

Juraj Figura

Just trying to survive

Being formerly a film student at film high school, I have always wanted to tell the stories. I was studying how to use the film language and pictures, and discovering different visual forms. If you want to tell the story by a film, you need a crew, loads of equipment, and you spend endless time in the editing room. All in all, I wasn't really enjoying the whole group process of making a video.

But I remember the moment, when I came across the work of street photographers like Joel Mayerowitz and Garry Winogrand. From that moment on, I was sure, I wanted to become a photographer. Their view on passing strangers and tiny details on the street, which regular person usually cannot see, was and until this day is still really fascinating to me. In filmmaking you need to stick to certain rules and steps, but photography gives you an absolute freedom. It gives you a different perspective on the outside world. Constantly looking for bizarreness, gestures or some kind of links between things are the reasons, why I find photography to be the right medium for me.

Even though I'm working with both film and digital photography in several formats these days, analog photography was always my first choice. There is something really special about shooting film. Feeling the shutter clicks, winding the film, metering the light. Especially, working with heavy, medium format camera and tripod, the process becomes slow and enjoyable. It may sound strange, but it's relaxing, nearly meditative feeling. I am not saying, that photography is easier to do, but I simply enjoy it more than anything else.

I consider my photographs to be very subjective. From my early journals called 'Just trying to survive', which is about the fictional relationship, through documentary and street photographs to the newest series 'Unportrait', I'm trying to offer viewers a chance to read photographs on their own, even if my own interpretation of a story may be different.

After a few years of taking pictures as a young author, I started to be really depressed that I still didn't find my own visual language. I did not find it until this day, but I know that it's an inevitable process, that we all have to go through.

Juraj Figura
(*1991, Košice, Slovakia)

Education:

2011 - 2014 - Private Film High School, Košice
2014 - present - University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Mass Media Communication, Trnava

Group Exhibitions:

2016 Spiš Homeland - Gallery of Ľudovít Hlaváč, FMK UCM, Trnava
2016 Seen and Heard - Gallery of Ľudovít Hlaváč, FMK UCM, Trnava
2016 Just trying to survive - Tabačka, Košice
2015 Architecture of the human body - Theater of Ján Palárik, Trnava
2015 Patrónka - Gallery of Ľudovít Hlaváč, FMK UCM, Trnava
2015 Terra Gothica - Gallery of Ľudovít Hlaváč, FMK UCM, Trnava

Presentations:

2016 Unportrait - The Spiš Artists Gallery, Spišská Nová Ves
2015 Gypsies - The Spiš Artists Gallery, Spišská Nová Ves

Workshops:

2015, 2016 - Spišská Nová Ves
2015, 2016 - Brehov & Rad
2016 - Nižné Ružbachy

Publications:

2016 MAGÁL, S. and col.: MUUZA 2016, Yearbook of creative outputs of students, graduates and teachers of Faculty of Mass Media Communication, University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava. Trnava: FMK UCM, 2016. 174 pg. ISBN 978-80-8105-785-4
2016 SEDLÁK, J.: Archeology of time. Bratislava: Lúč, 2016. 296 pg. ISBN 978-80-8949-522-1

Published in:

VICE, Inspire_magazine, Crook Magazine, RedBull etc.

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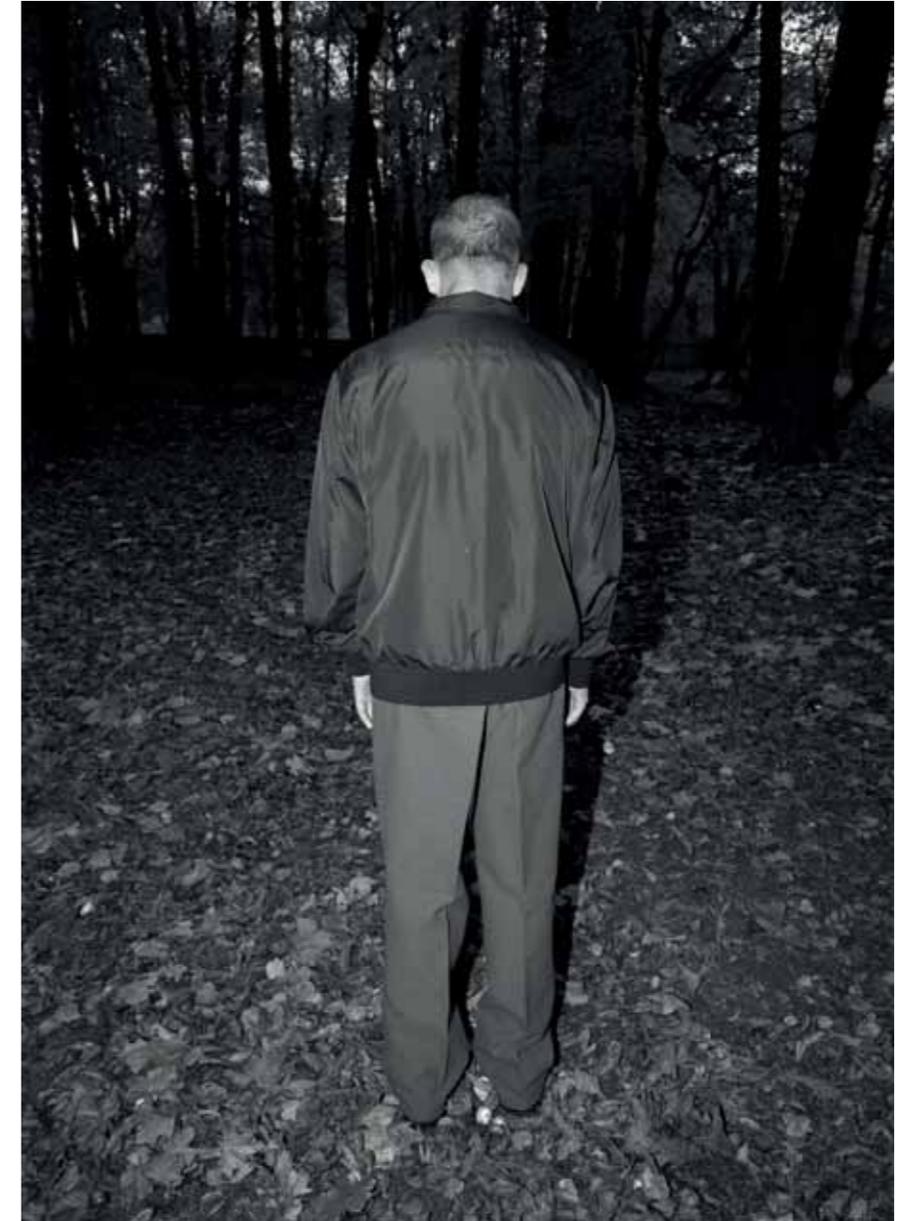
durifigura@icloud.com

Just trying to survive (2013 - 2015)

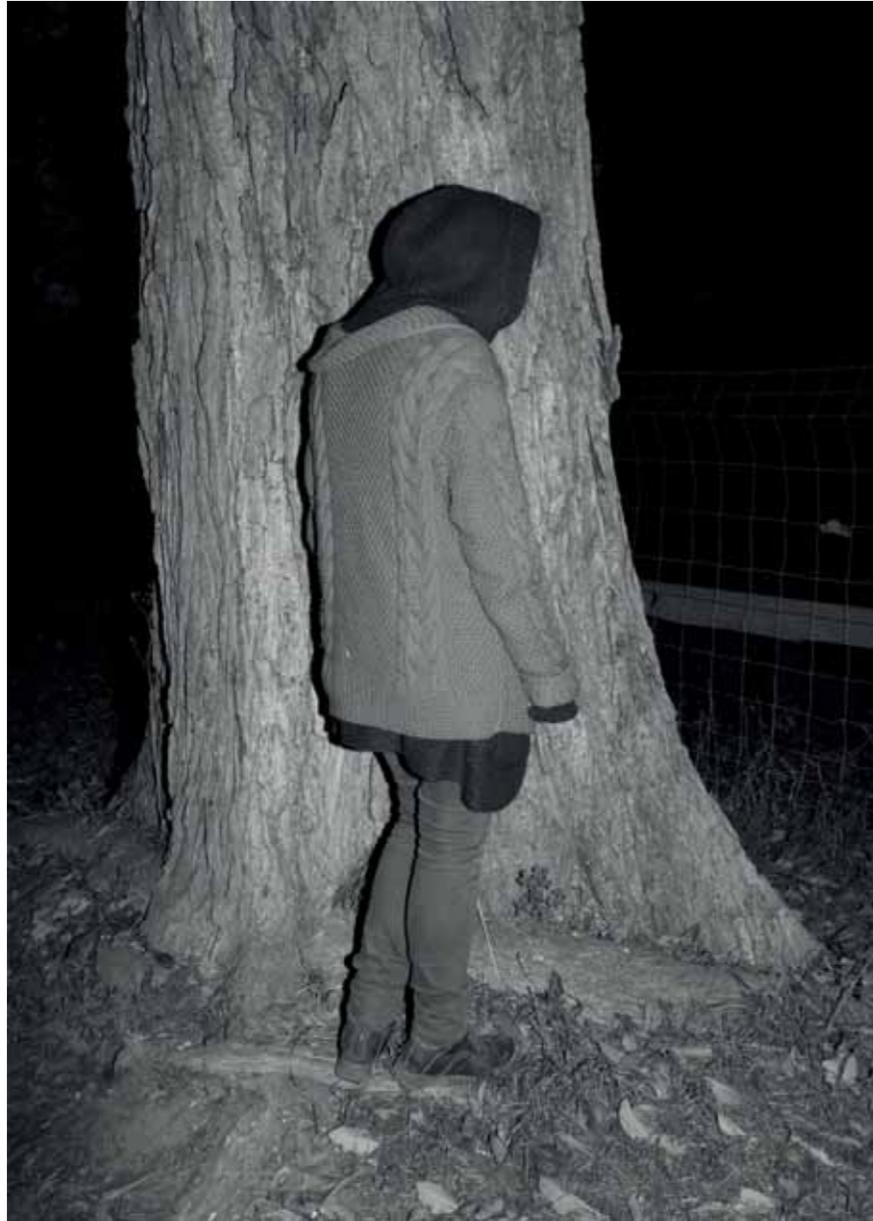




Unportrait (2016)



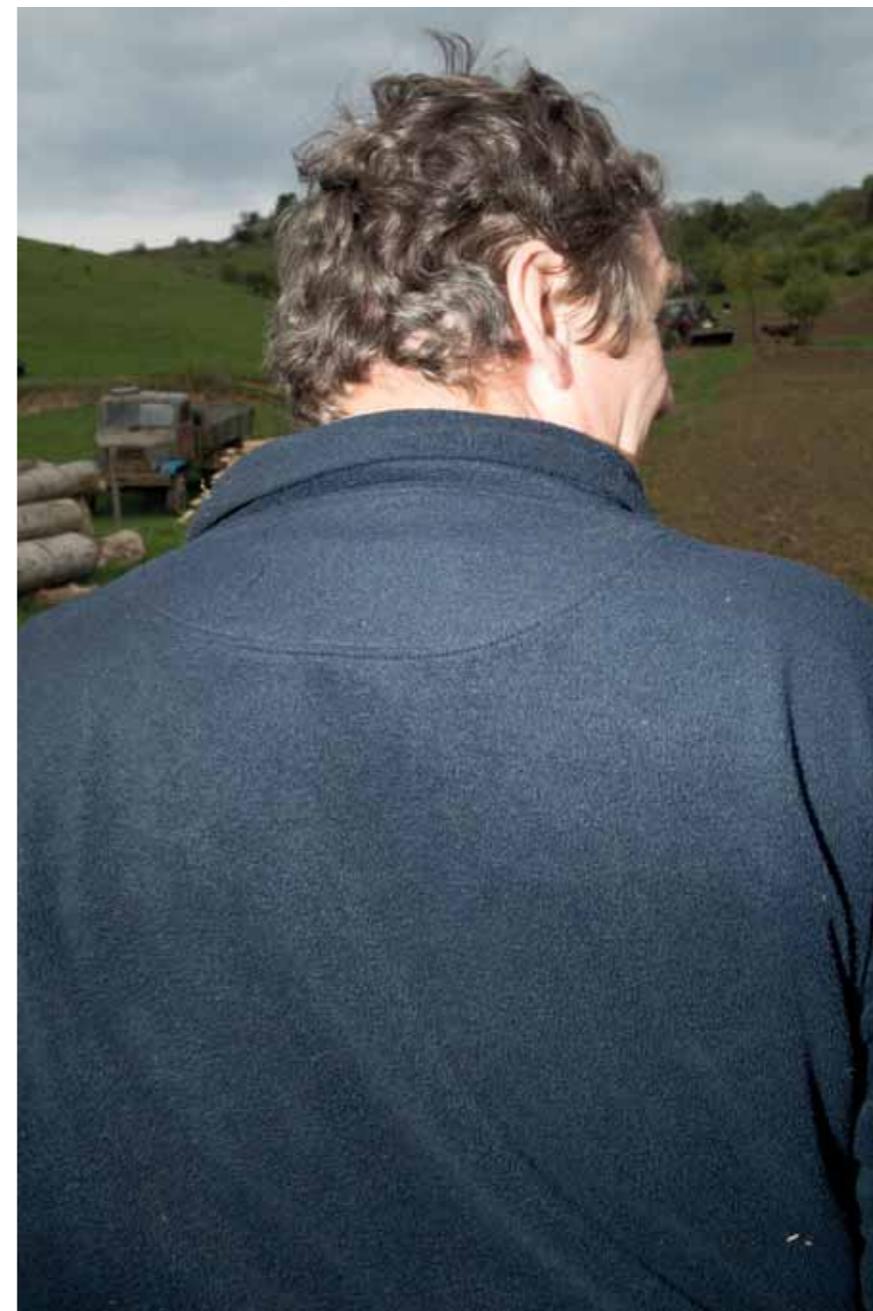




Untitled (2016)



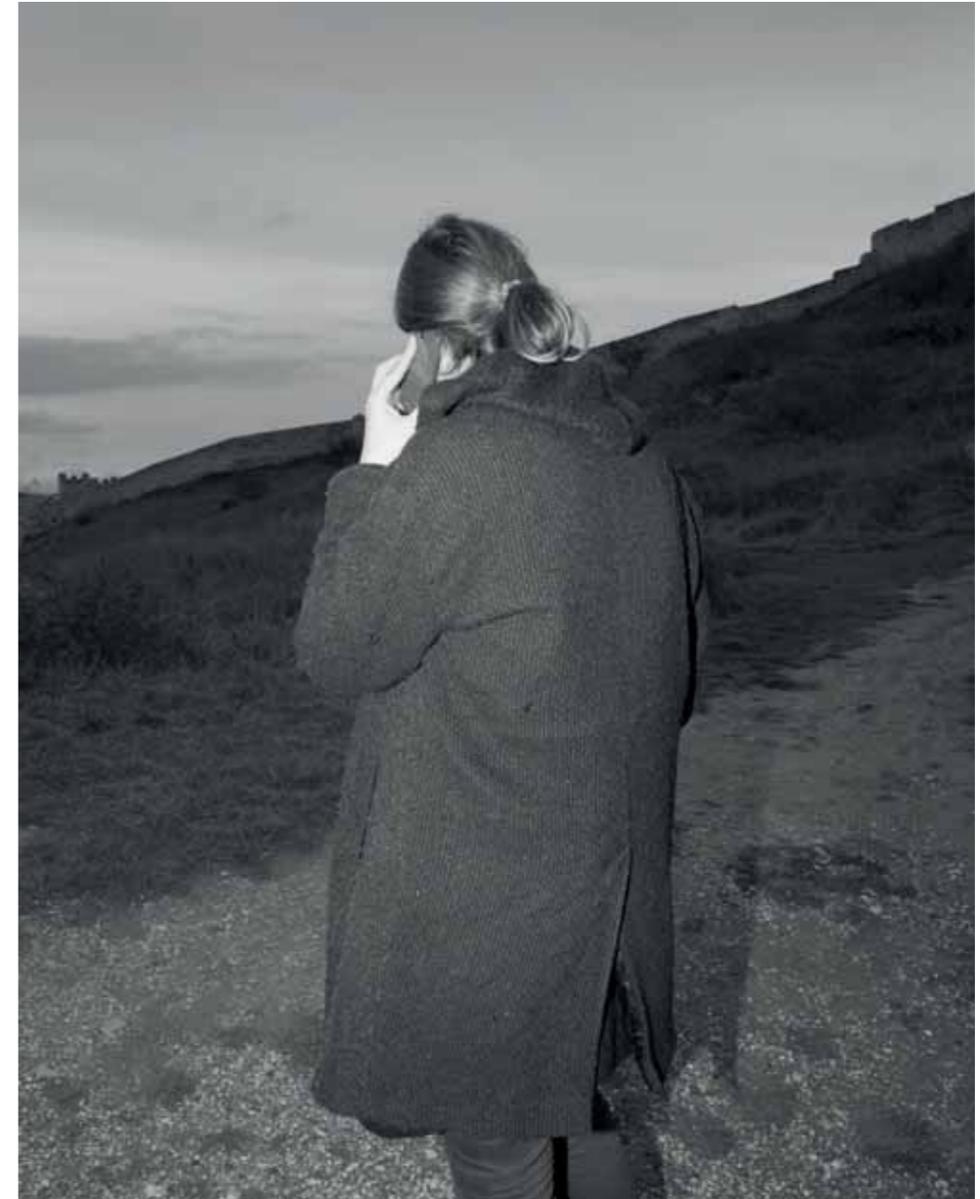




Untitled 2 (2013 - 2016)







Untitled 3 (2015 - 2016)





