



The Eye Inside *Your Mind* :

An Authentic Authorship Workshop

with Arno Rafael Minkkinen
& Veronica Mecchia

from June 15 to June 19, 2026

Photography Workshops

Registration #11 75 50839 75
to the Prefect of Île-de-France

Contact

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VU' éducation

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Any photographer can make a great picture. But building a body of work that is both coherent and constantly evolving is an entirely different pursuit. This is precisely what this workshop sets out to explore, through the method and vision of Arno Rafael Minkkinen, one of the most singular voices in contemporary photography.

Through his renowned Helsinki Bus Station Theory, Minkkinen invites us to resist the urge to change direction at the first sign of doubt, and instead, to stay on the bus. Because it is only by committing to a path that we eventually find our own.

Alternating between theory and hands-on experimentation, this workshop unfolds through lectures, discussions, and shooting sessions across the manor and its surrounding grounds. Participants will be encouraged to engage deeply with their own visual language while exploring questions of continuity, intuition, and artistic persistence.

A masterclass about the art of turning your influences into your own voice.

FR / Une interprète, Veronica Mecchia, sera sur place si besoin de traduction.

Participant Profile	Intermediate to advanced photographers with an existing personal practice and a desire to develop a more coherent and distinctive body of work – Open to artists working in any photographic genre.
Prerequisites	Participants must have a solid command of their camera and a basic understanding of photographic composition.
Learning Objectives	Identify and articulate the core vision behind their personal work – Apply the Helsinki Bus Station Theory to build long-term creative consistency – Use compositional tools (decisive place, decisive distance, disruptive element) with intention – Develop a coherent body of work that is both recognizable and evolving
Assessment Methods	Daily individual and group critiques. Each participant presents their work-in-progress at the end of the workshop for a final review with Arno Rafael Minkkinen.
Workshop Team	Lead instructor : Arno Rafael Minkkinen, Workshop assistant : Veronica Mecchia Logistics and coordination : VU team
Number of Participants	10 maximum
Teaching Materials	Printed syllabus and course notes. Selected readings and reference images provided by Arno Rafael Minkkinen.

Dates & Duration	5 days · 35h From June 15 to June 19, 2026
Schedule	Daily sessions from 9:30am to 7:30pm
Registration Deadline	June 12, 2026. <i>Given the limited number of places, early registration is strongly encouraged.</i>
What to Bring	A camera - A laptop for image editing and selection - A portfolio or existing series in progress - A portable hard drive or sufficient storage - Appropriate outdoor clothing
Spaces & Facilities	The workshop takes place at private manor estate near Deauville. Indoor spaces are available for critiques, presentations, and editing sessions. Outdoor locations on and around the property will be used for shooting exercises.
Location	Deauville area, Normandy, France. Exact address provided upon registration.
Pricing	€ 3200 excl. VAT Accommodation and meals included.
Accessibility	We do our absolute best to accommodate people with disabilities. Please contact us to discuss any possible adjustments or adaptations.

DAY 1 - MONDAY, JUNE 15

1:00pm	Arrival & welcome lunch
Afternoon Until 6:00pm	Introduction to the workshop by ARM Participant presentations - each presents 10 photographs

DAY 2 - TUESDAY, JUNE 16

9:30am	Lecture by ARM: The Helsinki Bus Station Presentation by Veronica Mecchia of her work
12:30pm	Lunch
Afternoon Until 7:30pm	Short lecture by ARM: Extending your photographic vocabulary First shooting session

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

9:30am	Group review of previous afternoon's work Lecture by ARM: The Power of Three & Make it Different / Keep it the Same
1:00pm	Lunch
Afternoon Until 7:30pm	Second shooting session 30-min individual meetings with ARM focused on building a personal pathway using the Power of Three

DAY 4 - THURSDAY, JUNE 18

9:30am	<p>Stop & Shoot collective excursion In search of continuity. A collective outing based on serendipity and good fortune.</p>
1:30pm	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>Afternoon Until 7:30pm</p>	<p>Each participant presents their Power of Three contenders for group critique.</p> <p>Late afternoon lecture by ARM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Creating a Vacuum · From Motivation to Innovation · Reaching Audiences You Never Meet
Evening	<p>Wrap Party Celebration & closing dinner</p>

DAY 5 - FRIDAY, JUNE 19

9:30am	<p>Last shooting sessions to complete and finalise Power of Three selections Final review of everyone's work</p>
1:30pm	<p>Last lunch & departure</p>



Arno Rafael
MINKKINEN

Finnish-American photographer Arno Rafael Minkkinen, born in 1945, has presented his work in over 100 solo exhibitions and 200 group exhibitions across the world.

As early as 1969, long before the self-portrait became an established genre, he embarked on a singular pursuit that he has sustained for more than five decades: unretouched nude self-portraits in dialogue with nature and urban landscapes, made across 30 countries and 30 American states.

Emeritus Professor of Art at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, he teaches and leads workshops on several continents. His work is held in over 75 major institutional collections worldwide, including MoMA in New York, the Centre Pompidou and the Musée d'art moderne de Paris, and is represented by nine galleries around the world.

The recipient of numerous distinctions, among them the Grand Prix du Livre at the Rencontres d'Arles, the Lucie Award, the Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Prix de Photographie de l'Académie des Beaux-Arts – William Klein in 2025 – his work is further documented through eight monographs, including *Waterline* (Aperture, 1994) and *Minkkinen* (Kehrer Verlag, 2019), which was awarded the German Photo Book Gold Award.