

CV

Maya Økland

b. 1980 in Bergen, Norway

maya.okland@gmail.com // mokland.no

Education

2000-2005	BFA + MFA Photography, Bergen National Academy of the Arts, Norway
Spring 2004	Exchange student, Cleveland Institute of Art in Ohio, USA
Fall 2002	Exchange student, Konstfack, Stockholm, Sweden
1999-2000	Assistant to photographer Arne Persson at Varbergs Museum, Sweden
1996-1999	Media program, Almers gymnasium, Varberg, Sweden

Upcoming exhibitions/events

2026	<i>Group show with Bjørka. Curated by Stephanie von Spreter. Oslo Negativ photo festival</i>
2026	<i>Artist in Residency Oct.-Dec., NK Dale, Sogn og Fjordane</i>
2026	<i>Kunstbok Oslo, Nasjonalbiblioteket, Oslo</i>
2027	<i>Dandara, artist book</i>
2028	<i>Solo show, Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo</i>

Solo shows

2026	Refractions of Light, solo show with Wesam Almadani, Oplandia Kunstsenter, Lillehammer
2026	Refractions of Light, solo show with Wesam Almadani, Larvik Kunstforening
2023	Femidommen, performance, Femidomen, Nesodden
2022	Dandara, solo show, Tenthaus Oslo. Curated by Tatiana Lozano
2018	Stranger in Motherland, solo show, Varbergs Konsthall, Sweden
2008	I Recognize You, solo show, KJUBH Kunstverein, Cologne, Germany
2007	Stranger in Motherland, solo show, Arendal Kunstforening, Arendal, Norway

Events / festivals

2026	Worried Landscapes, book launch, Kunstbokmessen B*strad, Lillehammer
2026	Worried Landscapes, book launch, Bergen Art Book Fair
2025	Worried Landscapes, book launch, Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo
2025	Abject, group show with A Female Gaze, Oslo Negativ photo festival
2025	The Bazaar of Woven Tales, happening by artist Nasim Mashak, Oslo
2024	Act Naturally, group show with A Female Gaze, Oslo Negativ photo festival
2024	Prisms of Myopia, group show with Bjørka at Oslo Negativ. Curated by Monica Holmen
2023	Dandara, Open Out Festival, Tromsø
2023	Mother Nature on a Saturday Night, group show, Flow Photofest, Scotland
2023	SELF-ish, group show with A Female Gaze, Oslo Negativ photo festival
2022	Mother Nature on a Saturday Night, group show with A Female Gaze, Oslo Negativ photo festival
2022	Group show with the Tenthaus collective, Oslo Negativ photo festival
2020	Tenthaus market, Oslo
2018,19	Got it for cheap, Golsa Gallery, Oslo
2018	Bjørka 20 years, anniversary event, Fotogalleriet
2017	Stranger in Motherland, book launch, Podium, Oslo
2017	Stranger in Motherland, book launch, Entrée, Bergen
2017	Stranger in Motherland, book launch, Rogaland Kunstsenter, Stavanger

Selected group shows

2026	Abject, group show with A Female Gaze, Fredrikstad Kunstforening
2026	A Female Gaze x3, Trondhjems Kunstforening
2020,21,22,25	Juleutstillingen, Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo
2025	MAIL ART UTSTILLING, Fotografisk Fellesverksted, Kristiansand
2025	Prisms of Myopia, Bjørka group show curated by Monica Holmen, Gamle Munch, Oslo
2025	Act Naturally, group show with A Female Gaze, Asker kulturhus
2025	Vårsalongen, Liljevalchs Konsthall, Stockholm
2024	Østlandsutstillingen
2023	SELF-ish, group show with A Female Gaze, Hos Arne, Oslo
2023	Halländska fotohistorier, works from the collection, Halland Art Museum, Halmstad, Sweden
2023	Knipsu Fight Cage, group show curated by Hilde Jørgensen, Bergen
2021	First the Good News, works from the collection, KODE Art Museum, Bergen

2021	Intimitet og nærhet, Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo. Curated by Kari Skippervold & Kjersti Solbakken
2021	Seid, Knipsu, Bergen. Group show curated by Hilde Jørgensen
2020	Christmas show, Oppland Kunstsenter
2019	Vårutstillingen, Fotogalleriet, Oslo
2018	Supplemental Light, Gallery SiM, Reykjavik, Iceland
2018	Sailing Stormy Waters, Cabin Economy Contemporary, OCG / Stena Line
2018	Forbannelsen, Telemark Kunstsenter, Skien, Norway
2015	Utopia, Kreuzberg Pavillion, Berlin
2014	Die Schwelle, Gallery Toolbox, Berlin
2013	KNIPSU + Ytter: Terskelen (The Threshold), BOA, Oslo
2012	KNIPSU + Ytter: Parataxon, KNIPSU, Bergen
2011	Stories, in between, Gallery 3,14, Bergen. Curated by Johan Lundh and Aileen Burns
2011	Blackout, Galleria Huuto, Helsinki. Curated by Juhana Moisander & Minna Suoniemi
2010	Flaggfabrikken Presenterer, Kulturhuset Sermermiut, Ilulissat, Greenland
2008	RYKK TILBAKE TIL START, 0047, Oslo. Curated by Jan Christensen
2007	Reiseblikk, Oslo Kunstforening & Halden Kunstforening. Curated by Anne Szefer Karlsen
2006	New Nordic Photography, Hasselblad Center, Gothenburg, Sweden
2005	XXVII Hovedfagsutstillingen 2005, Vestlandske Kunstindustrimuseum, Bergen
2004	Vestlandsutstillingen
2004	Den Nordnorske Kunstutstilling (with Åse Løvgren)
2003	Høstutstillingen
2002	Galleri Fisk, student gallery at KHiB, Bergen College of Art
2002	Prøverommet, BIT Teatergarasjen, Bergen
1999	Framtidstro, Varbergs Museum, Sverige

Art collections and archives

2024	Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway
2023	Kunst på arbeidsplassen, KPA, Oslo, Norway
2020	KODE Art Museum, Bergen, Norway
2018	Halland Art Museum, Halmstad, Sweden
2017	The National Norwegian Archive for Queer History (Skeivt arkiv), Bergen, Norway
1999	Varberg Cultural Museum, Sweden

Art in public space

2026	Vestland fylkeskommune: Kvam VGS, Norheimsund, Norway. Art advisor: Arne Rygg
2024	KORO: Brann- og redningsskolen, Fjellidal, Norway. Art advisor: Monica Takvam

Published artworks

2025	Maya Økland, Worried Landscapes, photo book, Minutiøs Forlag, ISBN 978-82-694263-0-4
2025	Fast Forward – women in photography, www.fastforward.photography
2017	Maya Økland, Stranger in Motherland, photo book, Teknisk Industri, ISBN 978-82-93281-20-7
2012	A collection of scores, Palais de Tokyo workshop with Pavillon. Invited by Rakett
2011	Shaping Time – Time and the city, workshops in Bergen and Lodz
2009	Cover photo of an anthology for gender studies called "Norske Seksualiteter" (Norwegian Sexualities). Edited by Wencke Mühleisen and Åse Røthing.
2007	The Meaning of Sex, Edited by Christel Sverre and Wencke Mühleisen <i>Maya Økland and Jan Freuchen: Tableau #1-4, p. 97-104</i>
2007	Langford's Basic Photography, 8th edition, Chapter 8: <i>Organizing the picture, page 350</i>
2002	Heartbeat (a music fanzine)
2001	Historien och Framtiden i Halland, Varbergs Museum Yearbook 1999-2000 <i>Hallänningar om framtiden, porträtt och texter s. 47-66</i>

Selected published texts

2024	Interview with Marie Gurine Askeland, Fett #3
2024	Consent Manifesto, Fett #2
2022	Iberia Piranga, Kiyoshi Yamamoto artist publication
2022	Fett #1, About masculinity with Kiyoshi Yamamoto, T-Michael and Lars Korff Lofthus
2020	Fett #2, Contemporary art or crafts? Discussion on textile art
2019	Fett #4, Why did you vote for Bolsonaro? Text on my visit to Brazil in July 2019
2019	Debate on museums, Klassekampen national newspaper
2019	Fett #2, Interview with Marianne Heier and article on female monuments in public space
2019	Fett #1, Yo mama!, text on Tracey Emin's sculpture <i>The Mother</i> coming to Norway
2018	Fett #3, Something's at stake in Sápmi, text on art and activism
2014	Fett #1, Women's Year in the Art Scene, text about equality and art
2013	Fashion Week of Contemporary Art, debate about Bergen Assembly in the local newspaper BT
2013	Fett #2 (Norwegian feminist culture magazine) Presentation of artist Joanna Rytel

Editorial experience

2018-23	Photo editor, Fett
2016	Co-editor, Judith Bernstein RISING, Mousse Publishing / Kunsthall Stavanger
2013-21	Editorial board, Fett

Artist residencies

01.2025	USF Verftet, Norwegian residency, Bergen, three weeks
09.2019	Kunstnarhuset Messen, Hardanger, Norway, one month
12.2018	SiM residency, Reykjavik, one month
03.2013	Deelstaat, Extrapool, Nijmegen in Netherlands, two weeks
03.2012	Berlin Mitte with KNIPSU, OCA, one month
02.2009	Berlin Mitte, Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA), one month
04.2006	Nordic AiR, NIFCA, Konstpidemin in Gothenburg, Sweden, two months

Grants and project support

2025-26	2-year working grant for visual artists, Billedkunstnernes vederlagsfond
2016,25	Fond for lyd og bilde, Norwegian Arts Council, publishing grant
2016,20,25	Norwegian Arts Council, project support
2014,19,25	Billedkunstnernes Vederlagsfond, project support
2005,16,24	Norwegian Photography Fund (NOFOFO), publishing support
2016,19,20,22,24	Fritt Ord, project support
2023-24	2-year working grant for artist photographers, Statens Kunstnerstipend
2013,19,21,22	Billedkunstnernes vederlagsfond, 1 year working grant for artists
2017,20,21,22	Statens Kunstnerstipend, diverse stipend
2020,22	Oslo City, Project support
2021	Bergesenstiftelsen
2020	Statens Kunstnerstipend, covid work grant
2005,06,08,13,15	City of Bergen project support
2014-15	Statens kunstnerstipend, 2 year State working grant for young artist photographers
2012	City of Bergen cultural grant
2006,08,10,12	Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA)
2008,12	Culture Point North –Travel support
2007	Norwegian Arts Council –Exhibition support for young artists
2007	City of Bergen establishing grant
2006	NIFCA
2006	Ingrid Lindbäck Langaard Foundation
2002, 03	Trafo.no

Memberships

FFF, BO, NBK, BONO, Bjørka

Boards

2026-	Board leader, Bjørka
2025-	Deputy boardmember, Kunstnernes Hus
2025-	Boardmember, Oslo Pride
2024-	Nomination board, Skeiv Verden
2023-	Nomination board, VISP
2020-25	Boardmember, Stiftelsen Bjørka
2024-25	Vice boardmember, Oslo Open
2022-24	Boardmember, Kunstnernes Hus
2021-24	Boardmember, Skeiv Verden
2022-23	The National Jury, Høstutstillingen annual salon
2017-23	Board leader, Vestlandsutstillingen
2021-22	Vice boardmember, Kunstnernes Hus
2019-21	Boardmember, Fellesverkstedet
2017-19	Vice boardmember, UKS
2011-17	Board leader, KNIPSU
2013-15	Nomination comitee, BKFH
2013-14	Leader of the comitee of working grants for Interdisciplinary artists (andre kunstgrupper), Statens Kunstnerstipend (State art grant)
2012-14	Nomination board, FFF & Fotogalleriet, Oslo
2010-11	Board leader, Flaggfabrikken Center for photography and contemporary art
2007-12	Boardmember, Forbundet Frie Fotografer and Fotogalleriet, Oslo

Educational work

2021-2025	Teaching photography, exhibition theory, practice and documentation, Kragerø Kunstscole Fe/Male lenses, workshop and exhibition with Charlotte Wiig/AFG and Blikkåpnerne, Preus National Photo Museum, Horten
2020-23	Art photographer mentor for young talents, Henie Onstad Art Centre
Other work	
2024-25	Art photographer collaboration with Kiyoshi Yamamoto for MUNCH museum and Øyafestivalen
2017-23	Working Chairman for Vestlandsutstillingen (The West Land Exhibition running since 1922)
2018	Team member, Coast Contemporary
2017	Process Manager, Art Made This, street art to rural districts, Varberg municipality, Sweden
Curatorial work	
2025	BEK symposium, The Only Lasting Truth is Change, Bergen (November)
2025	Interim Director, Bergen Center for Electronic Arts (BEK), Bergen (March-December)
2023	<i>Mother's Nature</i> , Curator with Cristina Bută, group show, Sector 1 Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
2023	Jury member, Høstutstillingen
2022	Head of jury, Høstutstillingen (Annual Salon)
2022	Curator of Oslo City Queer History outdoor exhibition at Rådhusplassen
2021	<i>Benkene til Kim</i> , curating art performances with Linn Cecilie Ulvin, Kiyoshi Yamamoto, Nayara Leite and Nils Bech in collaboration with Bergen Pride Regnbuedagene, Bergen
2020-21	Art Advisor and Project Manager, public monument for Kim Friele, Bergen
2020	Curator for the KMD student MFA show at Bergen Kunsthall KODE Art Museums
2018	Curator for the group show The Only Way is Up, Varbergs Konsthall Participating artists: Vanessa Baird (NO), Irene Nordli (NO), Otto Karvonen (FI), Mekdes W. Shebeta (NO), Henrik Teleman (SE), Jorunn Myklebust Syversen (NO), Kristin Tårnes (NO)
2017	Coordinator 50% at Kunsthall Stavanger
2016	Interim Director and curator 100% at Kunsthall Stavanger Presenting among others the group show The Only Way is Up with participating artists: Vanessa Baird (NO), Irene Nordli (NO), Otto Karvonen (FI), Mekdes W. Shebeta (NO), Jorunn Myklebust Syversen (NO), Kristin Tårnes (NO), Tarald Wassvik (NO), Katy Grannan (US), Jared Theis (US), Maiju Salmenkivi (FI), Linda Karin Larsen (NO), Charlotte Thiis-Evensen (NO)
2015	Curatorial assistant 50% at Kunsthall Stavanger – kunsthallstavanger.no Bergen City mentorship program. Mentor: Karin Hindsbo, then Director of KODE
2010-15	KNIPSU Founder and co-director of artist run gallery located in Bergen. Full program: knipsu.no Participating artists and galleries: Lindsay Foster (US), Sari Palosaari (FI), Jaakko Rustanius (FI), Juhana Moisander (FI), Minna Suoniemi (FI), Heta Kuchka (FI), Aleksi Tolonen (FI), Inka Nieminen (FI), Kimmo Kumela (FI), Kasper Muttonen (FI), Maiju Salmenkivi (FI), Heidi Mortenson (DK), Ingrid Askeland (NO), Doris Frohnapfel (DE), Tupajumi Foundation (NL), Petr Bystrov (RU), Anja Ulset (NO), Antonio Jose Guzman (NL), Åsmundur Åsmundsson (IS), Pedro Gómez-Egana (NO), Andrea Csaszni Rygh (NO), Daniel Yl Andersson (SE), Jorunn Myklebust Syversen (NO), Galleria Huuto (FI), Finsk-norsk Kulturinstitutt (NO), Supermarket Art Fair (SE), Trajector Art Fair (BE), Pushkinskaya 10 (RU), Baltic tour (Klaipeda, Vilnius, Riga, Tallinn, St. Petersburg), Mona Nordaas (NO), Steingrimur Eyfjord (IS), Heidi Nikolaisen (NO), Joar Nango (NO), Monica Winther (NO), Ytter + KNIPSU (Anne Marthe Dyvi, Anngjerd Rustand, Julie Lillelien Porter, Maya Økland, Hilde Jørgensen), Marija Bozinovska Jones (MAC), Anja Carr (NO), Galleria KONE (FI), Yamile Calderon (NO), Liv Bugge (NO), Håkon Holm-Olsen (NO), Marte Gunnufsen (NO), Adriana Alves (NO), 100år! Bergen Assembly (NO), Textfukkers (NO), Extrapool (NL), Joanna Rytel (SE), Arne Skaug Olsen (NO), Gitte Sætre (NO), KHiB students (NO), Gallery FIST (NO/DE), Ane Lan (NO), Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics (DE), Prof. Dr. Winfried Menninghaus (DE), PhD. Mira Shah (DE), PhD. Christine A. Knoop (DE), Mattias Härenstam (NO), Iben Mondrup (DK), Jessie Kleemann (GL), Paula Muhr (DE), Perttu Saksä (FI), Rasmus Andreas Hungnes (NO), Kreuzberg Pavillon (DE), Pål Misje (NO), Wiam Alaridi (NO), Amanda Abi Khalil (LEB), Dona Timani (LEB), Omar Nicolas (SY/DE), Mohamad al Roumi (SY/FRA)
2015	KNIPSU + the Syrian Cultural Caravan presenting Syrian art in public space of Bergen, Norway Contributing with texts to Fett magazine. Curating Etel Adnan in Fett. Political Propaganda. Co-publisher and launch of the Russian magazine Political Propaganda. Edited by Petr Pavlensky and Oksana Shalygina.
2007	Anonymous Nationalist – Petr Pavlensky at the Museum of Contemporary Art Krakow Curated by Maya Økland, Hilde Jørgensen (KNIPSU) & Delfina Jalowik (MOCAP)
2013	100 years with womens suffrage in Norway –so why are the artists shutting up? Seminar and performance at Litteraturhuset in Bergen in collaboration with Fett. Debate participants: Wencke Mühleisen, Samir M'kadmi, Kjetil Røed, Vibeke Tandberg and moderator Grethe Melby. Performance: Suffragette Song by Ane Lan. Curated by Maya Økland

- 2013 **100år! Performance lecture by Guerrilla Girls and more.** A collaboration to celebrate *Stemmerettsjubileet* – the 100 years anniversary for womens right to vote in Norway. The collaboration was between Bergen Art Academy, Gallery 3,14, art historian Helga Nyman and KNIPSU and consisted of feminist art exhibitions, events and seminars throughout the year. Participating artists/curators/scholars/writers/institutions: Guerilla Girls (US), Afrah Nasser (YE/SE), Iben Mondrup (DK), Kjetil Røed (NO), Olga Jitlina (RU), Hilde Sofie Pedersen (NO), Susanne Christensen (DK/NO), Wiam Alaridi (SY/NO), Nezihat Bakar (TU) & Fredrik Langeland (NO), Synnøve G. Wetten (NO), Textfukkers (NO), Bergen Offentlige Bibliotek (NO), Steven Dixon (US), Helga Nyman (NO), Arne Skaug Olsen (NO), Joanna Rytel (NO), BIKS (NO), Föreningen JA! (SE), Annika Strøm (SE), Kwestan Jamal (NO), Petr Pavlensky (RU), Ekaterina Sharova (RU), Tanja Thorjussen (NO), Mor&Jerry (NO), Galleri 3,14 (NO), Karin Hindsbo (NO), Dag Solhjell (NO), Nora Nerdrum (NO), Hilde Herming (NO), Sigrun Åsebø (NO), Knut Josøk (NO), Anette Kierulf (NO)
- 2010-11 **Shaping Time** – Producer and coordinator of workshops, seminar, and publication in collaboration with the Filmschool in Lodz, Poland. Funded by EEA and Norway Grants. Participating artists from Norway: Yamile Calderon, Hector Pina-Barrios, Bjarne Bare, Katinka Goldberg, Finn-Arne Johannessen, Marthe Elise Stramrud, Alette Schei Rørvik, Kristin Tårnesvik, Siri Sætre
- 2008-10 **FLAGGFABRIKKEN PRESENTS:**
Co-curator of Fatal Nordic Attractions, One-Night Stands, and Nordic Art Express, Flaggfabrikken Presents at Landmark/Bergen Kunsthall with Hilde Jørgensen. Granted by Nordic Culture Point. Participating artists/musicians/curators/scholars: Joanna Rytel (SE), Telefon til Chefen (DK), Gadegalleriet.dk (DK), Anna-Kaisa Rastenberger (FI), Aura Seikkula (FI), Verena Winkelmann (NO), Icelandic Love Corporation (IS), Laila Hansen (GL), The Ghost (FO), Susanna Majuri (FI), Lau Nau (FI), Aurora Emilie Sandlilje (NO), Tori Wrånes (NO), Plannintorock (DE), FM Belfast (IS), Monica Winther (NO), Nils Bech (NO), Pitchtuner (DE), Heidi Mortenson (DK), Hans Abbing (NL), REKO (SE), Eivind Slette-meås (NO), Dag Solhjell (NO), Isabel Reiß (SWI), Catherine Hug (A), Goodiepal (DK), Maiju Salmenkivi (FI), Ingrid Askeland (NO), Doris Frohnapfel (DE), Georg Olsen (GL), Maya Økland (NO), Hilde Jørgensen (NO)