

LIA PAPOUIS

Documentary Photographer | Visual Artist

LOCATION: Birmingham, UK | **EMAIL:** lia_papouis@hotmail.com | **WEBSITE:** <https://liapapouis.com>

ARTIST STATEMENT

Queer documentary photographer based in Birmingham, specialising in visual storytelling that challenges norms and celebrates identity. MA in Documentary Photography (University of South Wales), with work exhibited across the UK and Europe. Themes focus on intimacy, gender, identity, and performativity, using photography as activism to amplify marginalised voices, particularly within the queer community.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Reflections: Queer Lives in Greece (2025-present)

Documents LGBTQ+ rights progress and social challenges in Greece amidst rising European anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment, highlighting legal reforms and cultural resistance.

Queer Femininity (2024-present)

Explores femininity as a fluid, self-defined identity shaped by queerness and resistance, challenging patriarchal and heteronormative norms.

Urban Drag (2023)

Conceptual series animating urban decay through elements like graffiti and nature, metaphorically linking city life and drag performance.

Chrysa and Nefeli (2017-2018)

Portraits examining a Greek single-parent family dynamic, inspired by the myth of Demeter and Persephone, addressing cultural expectations and family bonds.

Postcards from Cyprus (2016-present)

Explores Cyprus' division via Nicosia's Green Line, revealing histories of conflict, displacement, and hope through intimate street and architectural photography.

EXHIBITIONS, FEATURES & AWARDS

- **2026:** *Shutter hub Open*, University of Cambridge; *Behind the Lens, Beyond the Sport (women in sports)*, Hampshire, UK
- **2025:** Featured in *Dirty Dyke Magazine*; *Birmingham Open* (Theme: Light); Commissioned to photograph *women in sports* by Ignite Your Power CIC
- **2024:** *Birmingham Creates: The Open*
- **2024:** Featured in *Midlands Rainbow*
- **2023:** *Loud and Queer Arts Festival*, Worcester, UK
- **2018:** *Hiraeth* (MA Graduate Exhibition) London UK; *A Tension Span* Cardiff, UK; Featured in *Source Magazine*
- **2017:** Prize winner, *Uncover Nicosia* (Nicosia Tourism Board); Youth Board of Cyprus Grant
- **2016:** *Bi-communal: Focusing on the Future*, Cyprus; Featured in *City Free Press*, Cyprus

EDUCATION

- **MA Documentary Photography** – University of South Wales, Cardiff (2017–2018) | Merit
- **BA Communication, Media and Culture** – Panteion University, Athens (2009–2014) | 2:1

SKILLS & EQUIPMENT

- **Cameras:** Sony A7R & A7R III (Full Frame)
- **Lenses:** 35mm, 70mm Sony
- **Lighting:** Nissin i60A Flash
- **Software:** Lightroom & Photoshop (Advanced)
- **Printing:** Advanced printing techniques

Soft Skills: Respectful engagement with subjects, creating comfortable environments, strong communication

LANGUAGES

- Greek (Native)
- English (Proficient)
- Spanish (Advanced)