



Indian Portrait Prize 2024 winners

Smells like home - Shubhadeep Mukherjee // India

Shubhadeep Mukherjee is a long-form visual storyteller whose work combines documentary portraiture with mixed media to explore themes of migration, memory, and resilience. Rooted in his father's experience during the 1947 Partition of India, his projects reflect on the emotional impact of displacement and the shared human experiences of loss and survival. Through experimental techniques and a forthcoming photo book, Mukherjee aims to preserve collective memory and foster empathy across generations and cultures.

Shubhadeep Mukherjee is a self-taught photographer and visual artist from Delhi, India, with a background in Ecology who transitioned from wildlife biology to visual storytelling in 2020. Currently pursuing a Master's in Journalism, his work has earned recognition from the Lucie Foundation, Missouri Photo Workshop, and The Washington Post, where one of his illustrated stories was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2024.

Morning in the home garden - Indrajit Khambe // India

My quiet, nature-filled childhood was shaped by solitude, creativity, and the absence of photographs due to financial hardship. The birth of my children rekindled memories of that time and sparked a passion for photography, allowing me to document the moments I once lived but couldn't capture. Living in the lush landscapes of Sindhudurga, I now draw daily inspiration from its natural beauty, which continues to fuel my artistic journey.

Indrajit Khambe is a documentary photographer from Sindhudurga, India, who focuses on human stories and personal documentation. Since 2012, his work exploring local traditions like Dashavatar Theater, wrestling in Kolhapur, and fishing communities has been widely published and exhibited at major photo festivals.

Tides of Hope: The Olive Ridley Journey - Sathish Lal Andhekar // India

My work explores the delicate relationship between humans and nature, with a focus on the annual mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles at Rushikulya Beach in Odisha, India. Over the past decade, I've documented the resilience of these endangered turtles and their deep connection with local fishing communities who protect them despite environmental challenges. Through my photography, I aim to highlight the urgency of marine conservation and inspire a sense of shared responsibility to safeguard these vulnerable yet enduring creatures.

Andhekar Sathish Lal, a veteran photographer from Hyderabad, has spent over 20 years documenting India's tribal cultures and the endangered Olive Ridley turtles, earning national and international recognition, including a commendation from President Droupadi Murmu in 2023. His work, featured in 20 solo exhibitions and preserved at the Tribal Art Museum in Rashtrapati Bhavan, reflects a deep commitment to preserving India's cultural and ecological heritage.

DAA.ERA - Abeer Khan // India

"Daa.era" is a deeply personal photo series inspired by the quiet strength of my grandmother, who marked resilience through simple rituals in the face of hardship. After losing my parents, I created this work as a space for introspection—a visual refuge where grief, memory, and transformation converge. Using double exposure, the series weaves together past and present, exploring how personal and collective histories shape our inner worlds amidst societal change.

Abeer Khan is a self-taught filmmaker and photographer from Mumbai whose work blends documentary, narrative, and video art, often navigating the space between fiction and activism. With a reflective and open approach, she draws on personal experience to create insightful, human-centered stories, while finding joy in Urdu poetry and cinema of all kinds.

A THOUSAND CUTS - Sujata Setia // India

"A Thousand Cuts" is a collaborative visual project that confronts domestic abuse in South Asian culture through the deeply personal stories of 21 women survivors. Using symbolic imagery—portraits printed on fragile paper and cut with knives—the project captures the emotional erosion of abuse, while evoking themes of pain, resilience, and rebirth. By bringing private experiences into public view, it challenges cultural silence, fosters dialogue around trauma and identity, and empowers survivors to reclaim their narratives.

After a career in journalism in India, I moved to the UK to pursue a Masters in International Relations, with art becoming my lifelong anchor despite no formal photography training. As a South Asian woman and survivor of abuse, my photographic work explores themes of "otherness" and challenges cultural imperialism by highlighting marginalized and overlooked narratives through a blend of traditional art and photography.

IPF Portrait Prize

The Indian Photo Festival PORTRAIT PRIZE is a portrait photography competition open to photographers from across the Indian subcontinent. Portraits have been a part of photography since the very beginning, and what makes them so powerful is their ability to capture the essence of a person, a moment in time, or an entire culture. This award is all about discovering compelling portraits and celebrating extraordinary talent.

Participating photographers

Santanu Bose - Sayan Biswas - Justin Joseph - Arvind Patwal - Devaraj Devan - Kumar Vivek - Viraj Nayar - Haider Khan - Dileep SS - Joy Saha - Pattabi Raman - Mahendra Bakle - Vinodkumar Peta - Azim Khan Ronnie - Shreenivasa Yenni - Kapu Ravindranath - Shrikanth Poojari -Murthy Boggavarapu - Sannidh Raychaud