

ISSUE 001

Summer 2026

LENS & LEGACY

A MAGAZIN FOR VISUAL STORYTELLERS

ANDREA GSTEU-KNECHT

A PHOTOGRAPHER'S PORTRAIT

REAL STORIES. HONEST INSIGHT. LASTING IMPACT.

BEHIND THE LENS

INTRODUCING THIS ISSUE'S
FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

ANDREA GSTEU-KNECHT

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EDITORS NOTE

Welcome to Issue #001.

For the very first issue of Lens & Legacy, I wanted to begin with a photographer whose work has a truly distinctive visual language: Andrea.

Her work moves between cinematic imagery, fine art and visual storytelling, creating photographs that feel like fragments of a larger story. I love the way she uses light, atmosphere and emotion to transform ordinary moments into something unexpected and deeply personal.

This first issue marks the beginning of Lens & Legacy — a space created to celebrate photographers, their stories and the way they see the world.

I hope you enjoy discovering her work.

Elijah GK
Editor & Founder, Lens & Legacy

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ANDREA GSTEU-KNECHT

Instagram: [my.blue.eyed.world](https://www.instagram.com/my.blue.eyed.world)



ANDREA GSTEU-KNECHT

BIOGRAPHY

I'm Andrea, an Austrian visual storyteller.

My path to photography began long before the camera. I studied fashion, jewellery and object design, worked as a freelance artist, and later in costume departments for the theatre. Photography was always part of my creative world, connected by my love of atmosphere, composition, colour and storytelling.

Today, photography brings these worlds together. I am drawn to architecture, abandoned places and vintage settings that seem to hold memories within their walls. Sometimes I photograph them as I find them; at other times, I turn them into a stage, creating characters through real vintage clothing, colour and mood.

In those moments, the theatre is still present in my work — only now I create the costume, the setting, the performance and the final frame. I use both my Fujifilm camera and my iPhone, because for me, the feeling an image carries matters more than the equipment.

Music is also an important part of my storytelling, often shaping the rhythm and emotion of a series. Photography has become my new form of theatre and art — a stage I can carry with me.



BASED IN

Austria

GENRE

Cinematic Fine Art

INSTAGRAM

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What's one piece of advice that quietly changed the way you photograph?

The advice that quietly changed the way I photograph was this: every location has already been photographed, but never from my perspective.

In the beginning, I sometimes believed I needed to find an extraordinary place in order to create an extraordinary image.

That thought created pressure and made me compare my work with photographs that already existed. Once I understood that originality does not always come from the subject, but from the person looking at it, I became much freer.

I began to trust my own way of noticing colours, lines, small details, and atmosphere.

Even a familiar building, an ordinary street, or a forgotten corner can become something personal when I connect it with a mood or a story. This advice taught me that I do not have to discover a place no one has seen before. I only have to show how it feels when I see it.

„I sometimes believed I needed to find an extraordinary place“



Which photograph changed the way you see the world?

There is no single photograph that changed the way I see the world. For me, the change came gradually, through taking many pictures and realising that every photograph reveals something about the photographer.

Two people can stand in the same place and create different images. One notices the architecture, another the light, a small imperfection, or a person passing through the frame. That understanding made photography much more personal for me. I stopped thinking that I was simply documenting what was in front of me.

I began to see that I was always making a choice: what to include, what to leave out, and what feeling to give the scene.

My photographs tell stories about places, but they also show what attracts me: traces of the past, overlooked beauty, solitude, colour, and atmosphere.

Photography did not change the



What's one photography rule you happily ignore—and why?

The rule I happily ignore is that a photograph has to be technically perfect to be worth keeping. Focus, exposure, and composition can be important, but they are not what makes me feel something.

A perfectly sharp image can still leave me untouched. Another may contain blur, grain, unusual colours, or an imperfect crop and yet carry exactly the atmosphere I wanted. I will always choose emotion over perfection.

My background in art, fashion, and theatre influences this strongly.

I see a photograph less as proof of technical skill and more as a scene with its own mood and story. Sometimes an imperfection makes an image feel more cinematic, mysterious, or real. If a photograph makes me stop, remember, or imagine what happened before and after that moment, then it has succeeded.

For me, feeling is not an extra quality. It is the reason to create the image at all.



What's one mistake every photographer should make at least once?

Every photographer should miss the “perfect” shot at least once because they were too busy enjoying the moment. It sounds strange, but it teaches something important: not every experience has to become an image. When we carry a camera, it is easy to start looking at life only through possible frames.

We can become so focused on capturing the exact second that we are no longer fully present. Missing a photograph can feel frustrating, especially when we know it might have been beautiful. But sometimes the memory is more valuable because we actually lived it. This does not mean putting the camera away whenever something special happens.

It means learning when to photograph and when simply to look. A missed shot reminds us that photography should deepen our connection with the world, not replace it. Some moments belong in a gallery; others are allowed to belong only to us.



„It sounds strange, but it teaches something important“

Looking back to when you first started photography, what advice would you give your younger self—and aspiring photographers today?

I would tell my younger self not to spend so much time searching for beautiful places. Learn to recognise beauty where other people do not see it. You do not need a spectacular destination or anyone's permission to create a meaningful photograph. Some of my favourite images began in forgotten buildings, empty rooms, or places found by taking a wrong turn. What matters is curiosity and looking longer. I would also say: do not wait until you feel like a “real” photographer. That feeling may never arrive, and it is not required. Your way of seeing develops by making pictures, trying things, and failing. Do not let social media decide which photographs are valuable. An image can receive little attention and still be one of your strongest. Photograph what interests you, trust your visual language, and allow it to change. Technique can be learned. A perspective has to be lived.



EDITORS SHOT



WHAT WE SEE MATTERS

Every photograph
is a small piece of time.
Some disappear.
Some stay with us.

Thank you for looking.
Next Sunday,
we continue.



Quiet.Grain - Eliah GK
Founder of Lens&Legacy

LENS & LEGACY

AN INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPHY MAGAZINE

A PERSONAL NOTE

A few words, a signature, a moment —
for those who keep this magazine close
and pass it on.

THIS COPY BELONGS TO:

ISSUE NO

DATE

PHOTOGRAPHS CONNECT PEOPLE,
PLACES AND MOMENTS.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART
OF THIS JOURNEY.

LENS & LEGACY

STAY IN THE FRAME

PEOPLE. PLACES. STORIES. ALWAYS AHEAD.

Lens & Legacy continues the journey —
with new photographers, fresh perspectives and stories
that celebrate the power of photography.



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NEVER MISS AN ISSUE

Discover inspiring photographers,
extraordinary places and timeless stories
— one issue at a time.

“Photography connects us —
across places, perspectives and time.”

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The Making of This Issue

AN INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPHY MAGAZINE

EDITOR & FOUNDER

Elijah GK

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The photographers and artists featured in this issue.

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Every photograph holds a story. Every story deserves to be seen.

www.lensandlegacy.art

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Lens & Legacy is an independent photography magazine
exploring the people, ideas and stories behind the image.

Hosted by: [quiet.grain](#)
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