

MATERNAL EXILE

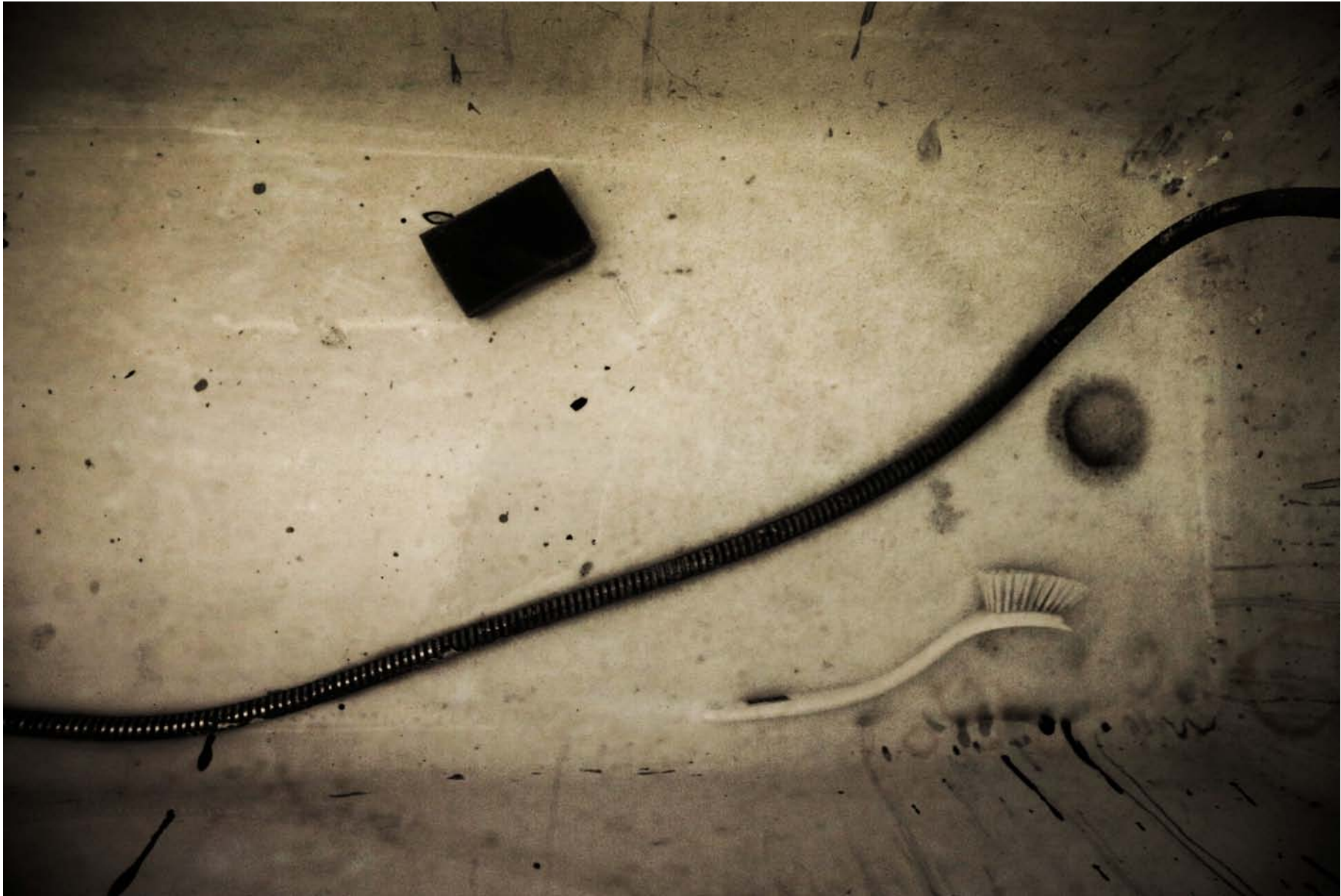


Ivana Dostalova

One day after my life turned upside down I stayed on the crossroad deeply knowing that I am no more the person I had been. I had no more been the scientist, I had no more been the woman who found the love of her life, I had no more been myself. Staying on that crossroad being not able to do the work I had been working in for more than ten years and to live the life I had been living before I wanted to finish it all because I had lost everything I had believed in. At the same moment I said to myself, you can not give up hope and faith. You are woman. You are mother. But I was not able to speak, I was not able to do anything. With the exception of photography ... So I took the camera and started to document every step of my daily life. From that day the camera has started to be my hand, my eye, my possibility to talk, my friend, my hope, my belief. I have been documenting my feelings, I have been documenting the life of the mother of two boys, I have been documenting everyday life of my family, I have been documenting every step of to date the hardest part of my life during which I have had to fight with depression and social phobia as a consequence of social isolation — even this is motherhood. Constantly recurring routine activities, loneliness, fatigue, exhaustion. All these feelings and aspects have been, however, deeply naturally balanced by the unconditional maternal love — even this is also motherhood — the most selfless and the most loving role in woman's life. The whole series evokes at me also the paradox of today's times when the real life is compared with "Instagram Happiness". When I have started to select photographs from the huge material I have been taking during the last five years from 2015 I was surprised myself when a mosaic of feelings began to appear in front of me — for whom the word EXILE came out almost immediately, yes this is EXILE, MATERNAL EXILE.

The Intimate Diary. 2015 – 2020

I Clean The Bathtub. Every Day.



Panty Calendar. Missing Piece.



I Am Looking How You Are Preparing For Work.
Sequence — Brekfast. Excretion. Shower.
Every Day.
After.



Parisian Morning. Escapes.



Water Dancer.



The Deepest Bond. Unconditional. Endless.



To Fly Away.



Friends.



Bathroom Of An Artist. If The Room Could Talk.



Parisian Morning. The Breath.



Waiting For A Baby Girl. Vanity.



I Am Looking How You Are Bathing. Every Day.



You Need Something. Every Day. Every Minute. Every Second.



One Solid Point On Distant Inclined Plane.



Play. Every Day. Fragile Patience.



At Grandma's. The Time Slowed Its Run.



Inflated Balloon.



The Kiss.



Random Encounters Of A Different Kind.



There Is Sky On You.



Breaths Of Summer Holidays Afternoon.



To Be Free Like A Bird.



You Are Leaving. Every Day.



White Legs.



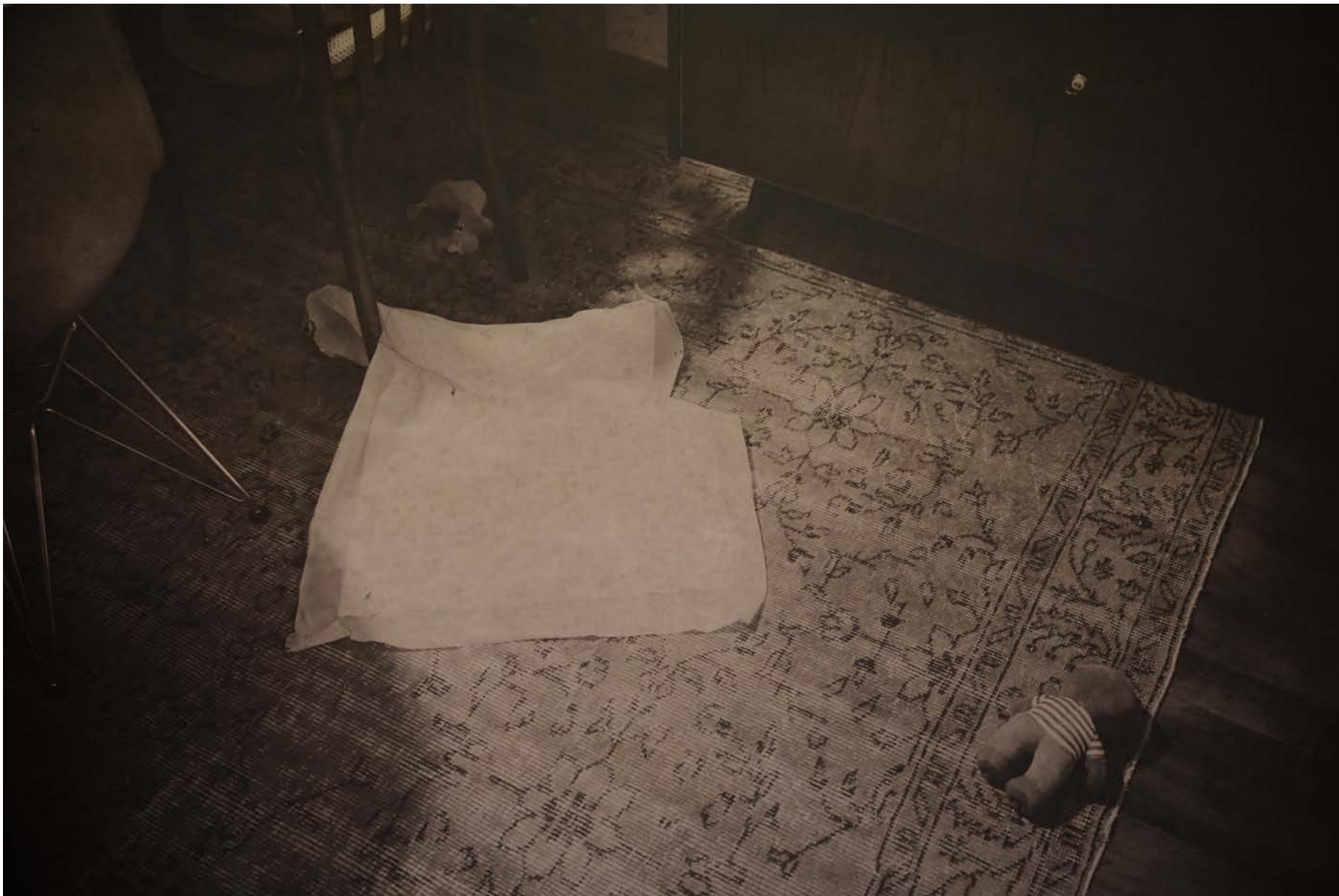
Ghost Of My Bed.



Behind The Light Of The Birds' Kitchen Window.



Unnecessary Expectations.



Bolders. Let It Be.



Secrets Of Childhood Memories.



Light Of The Dreams That Have Gone.



Autumn.



Summer.



Fly. You Can. Maybe.



Breakfast.



Afternoon Play Reflections.



Teddy Bear Trapped Behind The Window Of Expectations.



Winter.



Spring.



Five And Half Ducks Of Underwater Happiness.



Random Encounters Of Another Kind.



Stepped To The Light.



On The Edge Of An Horizon.



Jumper. Dark.



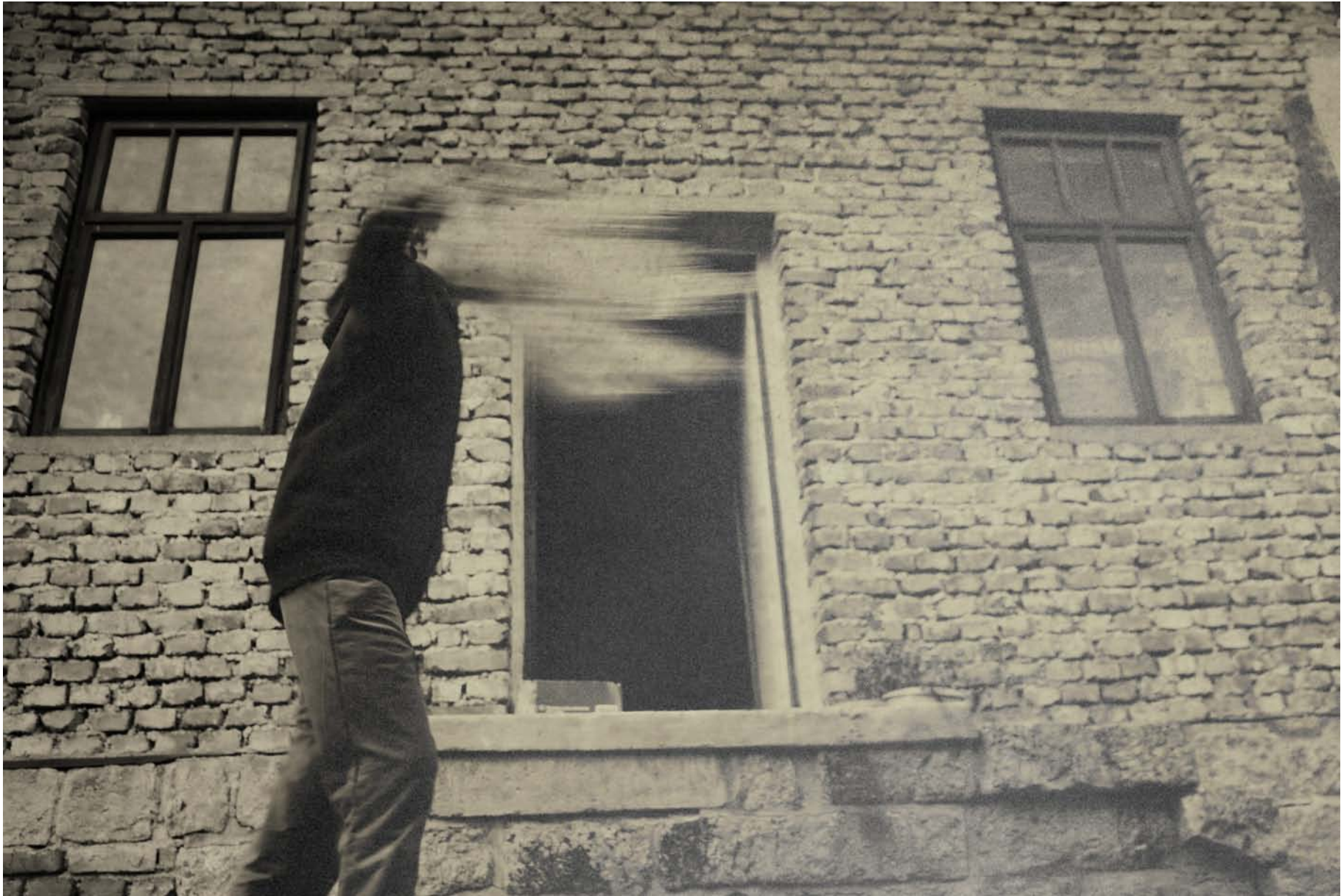
Reflections. Dark.



Take A Deep Breath. Dark.



Signs Of Freedom.



Rocky Rocky.



Like A Spinning Doll.



Waternaut.



Footprints In The Snow.
Steps To Nowhere.



Like A Snowman In A Fog.



Perspective Of A Fog Bridge.



Butterfly Of Happiness.



Drops Of Water.



Hide And Seek.



Light Sleeper.



Small Things.



Leaving Of The Time.



Memories Of Running Away From Myself Remain Me How Much I Love You, My Dear.





IVANA DOSTALOVA

Born 1979

Czech freelance photographer and visual artist based in Prague, founder of Voitopi Photography (fine-art photography, commercial and documentary projects). Double Czech Press Photo Nominee 2018, 2019, Bordeaux Art Limited Awards Nominee 2018, Lens Culture Street Awards 2020 Featured Photographer, Lens Culture Fine Art Awards 2019 Featured Photographer. In 2017, she photographed the backstage of the Oncogynecology Center of the General University Hospital in Prague (photographical book *The Stories Behind Hospital Walls*, 2018). Since 2014, she has been taking time-lapse photographic series *First Steps* from behind of the backdrop of children's dance and ballet (in 2018 nomination for the first place in the Czech Press Photo competition). In art photography, she devotes herself to multiple exposures and visual art, these photographs create several large fairy-tale poem series reflecting today's times problems such as anonymity, social media etc. (series *Ghosts*, *We Are All Dreamers*, *Lost in the City*, *Memories*, etc.), relationships and characters (series *Relations*, *Metamorphosis*, *Portraits of Characters*). In September 2018, were *Lost in the City* and *We Are All Dreamers* collections selected for the *Other Art Fair* at *Mana Contemporary* in Chicago. Ivana is also devoted to author's books for children, in 2018, she published her second author's children's books. She is author of more than 130 paintings, which are together with the photographs represented in private collections in the Czech Republic, Berlin, Chicago, Atlanta, New York, Michigan, Austria, Italy. In 2020 her work has been selected for *Los Angeles The Other Art Fair*. Her work has been many times selected for Title page and Excellence Collection of Art Limited France and for selected collections of Saatchiart.

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