

ALEX AVGUD

An exploration of human resistance to mechanisms of oppression

My work is a continuous exploration of human resistance to crises and mechanisms of oppression. I'm intrigued by events and ideas that embody the conflict of 'individual' and 'collective', so with my photographs I strive to engage the viewers into contemplation on their own role in society. I approach political issues in a non-moralistic, often paradoxical way — like portraying something abhorrent as very beautiful — in order to trigger an emotional response from the audience. A lot of my photographs are a documentation of staged physical performances, which borrow significantly from the vocabulary of contemporary choreography.

WEBSITES

alex-avgud.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

[instagram.com/avgud](https://www.instagram.com/avgud)

OPLEIDINGEN

2015 - Fotografie Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie
2019 van Beeldende Kunsten

TENTOONSTELLINGEN

2019 Best of Graduates 2019 Galerie Ron Mandos Amsterdam, Nederland The twelfth edition of the yearly exhibition that brings together the work of the most promising young artists. Together with curator Radek Vana, the team of Galerie Ron Mandos visits the graduation shows of all art academy's BA programmes in the Netherlands to scout talent. The selection is characterised by a variety of subjects and media, and traditionally results in a vibrant mix of ambitious graduation projects.
www.ronmandos.nl/exhibitions/best-graduates-2019
Groep

2019 Royal Academy of Art Graduation
Festival KABK Den Haag, Nederland

PROJECTEN

2019 White Walls and Exercises in Freedom Den Haag, Nederland I never told my parents I am gay. I was born in Moscow a few years before the fall of the USSR. On the working-class outskirts of that city, homosexuality is meant to be suppressed. So I felt alienated from my environment. But what does it mean to fit in? After relocating to the Netherlands, I realized being gay in the East feels a lot like being a migrant artist in the West. It seems like I'm losing my cultural identity, that I am slowly surrendering to Calvinist sterility. Both my native world of grey panel housing and the world of endlessly white Dutch walls equally expect me to comply to their 'norms'. Because every culture demands a chunk of your freedom, and every society strives to grind down the misfits.

	Royal Academy of Art Graduation Festival www.kabk.nl/agenda/graduation-festival-2019 Groep	2018	Coal Dust Den Haag, Nederland In Cold Dust I address the state of in-betweenness experienced by a migrant, whose past is obscured, and the present—scarred. I talk about emotional fragility caused by relocation as a political choice, and what me and my husband recently went through to keep us afloat.
2019	Push it to the Limit Melkweg Expo Amsterdam, Nederland Preview of Graduation projects by KABK Photography www.melkweg.nl/en/agenda/push-it-to-the-limit-24-05-2019/ Groep	2017	Modern Martyrs Den Haag, Nederland A series of performances exploring body language of political protest and iconography of resistance to acts of police brutality.
2018	EYE on Art: Researchlabs EYE Filmmuseum Amsterdam, Nederland Students from eight art academies and universities present a programme of new work, remixes of films or short historical avant-garde films from EYE's collection. www.eyefilm.nl/en/themes/researchlabs-2018 Groep		
2018	Good Work Grey Space in the Middle Den Haag, Nederland Exhibition of 'Noun Presents', art-collective of KABK Photography students www.facebook.com/events/199145213976280/ Groep		
2017	FOAM X ARLES: Collaborate! at Les Rencontres d'Arles La Bourse du Travail Arles, Frankrijk Exhibition and daily zines: the result of the collaboration between photography students of the Royal Academy of Art (KABK) in The Hague and the University of Art and Design (ECAL) in Lausanne. www.foam.org/museum/programme/foam-x-arles Groep		
2017	Let me tell you about UNSEEN Photo Fair Amsterdam, Nederland On-site pavilion at Unseen Photo Fair with works of 12 KABK Photography students. 35.157.153.21/looking-back-let-me-tell-you-about Groep		

2019	Finally a sign of Life Korzo Theater Den Haag, Nederland Promotional photographs for a dance piece by choreographer Antonin Rioche. Uitgevoerd	2019	Graduation Festival Catalogue Catalogus KABK Den Haag, Nederland KABK Graduation Festival Catalogue
2018	Areas of Intervention Vrij Nederland Amsterdam, Nederland Current level of terrorist threat to the Netherlands is set at 'substantial', level 4 on the scale of 1 to 5. Does this mean we should be worried? And how are we being protected from terror attacks? In order to answer these questions I turned to examining the Dutch Counter-terrorism strategy 2016—2020, a publicly available document. There one can find 5 defining elements to dealing with the threat, which are called 'areas of intervention'. These include : Procure, Prevent, Protect, Prepare, Pursue (Verwerven, Voorkomen, Verdedigen, Voorbereiden, Vervolgen). My project strives to visualise these concepts, which still sound abstract despite the familiarity of the words and their meaning. Not only I wish to decipher the inner logic of the State, and to comprehend the language of bureaucracy of power, but I also want to invite people to contemplate our actual involvement in aspects of life we rarely think about. Do we ever read official releases published by the government? Documents shaping up tax spendings? To what extent are we compliant to the doings of the government if we feel it starts abusing our rights in the name of fighting terror? vn.nl/fotodocument-nationaal-terreurbeleid/ Uitgevoerd	2019	Baobab magazine Boek Baobab Den Haag, Nederland Feature of 'Coal Dust' project in the magazine.
2018	4 magazine 4 Magazine Den Haag, Nederland Shoots for the magazine of Fashion and Textile department of KABK Uitgevoerd		
2018	Rocks and Blood Het Magazijn Den Haag, Nederland Exhibition in the nightclub Het Magazijn Uitgevoerd		
2017	Shelter Shelter Amsterdam Amsterdam, Nederland Artwork of the month for Amsterdam nightclub Shelter shelteramsterdam.nl/art/december-2017/ Uitgevoerd		

2017 4 magazine 4 Magazine Den Haag,
Nederland Shoots for the magazine of
Fashion and Textile department of
KABK Uitgevoerd

RECENSIES

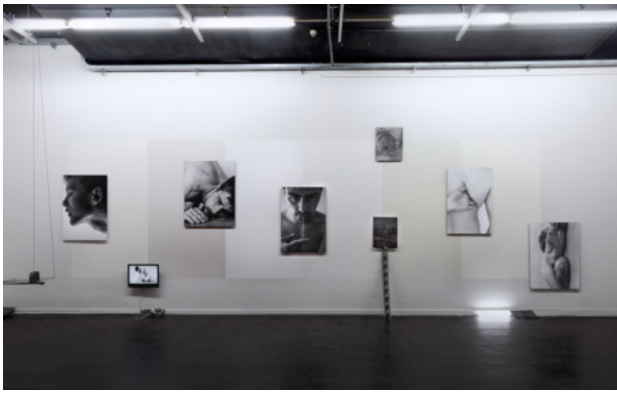
2019 Het zij ze gegund! Blog/Vlog Bertus
Pieters
villalarepubblica.wordpress.com/2019/07/10/het-zij-ze-gegund-graduation-festival-2019-koninklijke-academie-van-beeldende-kunsten-kabk-den-haag/
Review of KABK Graduation Festival

2019 Haagse Nieuwe: vers van de Academie
Krant Jasper Gramsma Den Haag,
Nederland Den Haag Centraal
newspaper cultural supplement
Uitdekunst - article and interview.

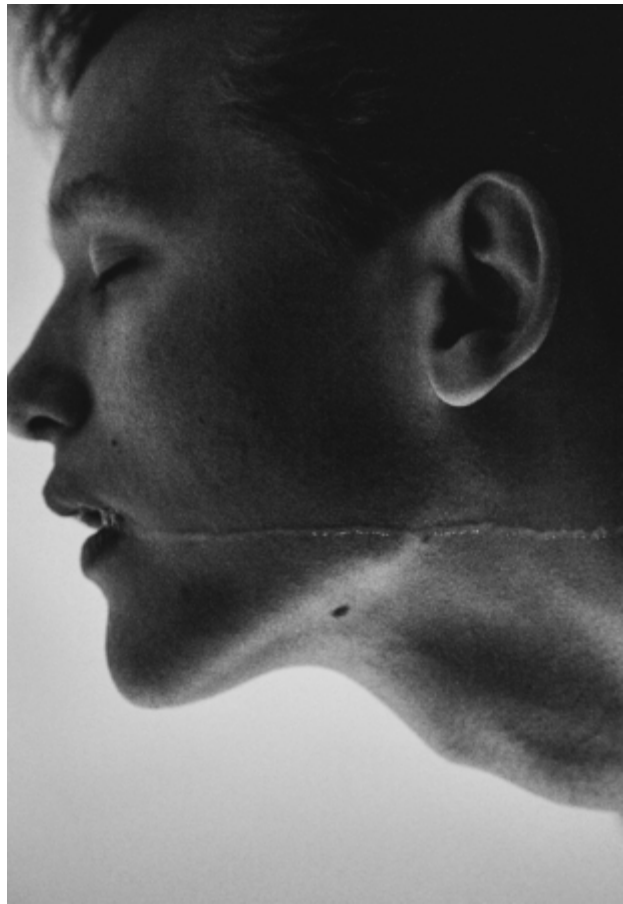
2018 Hoe een Russische fotograaf ons
nationale terreurbeleid tot kunstproject
verheft Website Redactie Vrij
Nederland Amsterdam, Nederland
www.vn.nl/alex-avgud-terreurbeleid/
Interview about project 'Areas of
Intervention'

PRIJZEN EN STIPENDIA

2019 Stroom KABK Invest Award (sinds 2004)
Stroom, Den Haag Den Haag, Nederland



White Walls and Exercises in Freedom, 2019
Mixed media



Thirst, 2019
Pigment print mounted on dibond, 75 x 100 cm



Under the Scapula, 2019
Pigment print mounted on dibond, 73 x 110 cm

