

# Testimonies



*"The festival was a great way to bring photographers together from all over the world. Even though I was there before many of the other photographers, I really enjoyed the time I got to talk with other photographers. I think this will lead to future collaborative relationships, and that's really wonderful. I also loved the creativity in finding places to put the exhibits. The funicular, the university hallways, etc., all seemed like a great way to get the photos out to a larger audience than just people interested in going to art galleries."*

M. Scott Brauer (USA),  
visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2016



*"KAUNAS PHOTO – motivated me to push myself to work on my own projects. Thanks to festivals' Catawiki auction where part of my photo project "Amerika" was sold as the most expensive piece of work. Besides, I got invited to participate in the Nui de la Photo festival."*

Algirdas Bakas (Lithuania),  
visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2016



*"Kaunas Photo Festival was a precious excuse to visit beautiful Lithuania, breath its rich culture and nordic lifestyle. The Festival brought together many interesting and fascinating people from all over the world, creating connection between different points of view. I'm still in touch with many and I follow with curiosity their lives and receive inspiration. The portfolio review was a great chance to show my work to expert editors and art directors, tell a message and receive suggestions. I'm very glad I was mine was selected as best portfolio. The prize helped me keep up motivation and continue my long-term project about street life in Bucharest."*

Massimo Branca (Italy),  
visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2016



*"It's was nice time for me in September of 2015 during Kaunas Photo. I wrote in Polish internet magazine a large article about all exhibitions and Portfolio Review. Kaunas Photo is very professional festival. (<http://magazyn.o.pl/2015/krzysztof-jurecki-fotografia-w-kownie-xii-kaunas-photo/#/>). I still remember my meetings with famous Lithuanian photographers like A. Macijauskas or Romualdas Požerskis. I saw many very good shows good and published catalogs. A lot! We haven't so good like Lithuanian in Poland. Yes, it's true. I see that Kaunas Photo is one of the most important festival in our part of Europe."*

Krzysztof Jurecki (Poland),  
visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2015














*"First of all, I'd like to thank all the KAUNAS PHOTO festival team for the tremendous work you did: organization was pitch perfect, lots of people were there (curators, etc.), very efficient communication, great spirit there, hotel accommodation was perfect. I enjoyed the fact that exhibitions are in so many different places, it's really interesting to discover the series AND the city. I would definitely apply again for the festival once I've completed my new series."*











Pierre Folk (France),  
visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2015



*"Kaunas Photo Festival offers the opportunity to meet wonderful experts and talented photographers from different countries. For several years in a row, Latvian Museum of Photography exhibits Kaunas Photo Festival winner's exhibition."*

Maira Dudareva (Latvia), Head of Latvian Museum of Photography,  
has been visiting KAUNAS PHOTO from 2010 on annually

	<p>"I was always surprised how useful my visits were in Kaunas for my projects, my contacts, my growing. A genius loci of the city, together with enthusiasm of organizations and good mood of all visitors and participants make together a relaxed but still vibrant atmosphere of this festival."</p> <p>Pavel Maria Smejkal (Slovakia), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2012, 2014, 2015</p>
	<p>"I would come back because of a very familiar and amicable atmosphere, new contacts, meeting of international photographers, good expositions and lectures, perfect appreciation to the guests and the work. Kaunas is nice town and we had a good hotel with historical ambiance. Thanks for all!"</p> <p>Werner Mansholt (Germany), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2015</p>
	<p>"I was excited to attend Kaunas Photo 2014 in Lithuania to take part in the festival talks, exhibitions, events and parties! The work I saw by Lithuania artists at Portfolio Reviews was of a very high standard, the colleagues that came from all over the world to be there made it very memorable. Definitely I am looking forward to the future editions of the Festival in Kaunas. It's a very good European photography scene there".</p> <p>Julia Durkin (New Zealand), Public Participation Director, Auckland Festival of Photography, visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2014</p>
	<p>"It was my first time to visit Kaunas Photo and to participate in a portfolio review. I must say I simply fell in love with Kaunas and the festival. What I particularly liked was the diversity in locations, making use of everything Kaunas has to offer. The portfolio review was a truly rewarding experience. Being aware that I have relatively little experience, I was hesitant to participate, but in the end I am very glad I took the challenge!! The conversations with the experts were very motivating. The (very different!) expert opinions helped me to understand where I stand and where I should go next, which is exactly what I needed."</p> <p>Maaïke Fekkes (Netherlands), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2015</p>
	<p>"I am very thankful for the invitation to Kaunas. My girl and me had a great time over there, I met a lot of very interesting people and secondary saw a lot of good photography projects. It was a great vacation, especially as I had never been to Lithuania before. The result was great: lots of photographers had been there and the good thing was that we got to know each other personally and not only by our work. It was nice to share moments and good conversation together. Also a big thank you for the invitations to the talks, presentations and the dinners in the evening!! I love Lithuanian food! The festival itself was great! One could see that you put a lot of work and a lot of love into it! I think I can hardly imagine how much work it was, also referring to the small team of Kaunas Photo. Nice exhibitions and lot of nice exhibition places!"</p> <p>Norman Behrendt (Germany), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2015</p>
	<p>"I enjoyed the festival – it was great to see how Kaunas transforms for the week of photography, what wonderful venues you have to show exhibitions (I especially liked the Kaunas photo gallery and the Post gallery) and the lovely people I met. I did, however, immensely enjoy that the opening events were scheduled in such a way that I could see most of the, one after the other (rather than overlapping)."</p> <p>Nora Vrublevska (Latvia), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2015</p>
	<p>"As a reviewer, my experience at Kaunas Photo was fantastic. The staff and coordinators are wonderful and it was a real pleasure to get to know many artists and their work in addition to other reviewers. The reviews gave me a better understanding of what artists working in Lithuania and surrounding countries are exploring with photography—their ideas, interests, concerns, etc. I continue to follow their careers and stay in touch with a number of the artists and reviewers that I met in Kaunas."</p> <p>Shane Lavalette (New York State, New England), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2014</p>
	<p>"Kaunas Photo Festival is a wonderful festival, far from mainstream metropolises of photography, but still in essence has everything that big brothers are offering and you are there for an extra treat! Kaunas Photo can not compete with statistical numbers, but other big festival can not compete with Kaunas Photo in the feeling of festivalness (if that word exist), you know the feeling when you see your old friends, meeting distant relatives, being in a circle of friends, sharing the passion, the vision and enjoy photography. That definitely is lacking in the big scale festivals and Kaunas Photo is doing it right. Presenting the current trends, inviting excellent experts, producing superb exhibitions and at the same time in an atmosphere of hanging around with best friends from high school, sharing your work and vision."</p> <p>Borut Peterlin (Slovenia), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2011, 2014</p>
	<p>"I need to come back again. And soon."</p> <p>Christian Lutz (Switzerland), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2011, 2014</p>
	<p>"Lithuania has a rich photography's heritage now is developed to new contemporary European Photography platform as well, you feel good in the middle of a family atmosphere and all is best organized."</p> <p>Vitus Saloshanka (Belarus/Germany), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2015, 2014</p>
	<p>"Since I am originally from Kaunas, Kaunas Photo was the first photo festival I ever attended as a guest and still visit almost every year. Even now I am really excited that it was the first international photo festival I participated in and was selected for the main exhibition. For me, as a young artist, seeing how many visitors appreciated my interactive installation helped to believe in what I am doing, create new work and search for further possibilities to exhibit it both locally and internationally."</p> <p>Raimondas Pocius (Lithuania), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2013</p>

	<p>"It was a great opportunity to participate at the Kaunas Photo festival – great exchange, great people, great exhibition! To be honest, it was for me the best festival I've ever been to. Not only the Review was well organized but also the idea of slideshows and the whole opening week were a great way to meet new people and gave us the possibility of seeing most of the works shown."</p> <p>Luca Zanier (Switzerland), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2011, 2014</p>
	<p>"Showing at Kaunas Photo festival was a terrific benefit to me in several ways, especially having the opportunity to meet so many talented photographers and to have my work seen by a completely new and knowledgeable audience. Lithuania is at the forefront of the photography scene today, and Kaunas Photo is a big part of that, so both are important places to me and to any artist who values being on the cutting-edge of the photographic world. It means so much to have my work shown in Lithuania, a country that takes photography seriously and supports the work, and at a festival like Kaunas Photo that gives photography the significant place in the cultural landscape that it deserves."</p> <p>Barbara Yoshida (USA), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2006</p>
	<p>"Kaunas was a great experience. I especially enjoyed meeting artists from all over the world, many of whom I am still in contact with."</p> <p>Jens Sundheim (Germany), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2009</p>
	<p>"Kaunas Photo 2011 was for me a magical experience. So many people from so many places gathered together to celebrate the still image. Moreover, the interest and kind compliments shown by those Lithuanians who approached me about my exhibition has been most appreciated. It was so good to see so many young people from your country showing such a keen interest in photography. Like I said before ... A magical experience ... And what's more I think I may have fallen a little in love with Lithuania."</p> <p>John Londei (UK), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2011, RIP 2012.</p>
	<p>"Since it was my first time in Kaunas Photo Star, and also in Lithuania, I must say that first of all, Lithuania is really a nice country to visit; plus the beer and food are really nice... also people, that helped me quite a lot any time I needed kinda explanation for anything. Talking about Kaunas Photo Star, I think it is a great opportunity and really nice the way it is manage to get in two days so many things and experience from the curators and reviewers, plus also to discover work of other photographers that in some cases are really really gooooood job. Some works in some case that should have the opportunity also to be shown. You realize about such good photographers that you didn't know..."</p> <p>Borja Lázaro Herrero (Spain), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2011</p>
	<p>"It was a wonderful week for me. You offered me a great show in a wonderful place that any photographer would dream to have, and the exhibition was opened by the Minister of Culture of Lithuania, an important recognition for my work. I discovered the good work of other photographers and meet great people. The exhibitions were all different but interesting, it was lovely to be at the openings every day. I like very much photography when I learn something new, like a hidden world or unknown mysteries. In this festival I feel the passion for photography, pure and untouched, away from petty politicking. Just hope it will continue and it will become a legend."</p> <p>Eric Lusito (France). visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2010, 2011</p>
	<p>"I really value the invitation and the opportunity I had to experience the festival, share my work and connect with like-minded people. Discovering Kaunas was a special treat and I will definitely be back!"</p> <p>Alina Kisina (Ukraine/UK), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2011</p>
	<p>"Thank You very very much for inviting me and my magazine to Kaunas again. This year's edition was very special, and the company of the reviewers and participants was really tremendous! Hope to see how the festivals shines even more in the future."</p> <p>Katarzyna Majak, Curator &amp; Writer, (Poland), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2011</p>
	<p>"First of all I wanted to thank you for a great festival, very well organised, with a multitude of events to keep us occupied and inspired. The portfolio reviews were incredibly interesting, I am still reflecting on what these special meeting will have on my photography. Needless to say that the direction that I will take can only be positive. Overall, my participation to the Kaunas Photo Star Portfolio Review was a fantastic experience, unique and wonderful. To feel part of photography in an international context is a stimulating feeling. One that I will be glad to return to. Who knows, next year perhaps..."</p> <p>Paul Taylor, (UK/France), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2011</p>
	<p>"Following factors contributed to the success of Kaunas Festival in 2011: -High artistic level – careful and attractive presentation of exhibitions; - Interesting national presentations by invited curators from Austria, Switzerland, Sweden and Finland, interesting self-presentations of the participating photographers showing pictures and publications. - Well selected, varied group of participants of portfolio review. - And most of all splendid atmosphere created by the organizers who made these few days in Kaunas attractive not only from professional perspective (exchange of information and experiences, consultations, new contacts) but transformed it into a kind of photographic holiday."</p> <p>Marek Grygiel, Curator &amp; Writer, (Poland), visited KAUNAS PHOTO in 2004, 2011</p>