

ROMAN ROAD

Polina Piëch: *Painted Winds*

Discover Polina Piëch's London debut at Photo London, where she showcases *Motions*, a series that translates the invisible journey of the wind into hypnotic pictorial analogue photographs. Through her camera lens, she paints nature's elements found on remote volcanic islands, evoking an olfactory experience in her presentation.



Polina PIËCH, *Shamanic Whispers*, 2024 (Printed 2025). C-type print on Fuji-flex paper mounted on aluminium. 116 x 166 cm, with frame. Courtesy of Roman Road and the artist.

15 – 18 May 2025
Preview Day: 14 May 2025
Somerset House, Strand, WC2R 1LA
Booth D12

**PHOTO
LONDON**

To mark Polina Piëch's London debut with Roman Road, we are pleased to participate in the Discovery section of the 10th edition of Photo London. This presentation follows a year of mentorship with Marisa Bellani, introducing Piëch's distinctive photographic practice to a wider audience. A Russian-born artist raised in the UK, Piëch graduates this year from the Royal College of Art (RCA). Through analogue photography, she explores meditative notions of movement found in the natural world, focusing on landscape photography and the four elemental forces that shape our environment. Fascinated by the idea of remoteness, she travels to volcanic islands, immersing herself in their shifting moods and capturing transient states, reflected in her work as painterly textures that bridge environmental cycles with humanity's restless pursuit of progress.

Our booth, *Painted Winds*, envelops visitors in an earthy scent, creating an immersive olfactory experience that enhances the sensory connection to nature. Featuring a selection of Piëch's large and small-scale photographs from her ongoing series *Motions* (since 2023), the presentation reinforces the tactile quality inherent in her photographic process.

Motions captures the journey of air as it transforms into wind, reshaping landscapes and evoking fleeting moments, sensory memory, and shifting perceptions. Unlike water or fire, wind is invisible—felt, heard, or traced only through movement. It exists in perpetual flux, both fleeting and eternal—a breath of life and an elemental force of transformation.

Ancient cultures recognised wind's dual nature—creative and destructive, divine and chaotic. In Egyptian mythology, the north wind symbolised breath and the afterlife, while Maya beliefs linked it to Huracan (god of wind, storms, and fire), a deity of both creation and ruin. Eastern philosophies viewed air as a vital spirit, an animating force of existence. These symbolic interpretations resonate with *Motions*, where the camera lens acts not just as an observer but as a tool for painting with light and movement.

Two key works in the presentation, *Fruits of the Earth* (2024) and *Shamanic Whispers* (2024), encapsulate Piëch's poetic approach to nature's transient states. Both are analogue photographs—chromogenic prints on paper, mounted on aluminium, and presented in wooden frames.

Fruits of the Earth captures a close-up of an orange tree before harvest, evoking the scent of citrus and the rich essence of the earth. Enhanced by the booth's scent installation, this sensory experience deepens the viewer's connection to the imagery, transporting them into a space of personal contemplation.

The photograph also captures the wind rustling through the leaves—a reminder that wind carries more than air; it transports seeds, ideas, and history, shaping civilisations and bridging human and natural worlds. This movement is central to Piëch's *Motions* series, where light and motion become a language for the unseen, inviting the viewer into a meditative flow where nature and perception merge. As technology reshapes our perspectives, *Motions* reflects on the primal connection between air, breath, and the human experience—an eternal dance of presence and disappearance.

Shamanic Whispers exemplifies the Pictorialist influence in Piëch's landscape photography, capturing the ethereal and painterly qualities that define her visual language. Drawing from the 19th-century Pictorialist tradition, her soft-focus imagery aligns with photographers who sought to elevate photography to fine art, using nature as a symbolic medium. Her work also reflects elements of post-war conceptual photography. Yet, where artists like Hiroshi Sugimoto emphasise stillness, Piëch embraces movement—offering a meditative exploration of the wind's ephemeral passage across landscapes. Inspired by the immediacy of photojournalism, she moves in rhythm with the environments she captures, using her dynamic photographic technique and body motion to translate nature's energy into hypnotic, dreamlike imagery, evoking shamanic visions.

With her solo presentation of *Motions* in *Painted Winds*, Piëch invites the viewer to pause, reflect, and experience nature as both a physical reality and a space of imagination. On view at Photo London, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LA, from 15–18 May 2025. For ticket details and more information, visit [[fair link](#)].

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT POLINA PIËCH

Polina Piëch (b. 1996, Russia) lives and works in London. She is a multidisciplinary artist working primarily with analogue photography to create immersive spaces that incorporate sound and scent, evoking the tactility of nature's elements—such as water, air, earth, and fire. She is graduating this year with an MA in Photography from the Royal College of Art (RCA). Her most recent group exhibition is *TERRA* at Apsara Studio, Burgundy (2024).

ABOUT ROMAN ROAD

Roman Road is a catalyst for artists' career growth, building on its origins as a gallery space. Initially founded in 2015 as a traditional exhibition venue participating in art fairs, Roman Road quickly recognised the need for a more comprehensive support system to help artists navigate their careers beyond the exhibitions. This insight led to the development of a forward-looking curatorial and studio platform, designed to respond to young artists' needs in an ever-evolving art world.

From 2020 to 2023, Roman Road provided free studio spaces to emerging artists alongside mentoring programmes, furthering its commitment to accessibility and inclusivity. Its headquarters in Bethnal Green now house a dedicated research and workshop room, ensuring that resources remain readily available to artists. Roman Road continues to pioneer an artist-focused approach, establishing itself as a vital resource for emerging talent in the contemporary art world.

Instagram:
[Romanroad_](#)
[Polinapiech](#)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Photo London
15-18 May 2025
Somerset House Strand, London WC2R 1LA

Opening times:
Wednesday 14 May: 13:00–21:00 (Preview Day) – No re-entry
Thursday 15 May: 13:00–20:00 – No re-entry
Friday 16 May: 13:00–20:00 – No re-entry
Saturday 17 May: 12:00–20:00 – No re-entry
Sunday 18 May: 12:00–18:00 – No re-entry

PRESS INFORMATION

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