

Through My Lens

Malika Talha

Hello,

A Look Back – My Journey with Analog Photography

I've always been fascinated by photography. As a kid, I had a digital camera and even a Polaroid and later I'd take endless photos on my phone—always layering on a thousand filters to give them that grainy, vintage feel I loved so much.

A special part of this story begins with a man who lived on our street long before I was born. When he passed away, his house was eventually cleared out. People were invited to come by and take what they wanted before everything was thrown away. My mom walked into his basement and discovered a whole treasure trove of beautiful cameras. He had been a professional photographer, developing all his photos himself right there.

She didn't know how to use the cameras or what to do with them, but she couldn't just leave them behind—so she grabbed as many as she could carry. To this day, it breaks my heart knowing that so many others were lost, thrown away with time.

Those cameras sat in our basement for years, until something changed. About three years ago, my grandma gave me a camera that had belonged to my grandpa—he had given it to her so she could take photos herself. It was a simple point-and-shoot: the Olympus Mju II. I fell in love with it instantly.

That's when my love for analog photography really began.

Since then, I've built a little collection—a beautiful mess of secondhand finds, the cameras my grandparents once used, and the old treasures the neighbor unknowingly left behind. But my most faithful companion has always been that first love, the Mju II. In my early twenties, I traveled a lot, and that little camera came with me everywhere. It helped me capture so many beautiful memories—moments I now want to share in this book.

For you. And for myself.

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Southeast Asia

This was the journey that deeply changed the way I see life. My first solo trip — just me, my backpack, and the unknown. I traveled through Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam, discovering peace in solitude, joy in getting lost, and beauty in every color, light, and face I captured. The friendships I made still shape my life, even three years later.



THROUGH MY LENS



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Thailand was loud, fast, and full of life. I loved the bright lights everywhere — especially at night. It was a photographer's dream. Every street had something happening, and I had so much fun capturing the chaos and color of the country.





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One of my favorite parts of the trip was the Ha Giang Loop in northern Vietnam. I rode on the back of a motorbike from Hanoi all the way up to the border of China. It was a completely different side of the country — quiet, rural, and surrounded by endless green landscapes. Along the way, I passed through small villages, saw how people live far away from the cities. It felt real and raw, and it stuck with me more than anything else.



THROUGH MY LENS





Algeria

Half my family lives in Algeria and I've been going there almost every year since I was a kid. The country feels incredibly untouched — no tourists, no filters — just raw, honest life. As a photographer, that's something I've always seen as a privilege.

There's beauty, history, and culture hidden in every street corner, every face, every detail. I don't think I've fully managed to capture it yet, but I'm excited to keep trying.



Algiers is a city shaped by contrasts. The dense, winding streets of the old Casbah preserve traces of pre-colonial life, while the worn facades of French-era buildings speak to a different chapter of history. Everyday scenes—hanging laundry, shared meals, quiet corners—reflect a city that continues to live in the space between memory and present.





USA

The US wasn't really on my travel list — until I met people from there during my solo trip through Southeast Asia. Since then, I've visited the country twice. From the busy streets of New York City to the calm of upstate New York and from the energy of Los Angeles to the everyday life in Florida, every place showed me a different side of the country. It's been less about the landmarks, and more about reconnecting with people.



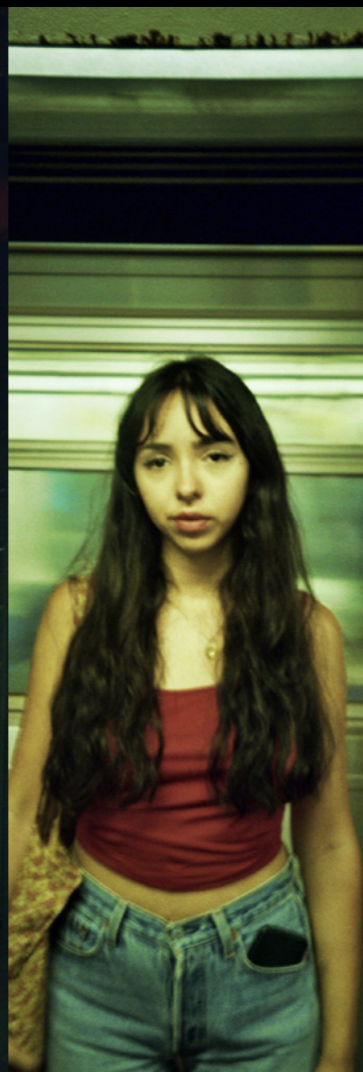
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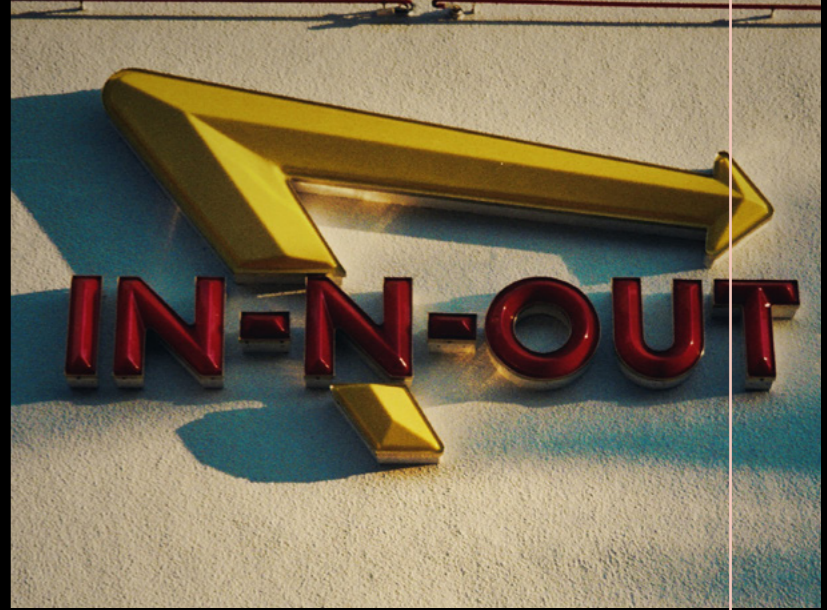


New York was loud, messy, and full of life — a city shaped by countless cultures, stories, and contradictions. Every block felt like its own world, and somehow, it all worked.



THROUGH MY LENS







London

London is one of those cities I could visit over and over. We're lucky to have a friend there — her home just around the corner from Paddington Station has become our base. From there, we've explored all kinds of neighborhoods, each with their own rhythm and roots. What I love most about the city is how many cultures shape everyday life — you see it in the shops, the markets, the food. It's a mix that feels vibrant.







Hauptstadt

At the end of January 2024, I received a request from the Bern-based online magazine Hauptstadt. I was given the opportunity to photograph the series Bern in Pictures. What made it particularly appealing to them was that I'm still a student. Since the editorial team had temporarily moved their office to the University of Bern for a week that month, they wanted to adapt the monthly Bern in Pictures to fit the theme. I had the chance to create a photo series that all of us students can relate to.



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On the dresser of a shared apartment room: a colorful mix of school supplies, cosmetics, and painkillers – a vivid collage of everyday life. This scene is just one of twelve images in my analog photo series capturing student life in Bern. The series offers an intimate glimpse into the shared living experience of students in Bern.





People

This chapter is filled with faces I know and cherish. People who have been part of my life. Some portraits hold entire stories, others capture fleeting seconds.





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About me

Hi! My name is Malika — I'm the person behind the camera.

As you've probably guessed from these pages, I love to travel. I have this constant itch to capture everything around me and doing so brings me so much joy.

When I'm not taking photos, you'll probably find me watching a film with a bag of chips in hand (if I could, I'd do it every day). I also love to cook — it's my way of slowing down and unwinding.

Music has always been part of my life. I play the guitar and love to sing — though lately, my guitar's been getting a bit dusty.

And most of all, I love being around people. Hosting dinners, laughing with friends, sharing small moments — that's what life's really about, isn't it?