

OLESSIA VENEDIKTOVA (b. 1979 Russia) received her Master's Degree in Journalism from Saint-Petersburg State University in 2001. During studies she did her internship at Magnum Photos. Being an assistant photographer she evolves in the documentary photography. Since 2002 she live and work in Paris.

Olessia Venediktova's work is influenced by a particular interest in stories from the past and contemporary situations from which an atmosphere of the past emanates. Her photographic practice is focused on history and memory. She often juxtapose her photographic narration with written texts. She use 35mm format. Her latest work is set in the post-Soviet landscape. From 2013 to 2016, Venediktova immortalized the last traces of Soviet civilization.

The titles of her first major series are «*Gasoline Stations*» (2014), and «*Forget Them*» (2015), environmental portraits of people from the old world.

The latest project entitled «*New Soviet Picture*»(2018) brings together 50 color photographs taken upstream, accompanied by 20 texts. «*New Soviet Picture*» illustrates the experiences of those who lived in Soviet Union and their aspirations for the utopia of the past. For this project Venediktova invited a several journalists and writers to create a work that combines narrative stories with images. Kone Foundation (Finland) supported the project in 2017 for production.

Her work has been exhibited at the Cité internationale des arts in Paris with the support of Ministère de la Culture, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Ville de Paris and de l'Académie des Beaux-Arts. At Cloître de Billettes in Paris.

Festival Images Singulières in Sète, France, presented her recent project «*New Soviet Picture*» in the collective exhibition «*New documentary writings*», July 2019. Festival Présence(s) Photographie in Montélimar, France, June 2021 selected the project for the photographic projection on a large screen.

In February 2019 her work is published in the collective trilogy «*Red Utopias*» by Essarter Editions, France.

Belfast Photo Festival 2021, Ireland, shortlisted and highly commended «*New Soviet Picture*».

Currently Venediktova is working on a project «*Russians*» - an exploration of modern Russian mentality and complex identity.