

BIO, ARTIST STATEMENT

Inna Etuvgi is a self-taught art photographer with Aphantasia, based in Sweden. Specialising in the macro photography of northern nature, Etuvgi's work reveals the intricate beauty of mosses, lichens, and other often-overlooked elements of the natural world.

Born in 1982 in a small village on the shores of the Arctic Ocean in Chukotka, Russia, Etuvgi's early life in the remote Arctic instilled in her a deep respect for nature's fragile balance. This upbringing would later become a key influence in her artistic practice.

In 2005, she graduated with honours from the Faculty of Technical Cybernetics at St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, earning a master's degree. Although her background is in technology, Etuvgi's technical knowledge has been instrumental in her self-education in photography and digital art, allowing her to merge technical precision with artistic expression.

After moving to Sweden in 2018, Etuvgi was inspired by the local landscapes, leading her to explore macro photography in 2020. Her work has become a way to not only express her feelings but also explore and connect with the world around her, reflecting both her sensitivity to nature and her fascination with the unseen.

In 2022, Etuvgi was a finalist in the prestigious Arte Laguna Prize 16 for her macro photographs of *Cladonia Stellaris* lichens. In 2023, she was awarded a grant from the Swedish Arts Grants Committee, further recognizing her contribution to the field of art photography.

Artist Statement – Inna Etuvgi

My work is a response to the delicate balance of life that I learned to respect growing up in the Arctic, where survival depends on the smallest signs of nature. Through macro photography, I magnify the hidden beauty of mosses, lichens, and dewdrops—overlooked organisms that play an essential role in maintaining ecosystems—challenging the human-centred worldview.

With Aphantasia, my inability to visualise images internally, nature becomes my external mirror, reflecting my inner landscapes, coloured with emotions and sensations. This intimate dialogue with nature drives my creative process. By incorporating AI and generative digital art, I extend this exploration, blending the organic with the technological, to examine how humans fit into both natural and social systems.

Ultimately, my art serves as a reminder of the fragile interconnectedness of all life. As we push forward into an increasingly technology-driven future, my work encourages viewers to pause, reconsider their place in the world, and embrace a more mindful and compassionate relationship with nature.

CV:

Solo Exhibition:

2023 - Macro photography as another way to see the world - Persgården Galleri - Visingsö, Sweden (8 April - 25 May)

Group Exhibitions:

2024 - THE LAND OF SILENCE - Musa Pavilion - 60th Biennale di Venezia - Venice, Italy

2024 - UNTOUCHABLE - ADmore Gallery and Studio Lo Verso, Venice, Italy

2024 - BOOMER ART PRIZE / The Dark Side - 2nd Edition - Boomer Gallery - London, UK

2024 - WOMAN'S ESSENCE Show 2024 - Valid World Hall - Barcelona, Spain

2024 - THE NEW ARTIST-6th Edition - Boomer Gallery - London, UK

2023 - ARTE LAGUNA PRIZE - Arsenale of Venice, Italy

2023 - PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE VISUAL CULTURE - Centro Internazionale di Fotografia, Palermo, Italy

2022 - Visingsö konstrunda - Visingsö, Sweden

2021 - SMERALDO - S.Eufemia Art Gallery - Venice, Italy

2021 - Visingsö konstrunda - Visingsö, Sweden

Honors, awards and grants:

2024 - Finalist artist at the BOOMER ART PRIZE 2nd Edition

2023 - Stipendi grant from the Swedish Arts Grants Committee

2022 - Finalist artist at the ARTE LAGUNA PRIZE 16

2020 - Arte Laguna Prize 15 - became an artist in the spotlight

2020 - Top 12 best photographers at the thematic contest «Art photography 2020» by 35AWARDS

2020 - Top 8 of best photos and Top 9 of best photographers at the thematic contest «Abstract shot by phone 2020» by 35AWARDS

Articles and publications:

2024 - JÖNKÖPING POSTEN - "Inna kan inte se när hon blundar" - 11 January 2024

2023 - JÖNKÖPING POSTEN - "Lavar blir till Aliens i Innas makrolins" - 22 Augusti 2023

2023 - PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE VISUAL CULTURE 22/23 - a book by SerradifalcoEditore

2021 - NEW YORK STYLE GUIDE - article "Discover Sant' Eufemia gallery and the Emerald Exhibition"

2021 - MARIKA MAGAZINE NATURE & TRAVELS (Issue 791 - April), Kavyar

2020 - MARIKA MAGAZINE NATURE & TRAVELS (Issue 468 - December - cover), Kavyar

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