

CITY HALL LAWN PROPOSAL

1 – 30 JUNE 2026



**BELFAST
PHOTO FESTIVAL**



| BELFAST PHOTO FESTIVAL

Belfast Photo Festival is the largest annual photography festival in the UK and Ireland. Spanning over 30 venues, it presents cutting-edge contemporary photography from local, national, and international artists. The festival not only showcases exceptional work but also creates wide audience engagement, social impact and development opportunities for photographic artists. It contributes to the wider visual arts sector and Belfast's living culture.

Belfast Photo Festival is a charitable organisation that for over 15 years, has fostered commissions, entrepreneurial initiatives, and global arts leadership. We take pride in our adaptability, innovation, and resilience, allowing us to continuously engage with national and international audiences, positively impacting communities and society.

Belfast Photo Festival demonstrates strong financial stability, governance, and impact evaluation, reflected in a diverse portfolio of funders and income sources that include core support, project grants, earned revenue, and in-kind contributions.

Through photography, arguably the most accessible and popular art forms, we are determined to make a lasting, positive social and environmental impact through engaging both seasoned art enthusiasts and new audiences alike.

| 2025 FESTIVAL STATISTICS

Number of days: **25**

Number of artists shown: **100+**

Number of exhibitions: **35**

Number of Events, Talks and Tours: **31**

Number of visitors: **400,000+**



CORE FUNDER AND HOST OF ARTWORK BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

“Belfast City Council is proud to support the Belfast Photo Festival. Opening up access to creativity and encouraging people to consider current environmental issues. I congratulate the team on curating such a thought-provoking programme and seeing people of all ages and backgrounds enjoy the exhibitions.”

- Belfast Lord Mayor, Councillor Micky Murray.



Belfast
City Council



CORE FUNDER ARTS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND

“For 15 years Belfast Photo Festival has enriched cultural life within the city, showcasing incredible works of art in memorable and often unexpected places . The festival celebrates some of the very best of our local, contemporary artists, as well as the opportunity to view work from acclaimed international photographers. The Arts Council is delighted to support Belfast Photo Festival, thanks to funding from The National Lottery, and would encourage everyone to go along and enjoy the festival programme this June.”

- Joanna Johnston, visual arts and collections officer, Arts Council of Northern Ireland



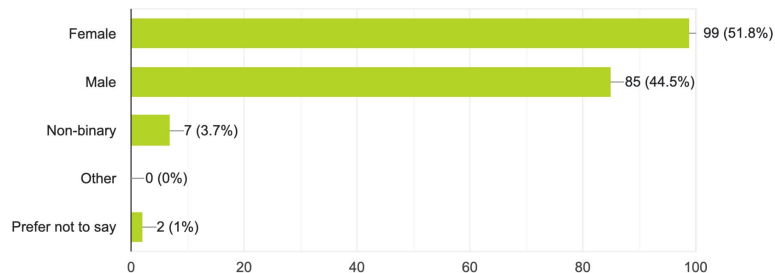
FESTIVAL AUDIENCE STATISTICS

I'm just out of school and want to learn more about the art scene
and got a lot of information about the art opportunities in Belfast.

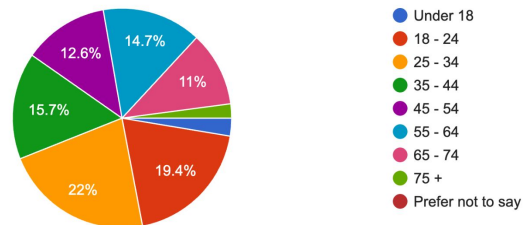
- Festival Attendee



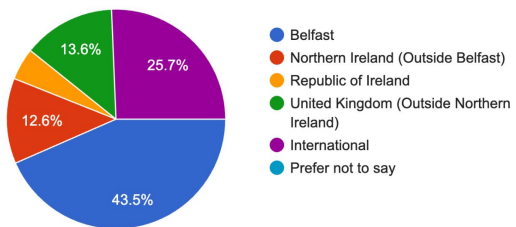
Gender



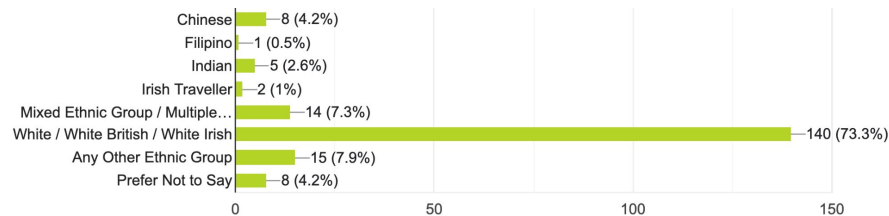
Age



Location



Ethnicity



PREVIOUS OUTDOOR EXHIBITIONS



Since 2013, Belfast Photo Festival has been producing exhibitions and art works for outdoor display across the city, including the City Hall and Botanic Gardens.





2026 FESTIVAL THEME: HORIZON

The Festival theme, Horizons, invites artists and audiences to consider what lies beyond our present environmental, social, economic, technological and geopolitical boundaries. In doing so, it harnesses photography's long history as a means of bearing witness to the world's vastness, and positions the medium as a catalyst for reflection and collective action.

For many, horizons represent the unknown, the uncharted territories awaiting exploration and experience. Beyond that boundary lie untold stories, adventures yet to be undertaken and dreams and potential waiting to be realised.

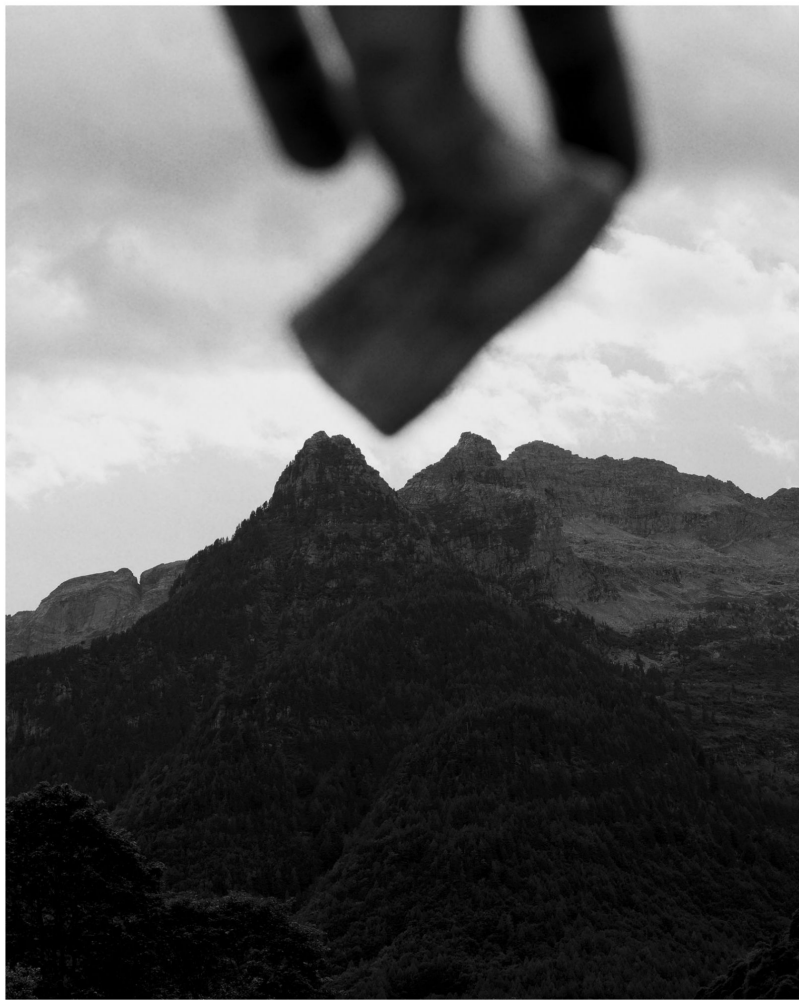


PROPOSED ARTWORKS FOR CITY HALL

Sabine Hess: one bed, two blankets, seventy-six rules

“one bed, two blankets, seventy-six rules” is the first collaboration between the artist couple Sabine Hess and Nicolas Polli. Living before in a long distance relationship, the project documents their trial of living together for the first time. In a humorous and experimental way, the two artists play with norms and ideas surrounding their perception of a “relationship”, giving themselves the freedom to create an intimate body of work. Embedded in the surrounding of the place where they initially met, they confront both the human and creative aspects of living together as a couple. The viewer is invited to enter their new home: A place that, similarly to their relationship, is still in transformation and adaption. A selection of texts are part of the work - they are findings by the artists that reflect on the challenges they experienced during this time. A set of rules of how to navigate a life as a couple but also a personal manifesto of how to grow together. The book was published in 2023 and is available on Ciao Press.





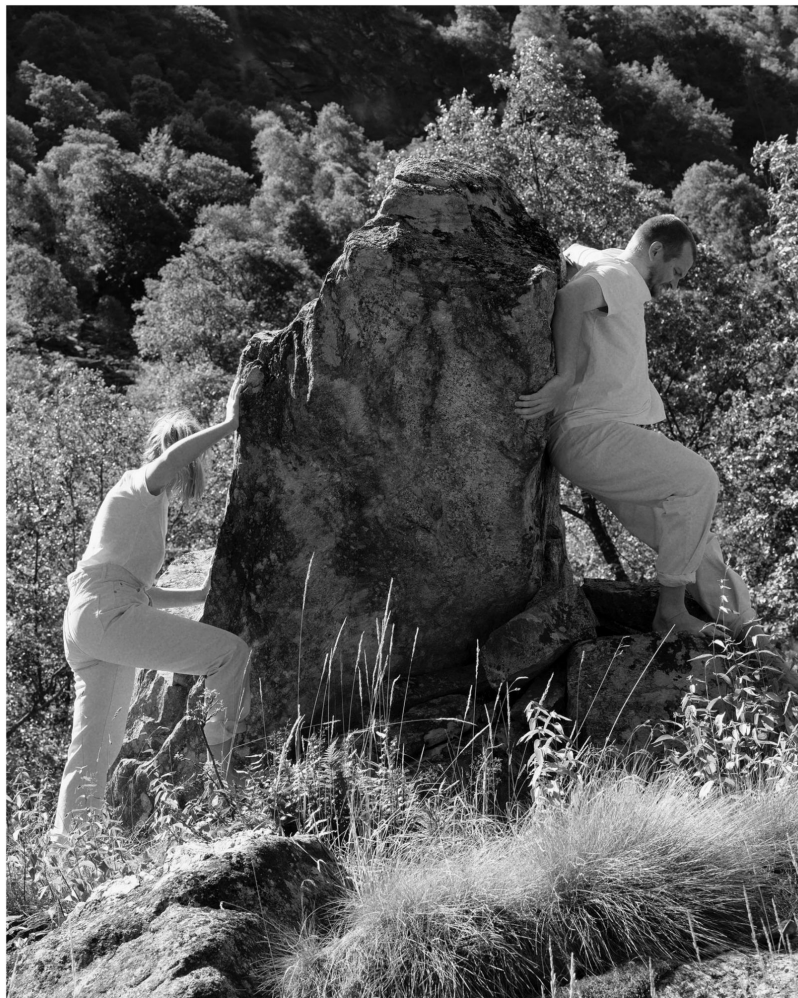


**Work together,
not against each other**

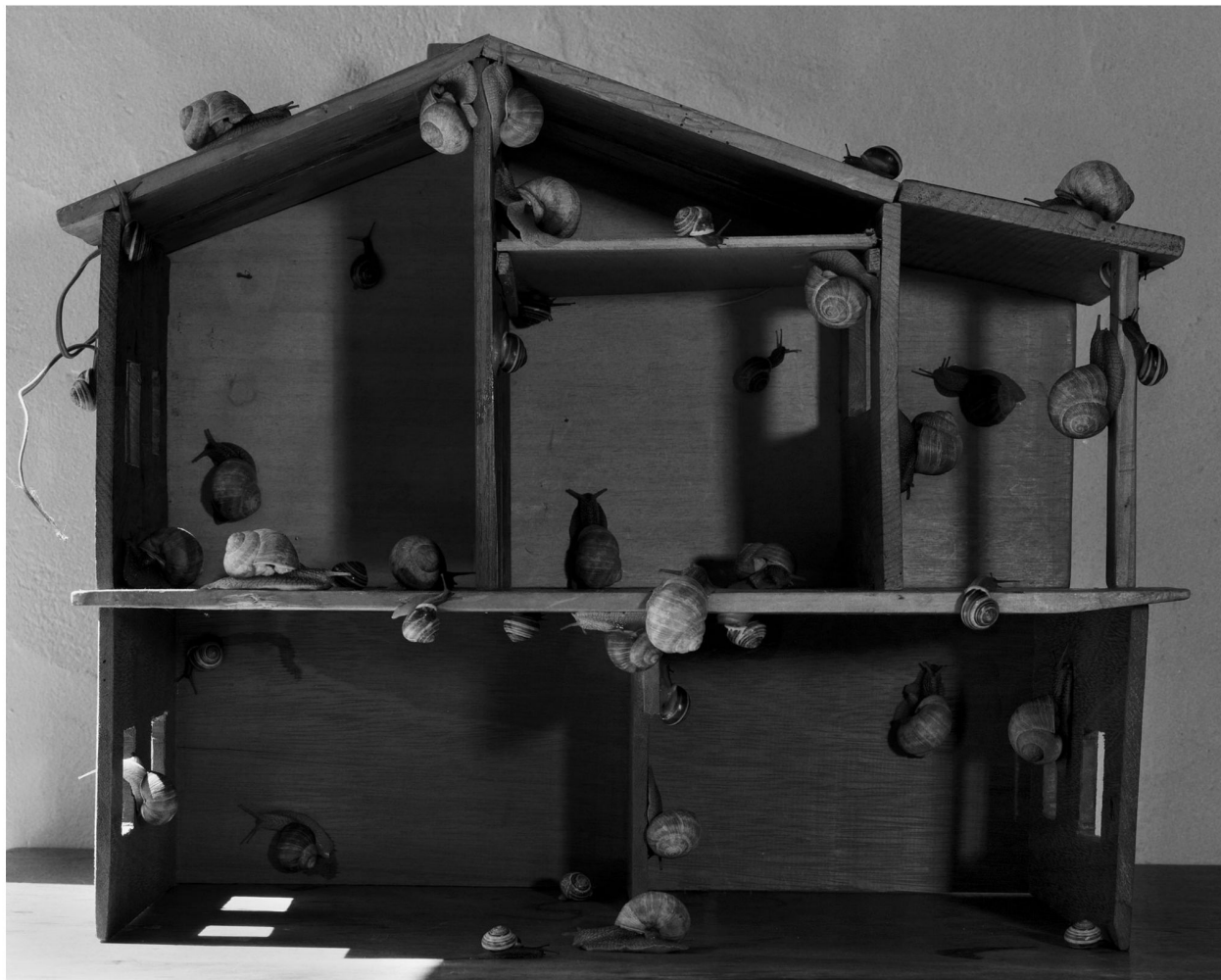








Grow hobbies together



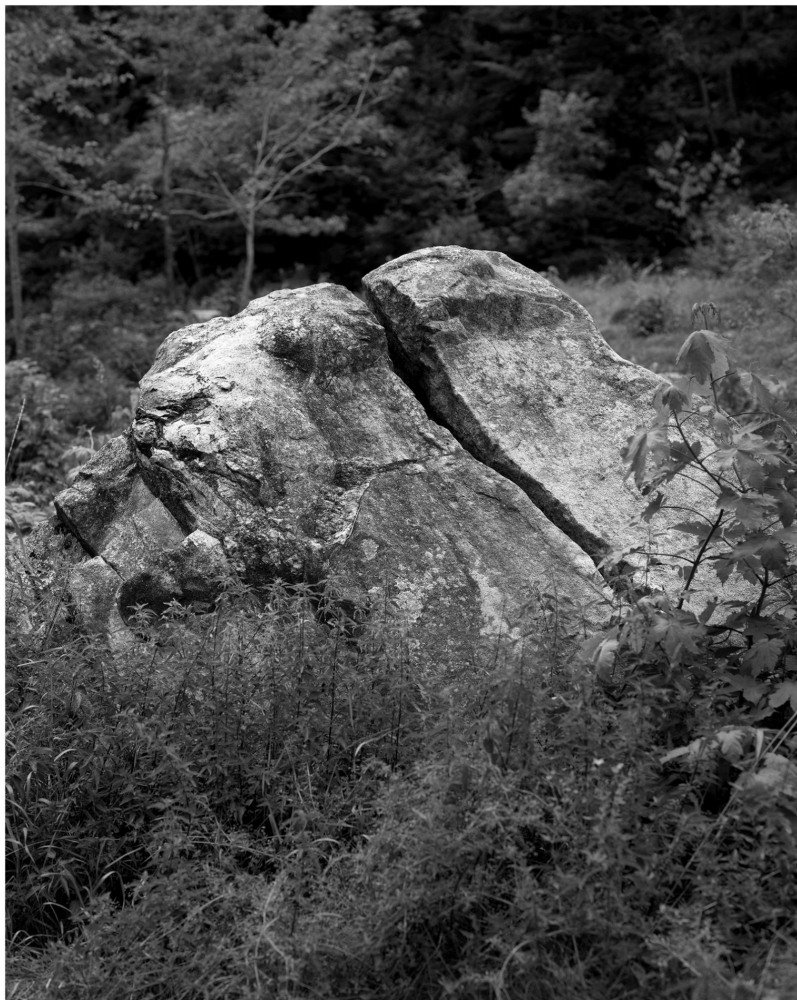




**Do not start a serious discussion
before the first coffee of the day**



**Do not hide your feelings,
your partner will sense them
anyway**





OUTDOOR EXHIBITION INSTALLATION



C-Bond Triangular Displays

Artworks: 6 structures, Size: 1500mm x 2100mm. (Three images per display unit)

Displayed as presented in these photographic examples from June 2025



PROPOSED EXHIBITION LAYOUT

