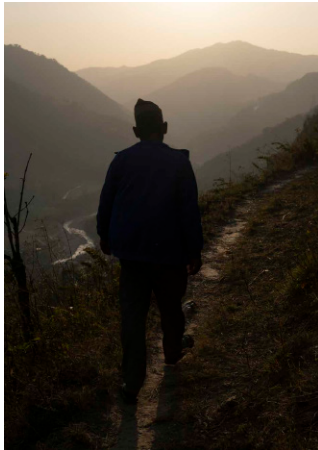


Bimal Fabbri

Kaliama



© Bimal Fabbri, from: *Kaliama*, 2022

In the photographic project *Kaliama* (from the Nepalese kaalo/kaali: black, and ama: mother), Bimal Fabbri approaches his personal history, which – beyond its significance for the artist himself – shows how political and social conditions shape individual lives. With his photographs, the artist speaks poignantly of the multilayered nature of memory and survival, of the search for the self, of connection, loss, attachment, and ruptures.

The day his mother died, Bimal Fabbri did not yet know how much his life would change. At the age of seven, he had to leave his village in Nepal and was taken to an orphanage in Kathmandu by his grandfather. About a year later he was adopted by an Italian family. As an adult, Fabbri sought out traces of his past and found his place of birth and part of his biological family after more than twenty years. His return in 2022 to the village Mankha, whose name Fabbri had forgotten in the meantime, is an attempt to reconnect with his roots.

Fabbri puts his subjects in the picture like metaphors. In the exhibit, we find a narrative of impressions referring to emotions – those of the child as well as those of the searching returnee. Motifs of everyday life, a dead man in the river crowned with a wreath of marigold flowers, the back view of his father making his way through the mountains, landscapes, and small details create a world with symbolic power. Shadows, backlight, dark spots, blurriness impeding recognition, again and again. A young boy holds a white sheet of paper in front of his face as if it were a mask. Instead of eyes, nose, and mouth, we only see the gridded lines on the paper.

With *Kaliama*, Bimal Fabbri builds an impressive visual bridge to his own story by combining his present-day perspective as a young man with the fragmentary, shadowy flashbacks to his childhood years. In reconstructing his past, the artist also incorporates the collective memory of his rediscovered Nepalese family.

Bimal Fabbri was born in Mankha (Nepal) in 1993. He studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Milan and the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK; diploma), and in 2022, he completed his photography studies at Ostkreuzschule in Berlin. In 2023, his work was shown at the RAW Phototriennale in Wroclaw to great acclaim, and he was nominated for the shortlist of the Belfast Photo Festival.

Exhibition

19.1. - 3.3.2024

Opening

Thursday, January 18, 2024
7 pm

Introduction
Franziska Schmidt,
art historian

Artist Talk

Thursday, February 8, 2024
7 pm
with Bimal Fabbri and Diana
Thun, art historian

Finissage

Sunday, March 3, 2024
4-6 pm
with Bimal Fabbri and Diana
Thun, art historian

Address

Haus am Kleistpark
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Grünwaldstrasse 6-7
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www.hausamkleistpark.de

Free admission

No barrier-free access
Tue-Sun 11 am-6 pm

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Press photos

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An exhibition of the Department of Art, Culture, Museums
Tempelhof-Schöneberg.

