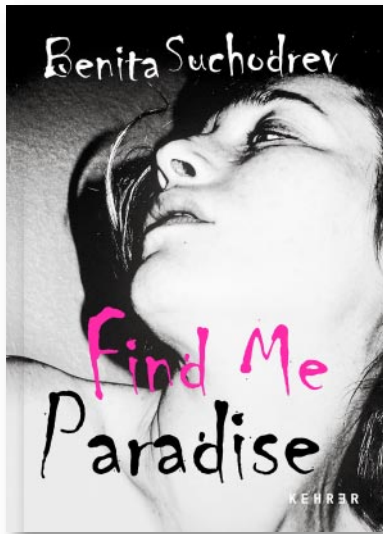


NEW RELEASE 2026



Benita Suchodrev *Find Me Paradise*

Texts by Simon Bainbridge, Benita Suchodrev
 Designed by Benita Suchodrev in collaboration with
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»Paradise isn't reached. It is searched for. These photographs are about the unrest, disturbance, fear, beauty
 —all the things that stand in the way.« Benita Suchodrev

Eros, Thanatos, ominous birds, ripened fruits, lonely forests, and pensive queens of the night shape this vivid catalogue of encounters that feel both fragmented and deeply interconnected. Like flashes of memory rooted in raw, unflinching realism, the images in *Find Me Paradise* capture intense yet fleeting moments, emblematic of life's volatility and vulnerability. Shifting between extremes, the surprising compositions cross the line between the beautiful and the grotesque, clarity and contradiction, desire and doubt. This allegorical and figurative tension animates the search for »paradise« in a world defined by absurdity and paradox.

Benita Suchodrev's third publication synthesizes her portrait and documentary work through a multifaceted narrative that captures our shared experience and exposes the ephemeral, unvarnished realities of being.

From the text *Far Away So Close* by **Simon Bainbridge**:

Find Me Paradise is both a peculiar retrospective, drawing on a seam of heightened emotional awareness that runs throughout her (Suchodrev's) work made over two decades, and an assertion of artistic freedom, unbound by conventional narrative or the confines of the photographic project. It boldly varies from her previous books, (...), and especially her breakthrough, 48 Hours Blackpool, where time and place are literally stamped into the title and the concept. (...) Find Me Paradise is the result of making new connections rather than new photographs. In her sequencing and her pairing of images, she finds associations between scenes that are

often years and many hundreds of miles apart. These new bonds, free from the specificity of time and place, ask questions about the human condition. They explore our need for redemption through joy and pain, our desire for reinvention, our quest for transcendence as a release from the mundanity of everyday existence. (...)

For her, it isn't about finding paradise in dark places, it depicts the dark places you have to pass through before you can imagine it. Paradise is always deferred in her pictures; it is an idea, or longing, not something that can be possessed.

Benita Suchodrev was born in the former Soviet Union and emigrated to the United States in 1990. There, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts with a focus on Art History, followed by a Master's degree in English Literature, which she gained with high honors. Her work has been presented in numerous international exhibitions and is held in public and private collections around the world.

Simon Bainbridge is a British editor, writer, and photography specialist best known for his long tenure as editor of the *British Journal of Photography*. He has curated exhibitions, judged major international photography awards including the Deutsche Börse Prize and Prix Pictet, and was editor-in-chief at Magnum Photos. Bainbridge is also the author of the book *Magnum Artists: When Great Photographers Meet Great Artists*.

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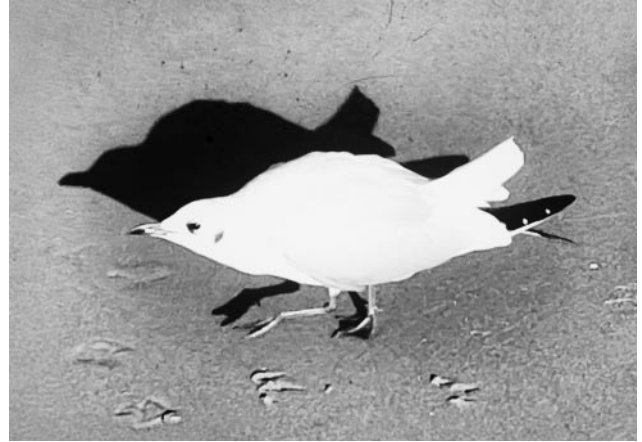
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