

# Ana Zhuk — Artist Statement

2026

## Artist Statement

*I photograph the human figure as form. The bodies and faces in my work are not portraits in the conventional sense — they are vessels, carrying questions about identity, belonging, exile, return. I am Belarusian; I live between Belarus and Georgia. The work emerged from that movement, and continues to be shaped by it — two cultures, two languages, two political climates.*

*I work primarily in black and white, high contrast, often in stark or contemplative settings. The visual lineage I locate myself in includes Andrei Tarkovsky and the contemplative slowness of his cinema, and David Lynch and the American surrealist tradition. Biblical themes recur in my practice — exile, return, the body's relationship to earth — not as religious illustration but as a vocabulary of archetypes that lets the personal become universal.*

*My practice extends beyond still photography into video, performance documentation, and curatorial work. In Tbilisi I have been involved in cross-disciplinary projects with dancers, musicians, and writers; in 2025 I directed art for the RIA KEBURIA Foundation. Each medium informs the others — the still image carries the slowness of video; the video carries the composition of the still.*

*The figure in my work is, finally, a question rather than a subject. Who is this person? Where are they from? Where are they going? I do not answer. I make the image so the viewer can stay with the question.*

— Ana Zhuk, 2026