



SDN social
documentary
network
PUBLISHER OF ZEKE MAGAZINE

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SDN and ZEKE magazine
are projects of Reportage
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Festival website: www.socialdocumentary.net/cms/documentary-that-matters-2024

Festival media kit with images: <https://socialdocumentary.net/cms/festival-media-kit>

Social Documentary Network Announces Visual Storytelling Festival

A Three-Month Celebration of Documentary Photography

Free events, exhibitions, workshops, portfolio reviews

Speakers series on generative AI, reproductive rights, climate change, Ukraine and Gaza

Boston, Cambridge, Brooklyn, NYC and Online

March 19-June 16, 2024

Social Documentary Network (SDN), a nonprofit organization based in Concord, Mass. dedicated to visual storytelling on global themes, announces the first visual storytelling festival "Documentary Matters," a four-month virtual and in-person celebration of documentary photography happening March 19-June 15. Join more than 60 leading photographers, editors, publishers, curators and more for portfolio reviews, workshops, speaker series, gallery exhibitions, and more with in-person events all Spring in Cambridge and Boston, Mass. and Brooklyn and New York City and online

"We're celebrating Spring with our first documentary photography festival that will offer outstanding programs for anyone interested in photography or global issues," said Glenn Ruga, founder and Executive Director. "We'll be celebrating the documentary form by presenting leading photographers, editors and curators who will address the important role that photography plays in documenting some of the most critical issues of our times. There will be something here for anyone who appreciates the value of image-making and storytelling."

Festival speakers will address timely issues such as the impact of generational AI and the future of visual storytelling, photographing the struggle for reproductive rights, climate change, the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza and how women are changing the face of documentary.

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Festival Highlights

[See complete festival schedule and details here.](#)

SDN Virtual Portfolio Reviews

Saturday, April 20

[Complete information on Portfolio Reviews](#)

More than 30 leading photo editors, publishers, curators, and photographers will review portfolios, offer constructive criticism, and consider work for publication or exhibition.

Festival Workshop Series

[Complete information on Festival Workshop Series](#)

Six in-person and virtual workshop by leading practitioners in documentary theory and practice.

Ed Kashi: *Telling a Story: Learn the visual language of the photo essay.* March 23 & May 4 (In-person. Magnum Foundation, New York)

Michelle Bogre: *Photography as Activism: An Historical Overview.* 8 week class starts March 27 (virtual)

Amber Bracken: *Photographers Tool Kit.* Eight-week class starts March 28 (virtual)

Lauren Owens Lambert: *In the Field: Conservation Photography and Visual Storytelling.* Three sessions, starts April 18. (In-person, Plymouth, Mass.)

Lou Jones: *Street Photography in East Boston.* April 27 & May 4 (In-person)

Michelle Bogre: *One-day Copyright Workshop.* April 21 (virtual)

Festival Speaker Series

[Complete information on Festival Speaker Series](#)

Join us for seven free virtual and in-person panel discussions and artist's talks.

Festival Kickoff. Online discussion with Ed Kashi and Adriana Zehbrauskas. Moderated by Dudley Brooks. Tuesday, March 19, 7:30 pm ET (virtual)

Photography the Struggle for Reproductive Rights. With Robin Fader, Edward Boches, and Evelyn Hockstein. Thursday, March 28, 1:30 pm ET (virtual)

Generative AI and the Future of Visual Storytelling. With Michael Christopher Brown, Stephen Hart, Lauren Walsh. Moderated by Fred Ritchin. Tuesday, April 2, 7:30, (virtual)

Artist Presentation at Leica Gallery Boston. Venezuelan photographer Oscar B. Castillo. Thursday, April 11. 5:30pm Doors open. 6:00 Artist Presentation. 7:15pm Reception (In-person) (free)

Shattered Realities: Narratives of Culture and the Climate Crisis. With Jamey Stillings, Katie Orlinsky, and Eli Reed. Moderated by Antonia Juhasz. Wednesday, April 17, 1:30 pm ET (virtual)

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Images of Conflict: Ukraine and Gaza. Date and speakers TBD (virtual)

Women Changing the Face of Documentary Photography. Aida Muluneh, Smita Sharma, Leah DeVun. Moderated by J. Sybylla Smith. May 2, 12:00 pm ET. (virtual)

Free Exhibitions of [2024 ZEKE Award recipients](#)

Bridge Gallery, April 13–May 25.

Opening reception, April 13.

5 Pemberton Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Photoville, June 1–16

Opening day: Saturday, June 1

Brooklyn Bridge Park, Dumbo, Brooklyn, New York

Social Documentary Network

Social Documentary Network (SDN), founded in 2008, is a global community of documentary photographers, editors, curators, NGOs, students, journalists and others who believe in the power of visual storytelling to build understanding and appreciation for the complexities, nuances, wonders, and contradictions that abound in the world today.

Since our founding, the SDN website has featured more than 4,000 exhibits by nearly 3,500 photographers from all corners of the globe. We also create gallery exhibitions, educational programs, lecture series, award programs, portfolio reviews, and our flagship print and digital magazine founded in 2015, ZEKE: The Magazine of Global Documentary.

In 2020, SDN founded a parent nonprofit organization, Reportage International, which is now the umbrella organization set up to support the programs of both SDN and ZEKE. SDN is headquartered in Concord, Massachusetts

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