

**LEONARDO COUTO**

Portfolio

## All paths brought us here

During our lives we struggle to let go of the past and move on. The decisions and thoughts of what could have been if we had chosen differently come back to haunt us at every step. To shed this heavy burden, we seek answers from the moon, Gods, parallel dimensions and destiny in order to understand and to be ready for the next time. We live in fear, trying to make the right decisions to avoid regret.

This is a journey about acceptance, coming to terms with the past and moving on. It is a visual metaphor about our feelings and their reflections into nature manifestations. From the darkest place to the revelation that all possible futures are happening now, it is time to let go and look ahead because everything has guided us to this very moment.

*(2020 - 2022)*



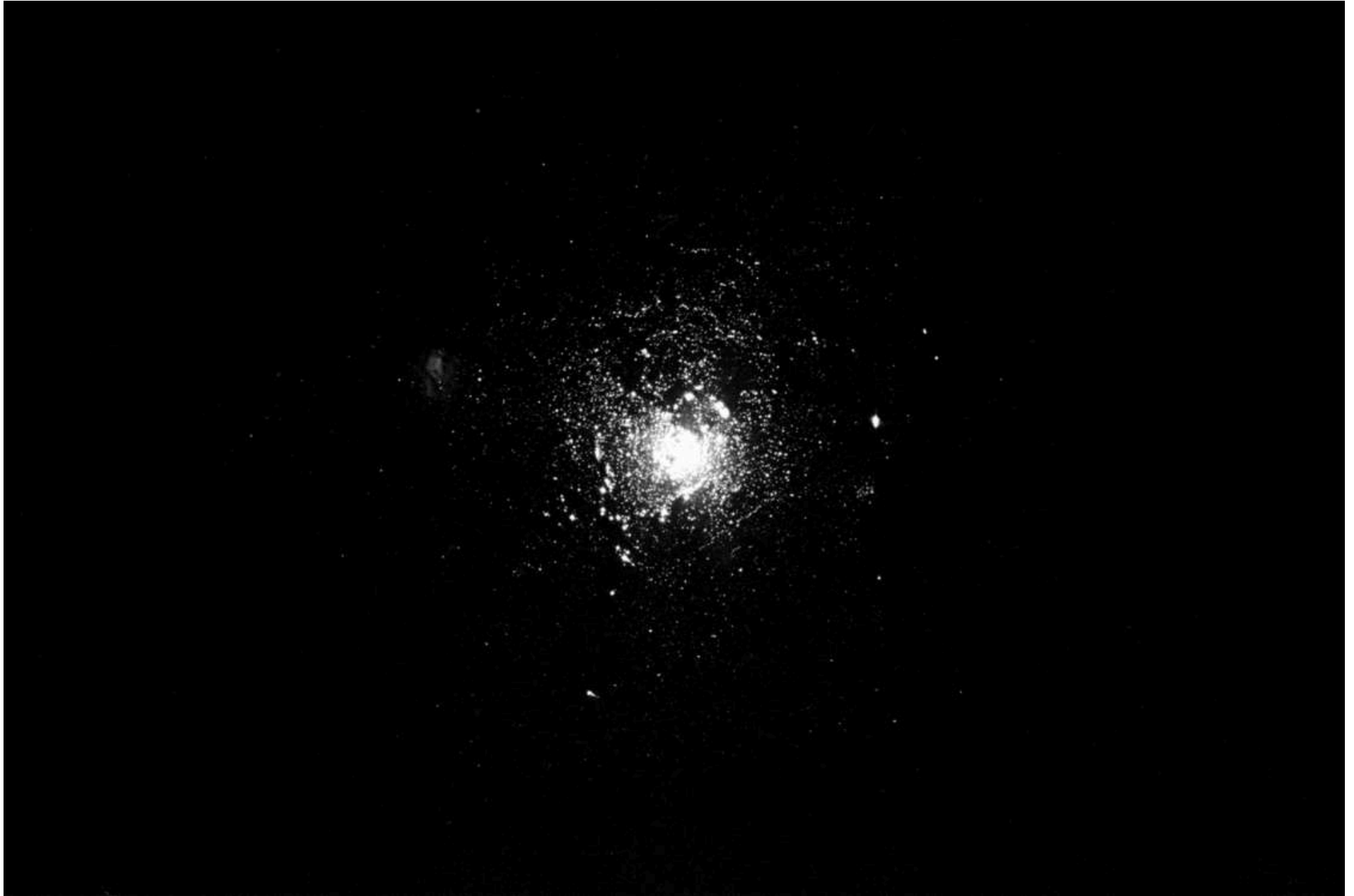
*from "All paths brought us here"*



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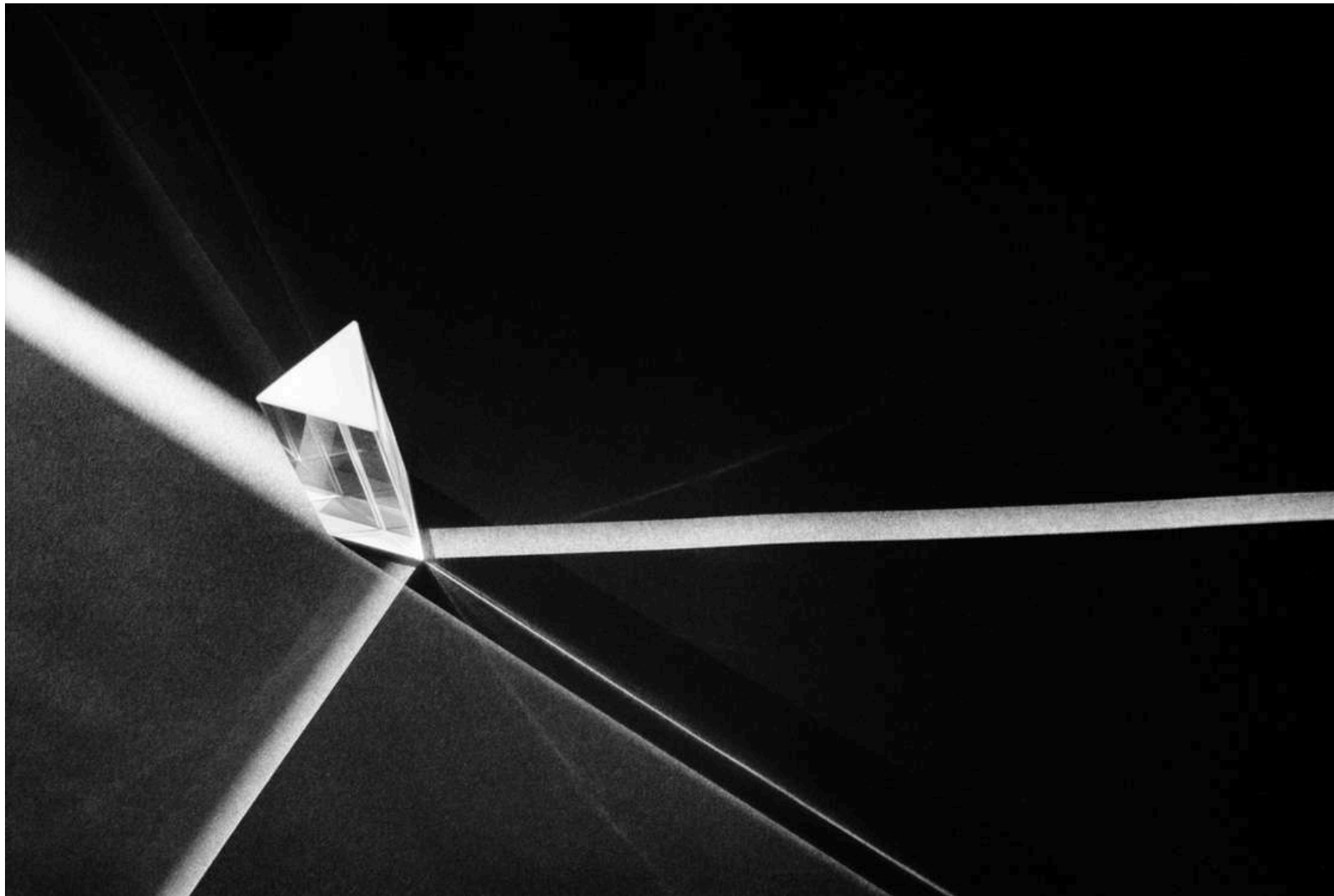


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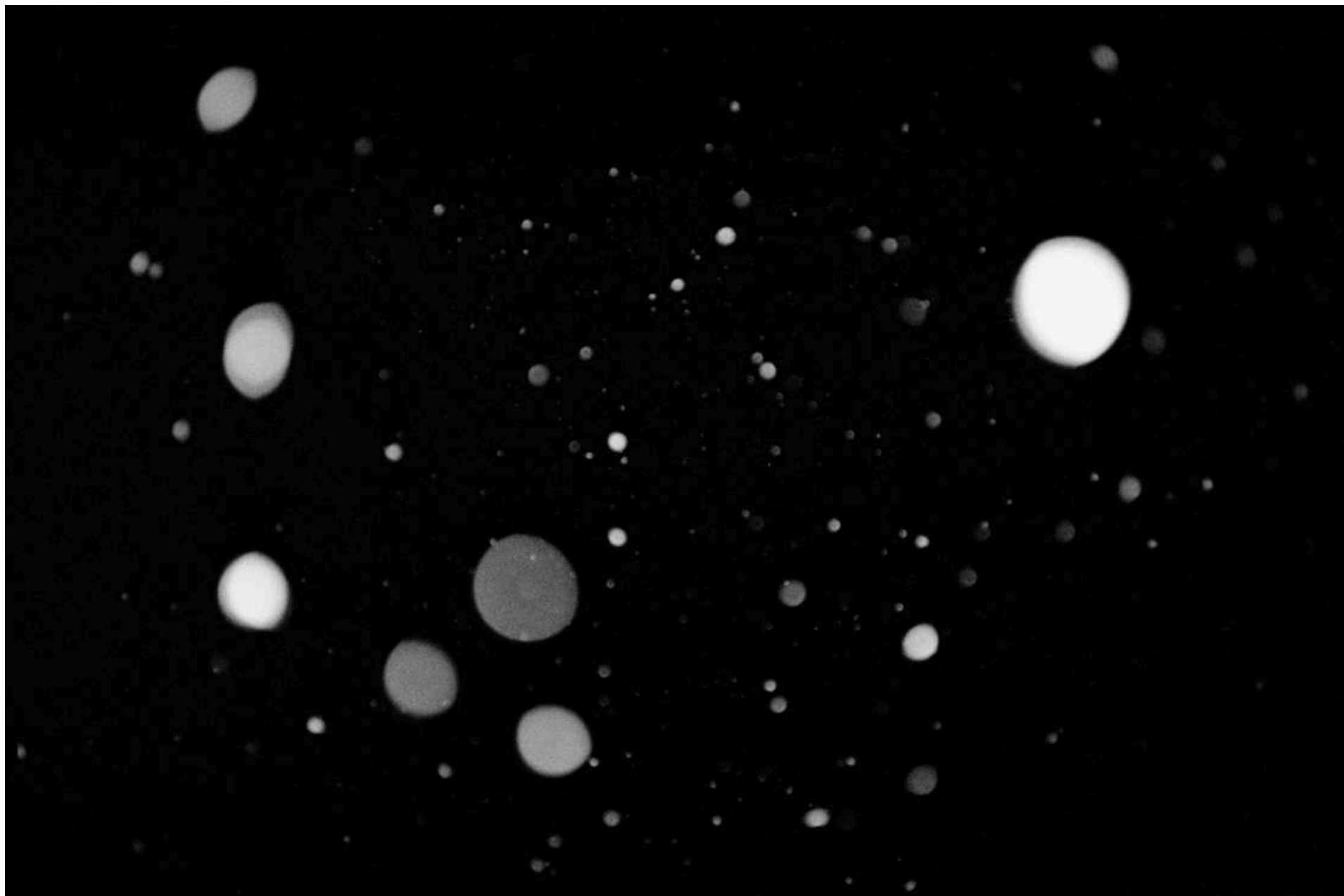
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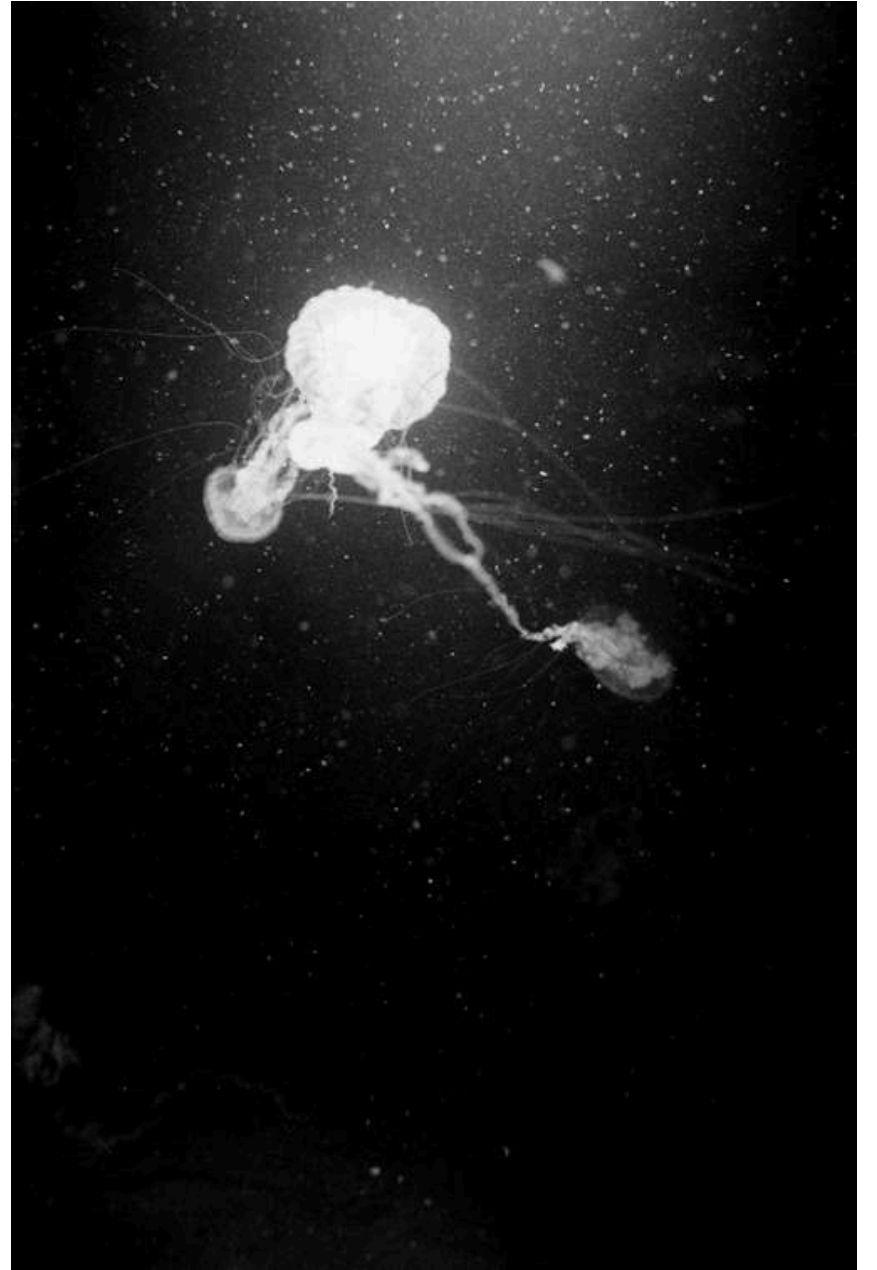
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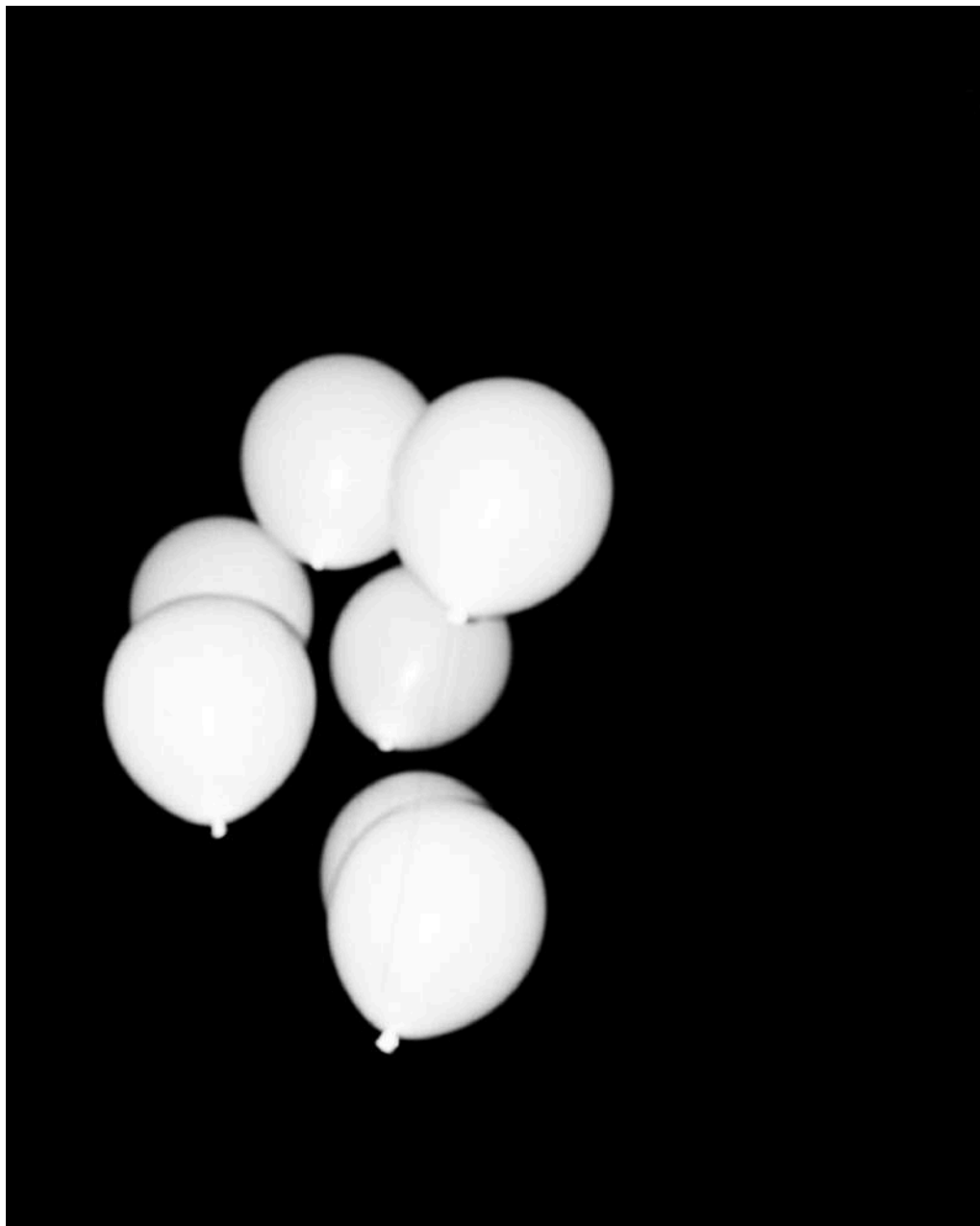
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## Empty fields

*(2023 - on going)*



*from "Empty Fields"*



*from "Empty Fields"*



*from "Empty Fields"*





*from "Empty Fields"*

I'm a Brazilian artist based in Berlin. Since an early age I had a deep appreciation for the mundane beauties of daily life, often losing myself while absorbing small moments usually not deemed as special. The need to share this experience has led me to create art that encourages the viewer to pay close attention. My art encourages us to be in the present moment, contemplate in order to find its deeper reality. As we observe, we can see our own reflection and form connections not only with our surroundings but also with others, making us complete. Through the images I play with the subconscious leaving a trail with symbolic nuances and surrealism, drawing visual metaphors to spark curiosity and wonder.

A photograph starts with sessions of stream-of-consciousness writing, some portions becoming poems and others serving as references for sketches. The drawings serve as a guide for production, with prospective studies of materials, location, models, time, and other scene-specific conditions. After production, I develop and digitize the films with minimal to no editing, all visual effects are practical, as a celebration of the unfiltered and genuine. Given the abstract nature of the photos, using black and white film is a deliberate choice to draw the viewer's attention to shapes, contrast, and textures. I overlook any photographic technicalities in order to tell the story; the images serve the purpose, not the opposite. If there is no journey to be taken, then there is nothing.

I create what I would like to see when entering a gallery space, striking a balance where the art is approachable without underestimating the spectator. I ask the audience philosophical questions like 'what makes the present moment worthwhile' and allow for open conversation so that everyone can add their own pieces of the puzzle. In our current fast-paced everyday life, the work acts as an invitation to get immersed in the now, spark meaningful conversations and inspire a deeper appreciation for the world around us.

I was born and raised in the Rio de Janeiro where I started to photograph the streets in 2016. In 2017 I moved to Berlin and in 2018 my first zine was released, right after analog photography became my main medium. Same year I started to collaborate with FKKollektiv - a collective of international photographers in Berlin - where my images started to gain more depth and were exhibited for the first time in early 2019.

### Solo Exhibitions

2022 All paths brought us here - Redah Art Haus, Berlin

### Group Exhibitions

2020 Final Bloom - FK Galerie, Berlin

2020 Everything Home is Far Away - FK Galerie, Berlin

2019 FUTR.1 - FK Galerie, Berlin

### Publications

2018 Contemplation Exercises



## Contact

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