

JANA ROMANOVA

Artist inspired by misunderstandings

I'm an artist inspired by misunderstandings. I work with participatory and play practices, using photography and video to discover gaps between what we say and what we do. I search for these breaches in communication to transform them into spaces for connection and togetherness. My long-term projects were exhibited at various international exhibitions and festivals such as Copenhagen PhotoFestival (Denmark), Format (Derby, UK), Chobi Mela (Dakha, Bangladesh), Cortona on the Move (Italy), Encontros da Imagem (Braga, Portugal), the Backlight Festival (Tampere, Finland), Encuentros Abietros Festival (Buenos Aires, Argentina) and many others, and I've got several prizes and honorable mentions in art and precisely photography all over the world. Currently, I'm researching how games, play, and playfulness can be tools for creating meaningful connections. I design and facilitate LARPs (live-action role plays) and games in physical spaces as a part of my art practice. As a guest teacher, I'm invited to facilitate workshops on playful approaches at The Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, Wageningen University, and ArtEz in the Netherlands.

WEBSITES

janaromanova.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.facebook.com/jana.romanova

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

www.linkedin.com/in/jana-romanova/

OPLEIDINGEN

- 2019 - MA Photography and Society Den Haag,
- 2021 Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten Diploma behaald
- 2016 - Joop Swart Masterclass World Press Photo
- 2016
- 2001 - Journalist Saint-Petersburg State University
- 2006 Diploma behaald

TENTOONSTELLINGEN

- 2025 The Broken Archive The Balcony Den Haag, Nederland A performance and a live-action role-playing game about family archives and acceptance
thebalconythehague.com/The-Broken-Archive

PROJECTEN

- 2022 I Don't Think I'll Stay Here Long Den Haag, Nederland
www.fotodok.org/evenement/outsiderland-x-fotodok/ I don't think I'll stay here long vertelt de verhalen van vrouwen die Oekraïne zijn ontvlucht vanwege de

Solo

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| 2025 | Water Views VU Art Science Gallery Amsterdam, Nederland Water Views brings us the perspectives of artists and researchers on the topic of water through transdisciplinary exchange. In an exhibition and a series of dialogues several approaches to water will be explored, from the colonial trade routes to the ecological impact of our changing climate, to old and new aquatic thinking. With works by Valerie van Leersum, Tanja Engelberts, Suzette Bousema, Huniti Goldox and Jana Romanova.
www.artsciencegallery.nl/exhibition/water-views/
Groep | | Russische invasie in februari 2022 en nu worden opgevangen door families in heel Nederland. In een installatie met drie kanalen voert actrice Ewa (Yarasolva Krutova) namens deze vrouwen een reeks monologen op. Ze vertelt over hun pogingen om een gemeenschappelijke basis te vinden en te leren hoe ze ondanks hun culturele verschillen met vreemden kunnen samenleven. Het project brengt complexe verhalen samen over eenzaamheid en saamhorigheid; vriendelijkheid en culturele clichés; humor en verdriet; maar ook de hoop om een plek weer thuis te kunnen noemen. I don't think I'll stay here long is een samenwerking tussen actrice en performancekunstenaar Ewa (Yaroslava Krutova) die in maart 2022 vanuit Oekraïne in Nederland aankwam, en lensgebaseerd kunstenaar Jana Romanova die in 2019 vanuit Rusland naar Nederland kwam. Het project wordt geproduceerd en gepresenteerd bij Outsiderland, met informatieve steun van FOTODOK. |
| 2024 | Water Portraits Museum Hilversum Hilversum, Nederland 'Water Portraits', van de jonge kunstenaar Jana Romanova, verkent op een speelse en onderzoekende manier ons waterverbruik. Aan de hand van de fotografische documentatie van 101 ijssculpturen nodigt zij jou uit om na te denken over hoe we zorgdragen voor de mensen om ons heen en de toekomstige generaties. Jana Romanova studeerde journalistiek maar stapte over naar de beeldende kunst. De sociaal maatschappelijke betrokkenheid, het zoeken naar maatschappelijk relevante thema's en de connectie met het publiek lopen als een rode draad ook door haar praktijk als kunstenaar.
www.museumhilversum.nl/nl/tentoonstellingen/jana-romanova-water-portraits
Solo | 2022 | Water Portraits Message in a Photo Foundation Amsterdam, Nederland
www.miap.nl/about/ In this project I invite participants to reuse 1 liter of water one after another until it's gone or nobody else is ready to deal with it. The water is frozen in between the usages, and every volunteer receives it in the form of an ice cube. From an experiment in finding a creative way of using water productively, it became a project that asks questions about what does it mean to "use" and when it seems useless, and what is the role of art in our understanding of recycling, reusing and sustainability. 1.2 billion people, or almost one-third of the world's population, now live in countries with physical water scarcity, and using a very limited amount of freshwater for all needs is an exercise they do every day. And, according to the UN's World Water Development Report, 40% of the population of Earth will already suffer from water stress by 2030. |
| 2024 | Intertwined Namuso Gallery Den Haag, Nederland GALLERY EXHIBITION Namuso Gallery proudly presents Intertwined, a duo exhibition featuring the works of multidisciplinary artist Jana Romanova and visual artist Jaeyoung Park. Both artists explore the interconnectedness of human experience through their distinctive mediums, offering viewers a unique reflection on memory, connection, and the passage of time. namuso-gallery.com/exhibitions/10-jana-romanova-jaeyoung-park-intertwined/ | 2021 | Chin Up Chin Down The Hague, Nederland
janaromanova.com/chinupchindown "Chin Up Chin Down" is a participatory performance, a game, that reflects upon the relationships between a photographer, the one being photographed, and a camera. Two people are giving each other multiple |

- 2023 The Grand Palace of Everyone Nest Den Haag, Nederland "I Don't Think I'll Stay Here Long" created in collaboration with Ewa Kruttova is a part of this show. Welcome to 'The Grand Palace of Everyone', a land without borders where collaboration reigns. Together with No Limits! Art Castle (formerly known as Outsiderland) we tear down the walls between fantasy and reality, art and design, and 'insider' and 'outsider' artists. Why would anyone decide who is 'professional enough' to enter the gates? 'The Grand Palace of Everyone' rolls out a black and white carpet for the work of over sixty artists in 26 unique collaborations between talented and dedicated artists. Side by side they find their way in the art world and present a broad scope of collaborations in every nook and cranny of Nest. Never before have so many artists shared the space in one exhibition.
www.nestruimte.nl/en/exhibition/the-grand-palace-of-everyone/ Groep
- 2023 Water Portraits See Lab Den Haag The Hague, Nederland In the "Water Portraits" project, Jana Romanova invites participants to consecutively reuse one liter of freshwater until it's depleted. After each use, she freezes the water and takes its portrait. These frozen portraits receive the names of their users, along with a recipe for how the water was repurposed. As one cycle concludes due to the depletion of water, a new cycle begins. This exhibition at See Lab features approximately 80 works that document this ongoing process for the last two years. "Water Portraits" delves into the interconnectedness of our actions, temporary ownership of resources, and the evocative passage of time. The exhibition is created with a support of Stroom Den Haag
www.seelab.nl/program/2023/waterportraits-jana-romanova Solo
- 2022 The Ways of Water Melkweg Expo Amsterdam, Nederland The group
- 2021 Images I Can't Show The Hague, Nederland janaromanova.com/images-i-can-t-show "Images I can't show" is a photobook without photographs. All images in it can be described, but not shown publicly for various reasons — ethical dilemmas, political danger, concerns about representation. Using those photographs from her own archive created over the course of 20 years as case studies, photographer Jana Romanova discusses dilemmas that contemporary photography faces in a rapidly evolving conversation about ethics.
- 2017 The Goddess Guide Saint-Petersburg, Rusland janaromanova.com/the-goddess-guide I found a lot of courses in Russia offering practices that teach women special ways of interacting with the world: how to collect feminine energy, follow the moon calendar, «breathe» with your womb, find a goddess inside yourself and change reality around you. I started to visit femininity teachers to see if I could understand what femininity is and if it could help me. «When a woman becomes feminine she can get everything she needs only by thinking about it. Every woman can have this power. You can also have it if you want. The only thing you need is to accept who you are and learn how to raise your feminine energy» were some of the mantras told to me by over fifty female coaches I met over the course of nearly one year in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. Many teachers offered me an experience of femininity through bodily senses and emotions, which also formed part of their theory: femininity can't be explained, it can only be felt.
- 2016 Adopted Welsh Ffotogallery Cardiff, Verenigd Koninkrijk janaromanova.com/adopted-welsh Traveling across Wales — whose people have been struggling for their identity ever

instructions — where to move, where to look, how to feel. Their communication is based on controlling each other in front of a camera and for the camera. This project exists in the form of video documentation of each game and its translation into a format of a booklet. "Chin Up Chin Down" looks into when and how do we become readable images and challenges the language of power.

	<p>exhibition 'The Ways of Water', on display at Melkweg Expo from June 3 to July 10, 2022, explores the relationship between humans and water through photography and art installations: humankind's dependence, but also his subordination to water. . Numerous (inter)national and multimedia artists investigate the influence of man-made climate change, pollution and water depletion on our planet: Suzette Bousema, Jana Romanova, Koos Buster, Mazen Al Ashkar, Frank Bloem, Tina Farifteh, The Water School (initiated by studio Makkink & Bey) and Elise 't Hart. www.melkweg.nl/en/expo/Groep</p>	
2022	<p>A Call to a Friend W139 Amsterdam, Nederland On 3d of April 15.00 at @w139amsterdam I called my friends. There were people who are in Ukraine doing as much as they can to help those near them. Others are around the world creating initiatives to support those who left the country and bring important supplies to the danger zones. Some are resisting the regime and protest in Russia. This event is an opportunity to find different ways to help — from important personal stories by those strongly affected by the Russia's government war in Ukraine. w139.nl/en/Solo</p>	<p>2015</p> <p>Waiting Moscow, Rusland janaromanova.com/waiting It is early morning and young Russian couples, inhabitants of Saint Petersburg and Moscow, are sleeping in their bedrooms. They're preparing to become parents in few months, and the camera documents both their poses and also the details of their interiors. Bed sheets, objects of daily life and decorations tell how the last generation born before the fall of the Soviet Union currently lives in big cities of modern Russia.</p>
		<p>2014</p> <p>The Alphabet of Shared Words Kiev, Oekraïne janaromanova.com/the-alphabet-of-shared-words In March 2014, tensions between Russia and Ukraine reached a high point, stoked by the war of information involving the situation in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. Citizens of both countries started to lose the desire to understand each other. I asked different people who took part in the revolution in Kiev at the Square of Independence to remember words that are the same in Russian and Ukrainian and illustrate these words by posing for portraits. The result is a kind of "ABCs" based on the idea that understanding starts from language, and language starts from the alphabet.</p>
2022	<p>I Don't Think I'll Stay Here Long No Limits Art Castle (formerly Outsiderland) Amsterdam, Nederland In this project multiple stories of women who came to the Netherlands during the last months of Russian invasion to Ukraine are told through the voice and body of one actress. In a three-channel installation Ewa Kruttova reenacts several monologues of Ukrainians who are hosted by families in different Dutch cities. They speak about their attempts to find understanding and live together with strangers despite cultural and habitual differences. It is a complex narrative about loneliness and togetherness, kindness and cultural clichés, humour and sorrow, but also about support and</p>	<p>2013</p> <p>Shvilishvili Tbilisi, Georgië janaromanova.com/shvilishvili "Shvilishvili" is Georgian for "grandchild"; it can literally be translated as "a child of a child". In this project, presented as a book-object, I question the value of family photography and family ties in modern society through an attempt to unite all of my relatives from one bloodline through photography. My family is divided between two countries - Russia and Georgia; the problems between its members on both sides of the border arise from the post-war political situation as well as the tragic story of a murder committed inside the family.</p>

a hope to have home again. This project is created in collaboration with Ewa Kruttova and support of No Limits Art Castle (formerly Outsiderland) in Amsterdam.

Solo

- 2022 PAN Amsterdam PAN Amsterdam Amsterdam, Nederland "Water Portraits" project was exhibited together with several other ecologically and socially engaged project supported by MIAP Foundation in the last 10 years.

www.pan.nl/en/dealerdetails/281/miap-foundation

Groep

- 2021 Chin Up Chin Down KABK Graduation Show The Hague, Nederland "Chin Up Chin Down" is a participatory performance, a game, that reflects upon the relationships between a photographer, the one being photographed, and a camera. Two people are giving each other multiple instructions — where to move, where to look, how to feel. Their communication is based on controlling each other in front of a camera and for the camera. This project exists in the form of video documentation of each game and its translation into a format of a booklet. "Chin Up Chin Down" looks into when and how do we become readable images and challenges the language of power.

graduation2021.kabk.nl/students/jana-romanova

Groep

- 2019 (Beside)Yourself Photographic museum Metenkov's House Yekaterinburg, Rusland "Losing 31 of August", "Close Relationship", "Goddess Guide" and "W" were presented at this big solo show.

dommetenkova.ru/exhibitions/2019/romanova

Solo

- 2017 Photobook Phenomenon CCCB Barcelona, Spanje The exhibition highlights the role of the photobook in contemporary visual culture and takes it as the departure point for a reinterpretation of the history of photography. "Shivilishvili" project was exhibited at this group show.

www.cccb.org/en/exhibitions/file/photobook-phenomenon/225004

Groep

2017 https://issuu.com/copenhagenphotofestival/docs/cpf2017-program__12._maj-/39 Copenhagen Photo Festival Copenhagen, Denemarken "The Goddess Guide" and "W" projects exhibited in several rooms of a former power plant in the center of the city.
issuu.com/copenhagenphotofestival/docs/cpf2017-program__12._maj-/39
Solo

2016 There is something about my family FOTODOK Utrecht, Nederland In There is Something about My Family, 15 makers explore the influence of immigration, war, ideologies and other (major) societal changes on family ties. My project "Shvilishvili" was exhibited at this group show.
www.fotodok.org/en/there-is-something-about-my-family/
Groep

2016 Adopted Welsh Ffotogallery Cardiff, Verenigd Koninkrijk Being a foreigner in Wales, I started a series of one-to-one conversations with different people who consider themselves Welsh, asking them to describe Welsh person, Welsh identity to me and in the end asking if they think I can also become Welsh. Out of almost 50 interviews in different parts of Wales, there was only one negative answer, while everybody else provided me with different recommendations on becoming Welsh. I took all of these suggestions and made them my regular practice. Every day for two months I tried to become part of different groups of people who are doing something together across Wales, changing my appearance in order to fit properly, to be less visible as a stranger. This practice became a search not only for what is national identity, but mainly a search for community, for a place and a moment where community exists.'
europeanprospects.org/channel/jana-romanova-adopted-welsh
Solo

2016 The Alphabet of Shared Words the

Museum of Photography Braunschweig, Duitsland The work »Shvilishvili« (grandchild) was preceded by a private process of rapprochement with the Georgian family branch of the photographer. In the sense of an “anti-photo album” the work reflects the function of the family album as a collective visual memory which enhances the memory of a special event. In so doing, the work brings together visually the photographer’s relatives who are spread over two countries and who have lost contact with one another because of the political framework as well as the occurrence of a tragic death. As a visual construction of this family history, the “anti-photo album” reveals in a medial reconstruction how photographic insights into personal biographies and the complexity of individual destinies cannot be made to agree, and that such biographies cannot really be visually captured by photographic documentation. The work »Immerse«, on the other hand, which arose in 2014, set off a physical confrontation of young adults with the legacies of the political show of force in Sevastopol in Crimea. Immersing in history and interacting spatially with the monuments, the portrayed persons endeavour to find their bearings. In this process, the ironic comparison between physical self-presentation and the monument produces a contrast that can hardly be more sharply defined.

www.photomuseum.de/jana-romanova-the-alphabet-of-shared-words/
Solo

INTERNATIONALE UITWISSELINGEN / ARTIST-IN- RESIDENCIES

2025 Performing Arts Forum (PAF) Saint Erme, Frankrijk I was invited to visit Performing Arts Forum Summer University to present my work and teach a workshop www.pa-f.net/

AANKOPEN/WERKEN IN COLLECTIES

2016 The Alphabet of Shared Words Hirsh Library Houston, Verenigde Staten
<https://www.mfah.org/research/hirsch-library/>

- 2018 Webster University Leiden Campus
Leiden, Nederland Residency of the
Webster Universtiy Leiden Campus
organized by Media Communications
department in collaboration with
Unseen festival. During this residency I
co-organized together with the head of
the department Daria Tuminas a one-
day workshop "Book Grasp" and
prepared a series of videos and live
performance on stage of the Unseen
Festival called the "Expert Photobook
Review"
www.facebook.com/events/330660294174587
- 2018 Cassis Air Cassis, Frankrijk In January
2018 I've been working in this
residency for a month to develop my
work-in-progress project "Close
Relationship" cassisair.com/
- 2016 Docking Station Amsterdam, Nederland
Docking Station is a platform where
visual stories from different cultures
find a form. We do this by charging
them with knowledge and then, in co-
creation with Dutch creators, turning
them into concrete products. In this
way, the stories can be more widely
shared, and thereby contribute to a
more conscious society.
www.dockingstation.today/jana
- 2015 Ffotogallery Cardiff, Verenigd
Koninkrijk During her European
Prospects residency with Ffotogallery in
Wales, Jana Romanova developed a
new body of work titled Adopted
Welsh.
europeanprospects.org/channel/jana-romanova-adopted-welsh

PUBLICATIES

- 2015 Waiting Boek selfpublished Jana
Romanova Saint-Petersburg, Rusland
janaromanova.com/waiting-book 24,5
cm x 16 cm 470 gm 96 pages design:
Anton Lepashov year of publication:
2015 Young Russian couples,
inhabitants of Saint-Petersburg and
Moscow, are sleeping in their bedrooms
early in the morning, the time when
people don't really care about their

PRIJZEN EN STIPENDIA

- 2024 Mondriaan Artist Start (extention)
Mondriaan Fonds, Amsterdam (NL) Den
Haag, Nederland Received an extension to
the Mondriaan Artist Start subsidy for one
more year
- 2024 ProInvest Subsidy PRO Invest, Stroom Den
Haag Den Haag, Nederland
- 2022 Mondriaan Artist Start Mondriaan Fonds,

	appearance, being natural. They are preparing to become parents in few months, and the project investigates not only their attitude to each other during the period of expecting a baby, but also the way young families live in big cities of modern Russia, 20 years after the fall of the Soviet Union, the country that will be known to their children only from history books.		Amsterdam (NL) Den Haag, Nederland
		2022	Pro Kunstrproject Subsidy Kunstproject Subsidy, Stroom, The Hague, NL Den Haag, Nederland Received a grant from Stroom Den Haag to work on The Water Portraits project
		2021	Water Stress MIAP Amsterdam, Nederland In this project I invite participants to reuse 1 liter of water one after another until it's gone or nobody else is ready to deal with it. The water is frozen in between the usages, and every volunteer receives it in the form of an ice cube. From an experiment in finding a creative way of using water productively, it became a project that asks questions about what does it mean to "use" and when it seems useless, and what is the role of art in our understanding of recycling, reusing and sustainability. 1.2 billion people, or almost one-third of the world's population, now live in countries with physical water scarcity, and using a very limited amount of freshwater for all needs is an exercise they do every day. And, according to the UN's World Water Development Report, 40% of the population of Earth will already suffer from water stress by 2030.
2015	The Alphabet of Shared Words Boek selfpublished Jana Romanova Saint-Peterburg, Rusland janaromanova.com/the-alphabet-of-shared-words-book Hand-made (the notebook itself is made by Konstantin Ladvischenko) 14 x 18,5 cm Edition of 29 29 archival pigment prints Sold out In March 2014 the tension between Russia and Ukraine started to grow high, inspired by the informational war on the situation in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. Citizens of both countries started to loose the desire to understand each other. Romanova asked different people who took part in the revolution in Kiev at the Square of Independence, to remember words which are absolutely the same both in Russian and Ukrainian languages and illustrate these words for the photographs — to make a sort of ABC, based on the idea that understanding starts from language, and language starts from alphabet. Each book has a letter, not a number, and a print representing this letter.		
		2016	Joop Swart Masterclass World Press Photo, NL Amsterdam, Nederland I was nominated and selected to take part in the Joop Swart Masterclass
		2016	Author's Book Award Les Recontres d'Arles Arles, Frankrijk Shortlisted with "The Alphabet of Shared Words"
2012	Shvilishvili Boek selfpublished Jana Romanova Saint-Petersburg, Rusland janaromanova.com/shvilishvili-book Hand-made collectors edition of 67 15x32 cm Hardcover (canvas) 106 pages, color weight around 450 gr 4 plastic bags, a rope 1 meter long Print 15x20 cm A box *each 10 copies are somehow different from each other Sold out "Shvilishvili" is Georgian for "grandchild", literally it could be translated as "a child of a child". In this project, presented as book-object, the author questions the value of family photography and family ties themselves in modern society through an attempt to unite her relatives from one blood		
		2015	Adopted Welsh European Prospects Cardiff, Verenigd Koninkrijk Received a grant and was selected for a residency at Ffotogallery in Cardiff, UK, to create a new project called "Adopted Welsh"

line by photography. The family is divided between two countries — Russia and Georgia, — and the problems of it's members on both sides of the border arise from the post-war political situation as well as the tragic story of a murder committed inside the family.

- 2012 The Book of Savior Boek selfpublished Jana Romanova Saint-Peterburg, Rusland janaromanova.com/the-book-of-saviour Self-published laser print 19×25 cm 60 pages Edition of 24 + print 15×23 cm When you say it in Russian language there is not much difference between two words: "spasatel" ("rescue officer" or "firefighter") and "spasitel" ("savior", "redeemer", "Jesus Christ"), but the connotations are almost opposite. Rescue officers come when something bad already happened, often they just carry dead bodies and basically they don't prevent tragedy, but deal only with it's consequences. The original document is called "The Book of a rescue officer", and all rescue officers in Russian Federation get one after their first certification. Every owner of this book has to fill it by hand, writing down all the accidents he was involved in as a rescue officer throughout his career. It becomes a sort of a lifetime experience record of seeing people suffering and dying amost every day. Jana Romanova spent two and a half years in a rescue division in Russia, working on a project, exploring what happens with your attitude to death when you meet it every day.

ARTISTIEKE NEVENACTIVITEITEN

- 2021 - Workshop "Translating Methods" at MA
2021 "Photography and Society" and "Interior Architecture" at KABK
- 2020 - Teaching a course in photojournalism
2020 for part-time BA in Photography at KABK
- 2016 - -- Teaching in multiple schools in Russia
project thinking in art Loopt nog



The Broken Archive, 2025
Performance, 45 mins



The Broken Archive, 2025
Fotografie, 25x25 cm



The Broken Archive, 2025
rollenspel, 4 uur



Water Portraits exhibition, 2024
photography, 45x45 cm including frame



Water Portraits. Masja, 2024
Photography, 45x45 cm including frame



Water Portraits. Renata., 2024
Photography, 45x45 cm including frame



Water Portraits installation, 2023
Photography, installation, 14x8 meters, 83 A2 images



Water Portraits. Installation at See Lab, 2023



DreamHouse, 2023
Live-action role-play, 4-6 hours



The Last Submarine, 2023
Live-action role play, 4-6 hours