of freedom, safety, and exploration.



World Press Photo & Pride Photo

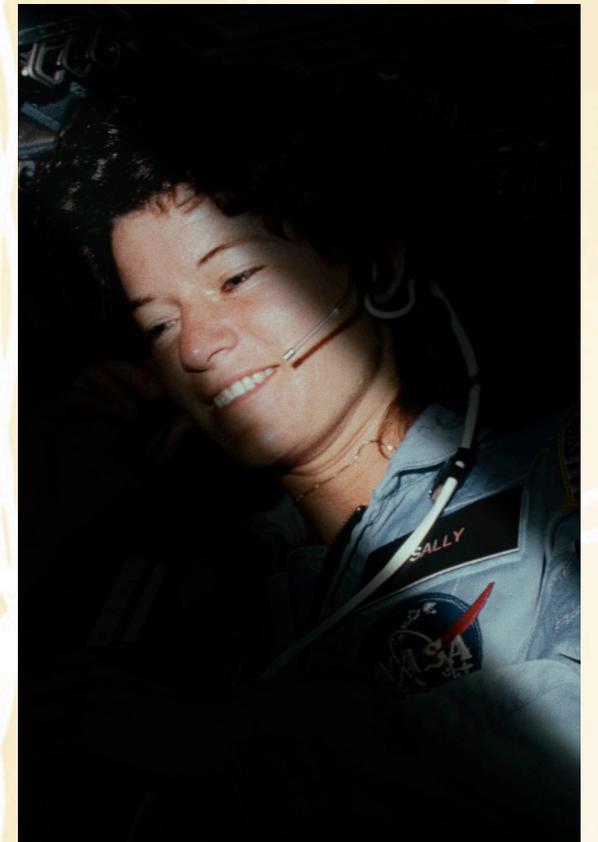


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The Gay Space Agency, Mackenzie Calle, Pride Photo Contest 2023 & WPP Contest 2024

About 600 people have been in space as astronauts to date, but none of them were openly LGBTQIA+. Since its founding in 1958, NASA has actively rejected prospective employees and astronauts based on their sexuality.

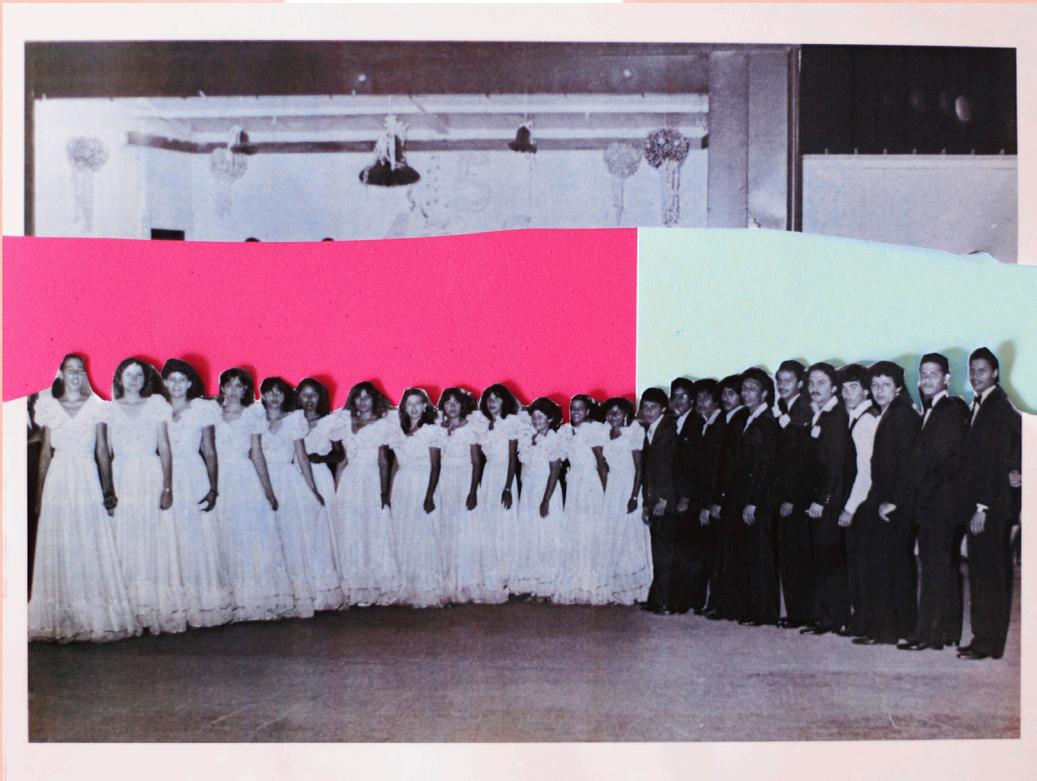
Mackenzie Calle's *The Gay Space Agency* series critiques the historical exclusion of LGBTQIA+ astronauts from the U.S. space program. Using archival footage, current space program footage, collage, and manipulated photography, the project imagines a history that celebrates LGBTQIA+ role models and questions what it means to have the "right stuff." A humorous yet critical series that raises an important question for all of us: How open and safe are our own workplaces?



Dead Family, Andrés Gregorio Pérez, Colombia, Pride Photo Contest 2023

Looking again into their personal family albums, Andrés Gregorio Pérez realized that they did not see their true selves represented in the photographs. Instead they saw a representation of the imposed expectations of their biological family. Gender-neutral parenting is still exceptional.

When Pérez discussed this with other LGBTQIA+ people, many appeared not to recognize their identity in early family photos either. 'Dead Family' is an artistic research project on the function of the family archive. These albums often portray dominant, binary, heteronormative narratives and offer little space for other identities, rendering them invisible throughout historical records.



World Press Photo & Pride Photo



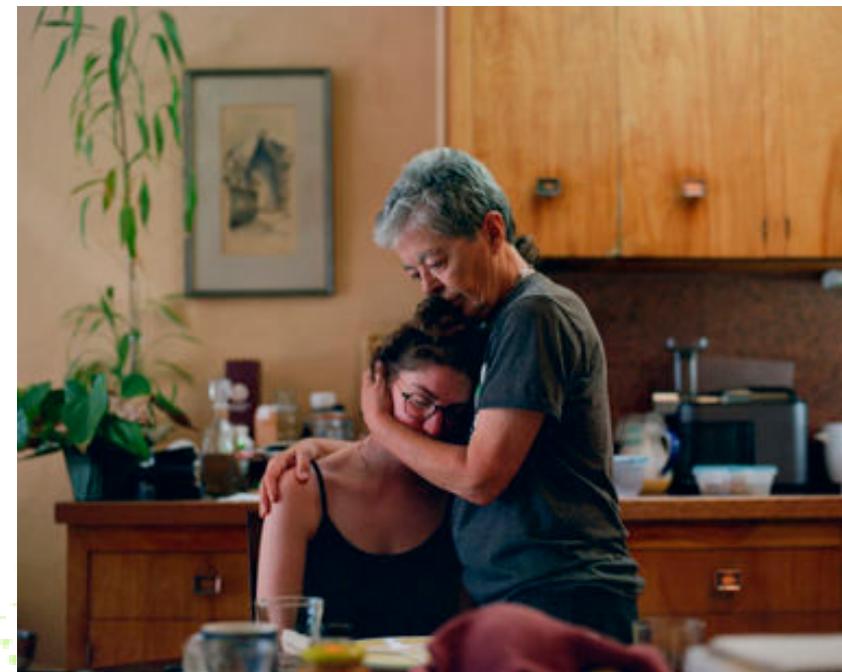
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By the time she grows up, Quetzal Maucci, USA, Pride Photo Contest 2024

Quetzal Maucci's long-term project *By the time she grows up* presents a personal exploration of her own family structure. Born in the USA, Quetzal is the daughter of two queer women who migrated from Peru and Argentina respectively. Their names are Flavia and Lucrecia – for Quetzal 'Mami y Mamú'.

In recent years, a record number of laws actively targeting LGBTQIA+ rights have been introduced across the United States. This marks a pronounced acceleration in discriminatory legislation and rhetoric in the U.S.

By the time she grows up offers a heartwarming and reaffirming representation of what family truly means, and in so doing stands as a direct action against the continuing marginalisation of LGBTQIA+ people and rights.



FATHOM, Cansu Yildiran, Turkey, Pride Photo Contest 2024

FATHOM presents a series of staged documentary photographs honouring the stories of LGBTQIA+ individuals who have lost their lives in fatal homophobic attacks. Yildiran works with individuals from the LGBTQIA+ currently living in Turkey to create these powerful images.

Yildiran draws on modes of non-normative storytelling, and through their practice creates a connection between those who have been killed, and those who survive, visually representing the struggles and very real danger that the LGBTQIA+ community continues to face. FATHOM is an exploration of queer identities, and a testament to resilience.



World Press Photo & Pride Photo



Queer Havens

Public Program

As an additional component to the exhibition, World Press Photo and Pride Photo can coordinate, if there is interest from the venue/ exhibition partner, a public program featuring talks, events, and or workshops, which could be facilitated by some of the photographers included in the exhibition.

Some of the activities that can potentially be included in the program, which would be covered by the exhibition partners, are:

- Lectures and Q&As with some of the photographers featured in the exhibition.
- Panel discussions around the question: What are safe spaces for queer people? Panelists may include queer photographers, performance artists, poets, city planners, and other creative professionals.
- Workshops for local queer photographers, facilitated by the World Press Photo representatives.
- Performances by local queer artists or LGBTQIA+ aligned groups.

What is included?

- 40 photographs, shown in panels/frame structures (depending on the space requirements)
- Interpretative content that includes labels, introductory text, and context panels in English and one additional language (upon consultation)
- Guided tour document with extra information about the stories
- Licensing fee for photographers
- Promotion kit
- Communications strategy and promotion on all our channels
- Presence of WPP curator at opening to give tours, speak to press, and/or deliver a lecture (if applicable)
- Possibility of organising a side program open to the public: workshops, interviews with photographers, Q&As (Additional costs to be covered by the exhibition partner/venue)

Make space for queer stories

Hosting *Queer Spaces* means more than just presenting an exhibition—it's a commitment to inclusivity, visibility, and belonging. By making room for LGBTQIA+ stories, your museum or exhibition space will become a place where more people feel seen, welcomed, and represented.

At a time when queer voices are being erased, this exhibition is the perfect opportunity to stand for visibility, dialogue, and belonging. The work featured in the exhibition explores the power of photography (and the institutions and spaces that show it) as a refuge—a place where LGBTQIA+ lives, struggles, and triumphs are made visible.

Beyond a photographic exhibition, this is a statement for the power of community and belonging.

Will you make space?

More information

Since 1955, the World Press Photo Foundation annual contest recognizes and celebrates the best visual journalism produced during the previous year.

Each year we showcase these winning stories in almost 100 cities in 45 countries worldwide, reaching more than four million people. In addition to the annual exhibition, WPPF has organized a number of successful traveling exhibitions on themes such as protest, migration, and resilience among women.

Thank you for considering this proposal. We look forward to the possibility of collaborating with you.

Contacts

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