Angel Chai Arviv
Portfolio 2026

Artist Statement

I am a photo-based artist, Mizrahi, and homosexual. I primarily photograph objects, locations, and portraits. Most of my images are produced through an analog process up to the editing stage: the materiality and the very act of observing the image fascinate and stimulate me. Lately, I incorporate AI-driven manipulations into my analog film scans, exploring the tension between tangible materiality and digital intervention. Many of the juxtapositions, titles, and color palettes coalesce through personal intuition.

In my work, I explore the preoccupation with beauty and youth, the inherent desire in photographing them, and the medium of photography itself. I delve into the power dynamics between the subjects, or between us: photographer and subject. Through my images, I examine questions of representation, aesthetics, and taste. I give visual expression to thoughts concerning the body, politics, society, and community, continuously questioning how we look at photographs and what we perceive as "good."

Whenever the choice is mine, I focus on young men or "monuments," and a significant portion of my work carries a homoerotic nature - sometimes subtle and suggestive, at other times more overt. These are predominantly young men, often arriving from the social, socioeconomic, or cultural margins, attempting to conquer the world. They "use" me as an entry ticket for another successful staging of themselves.

I meticulously construct my frames from the initial planning stages to the final staging. My photographs are entirely directed and posed, with nearly all subjects maintaining neutral, serious expressions. Every detail is rigorous. The precise attention to wardrobe, coupled with the lens's caressing gaze tracing facial features, muscles, and tattoos, yields frames that are fundamentally editorial. In other words, I extract beauty and pride - neighborhood, ethnic, national, tribal - and, undeniably, youth.

A day of shooting with me is somewhat mystical, adopting the dynamic of a date. I attempt to know and understand them, to exhaust them, to allow them to find themselves. Myself opposite them. Perhaps us together. At times it is a collaborative process: sometimes I lead, sometimes they do. It is a war of attrition, in the best sense of the phrase, until the image materializes. To my mind, this underlying tension and these currents of desire (libido) are crucial to the final outcome. Naturally, every session is conducted with clear, prior mutual consent regarding its content and boundaries. Ultimately, we both use each other, simply for different ends.

Work in Progress

The Favorite

The Favorite is a new, ongoing project (Work in Progress). I am currently developing concepts, expanding the narrative, and shooting new scenes. The selected frames presented here represent the fully realized pieces of this evolving body of work.

The series examines the theater of masculinity and the destructive power of beauty. By deconstructing the biblical myth of Joseph and his brothers, the work empties the story of its religious context and rebuilds it as a contemporary tragedy of power dynamics. In this arena, "Joseph" is not a specific individual, but rather a role-an archetype of the chosen one, a position that anyone can embody or fall victim to.

Youths from social, class, or cultural margins are placed in carefully staged, isolated environments-ranging from wild, overgrown thickets to alienated domestic interiors-transforming into monuments under the camera's caressing yet exhausting gaze.

The work dismantles the mechanism of collective envy toward a preening individual. Through utterly neutral and serious facial expressions, attire borrowed from the realms of high fashion, and violent physical gestures frozen into a Renaissance aesthetic, the obsession with the male body is revealed. This is an exploration of privilege, alienation, and the moment when the attempt to detach from the tribe turns the body from sacred - into a sacrifice.



"Joseph (The Marked)" - 2026 - 50X70
Hybrid media: Analog photography and AI generation



"Joseph & Benjamin" - 2026 - 60X90
Hybrid media: Analog photography and AI generation



"The Constellation (The Brothers)" - 2026 - 60X90
Hybrid media: Analog photography and AI generation



"The Sacrifice" - 2026 - 50X70
Hybrid media: Analog photography and AI generation

Eden

In this series, I create a game of role reversal: the male body, traditionally depicted as a locus of power and control, is presented here as submissive, vulnerable, and weakened.

Contrary to the myth of innocent nudity, I chose to photograph the First Man dressed in a heavy suit in the heart of nature. The attire signals what is to come - a disturbing hint to the shame, the concealment, and the post-expulsion world that have already invaded the garden. The water no longer acts as a purifying force, but rather as an element that envelops, weighs down, and pulls under. Simultaneously, the snake - a symbol of knowledge and sin - does not appear as an external threat, but rests upon the body in absolute intimacy and acceptance.

I invite the viewer to linger within this gap: who is the seducer and who is the seduced? And are we witnessing the moment before the fall, or the quiet submission to it?

"Untitled" - 2024 - 50X70
Analog photography, medium format





"Untitled" - 2024 - 50X70
Analog photography, medium format

"Untitled" - 2024 - 50X70
Analog photography, medium format





"Untitled" - 2024 - 50X70
Analog photography, medium format

Mȯnu·mẹnts

In this body of work, I explore identity and contemporary masculinity through mechanisms of power and manipulation. The subjects – young men arriving on set expecting a display of beauty and modeling – are in fact entering an arena of expropriation. I detach them from their social context, peel away the aesthetic facade, and transform them into subjects of visual and psychological inquiry.

The work focuses on the tension between the primal and the civilized, and between control and submission. The images fluctuate between exposed intimacy and suppressed violence: moments of hunger and basic need, bodies contorting in an attempt to find form, and foreign hands acting upon the body, disrupting vision and movement.

I do not seek to document their reality, but rather to create an isolated territory where conventional defenses collapse. My camera functions as a tool of deconstruction – it examines the moments when the male body ceases to be a monument of power or heroism, and becomes raw material: exposed, absorbent, and manipulated.

"The King's Clothes" – 2025 – 50X70
Analog photography, medium format





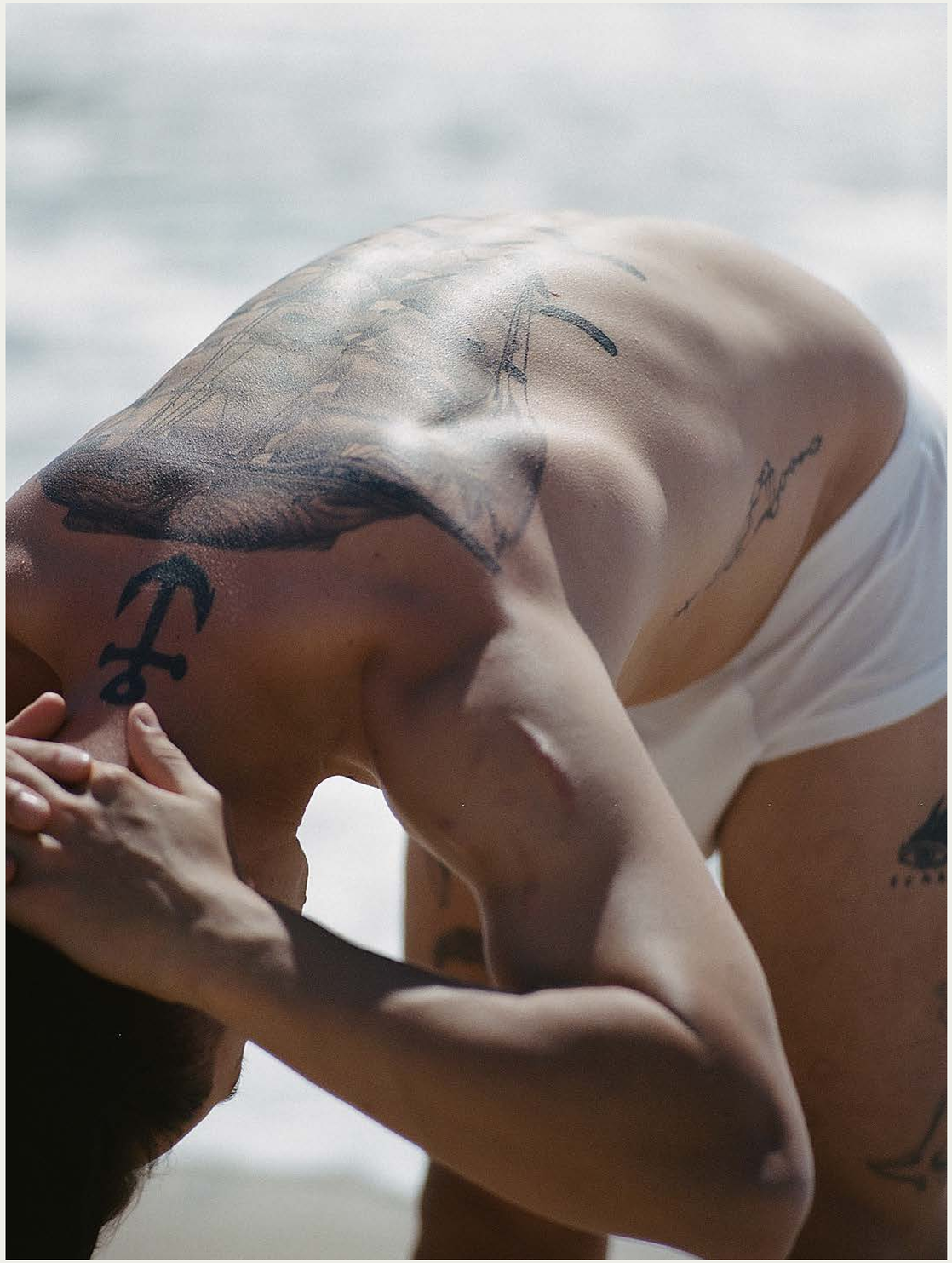
"Each other's ass" - 2018 - 50X70
Analog photography, medium format



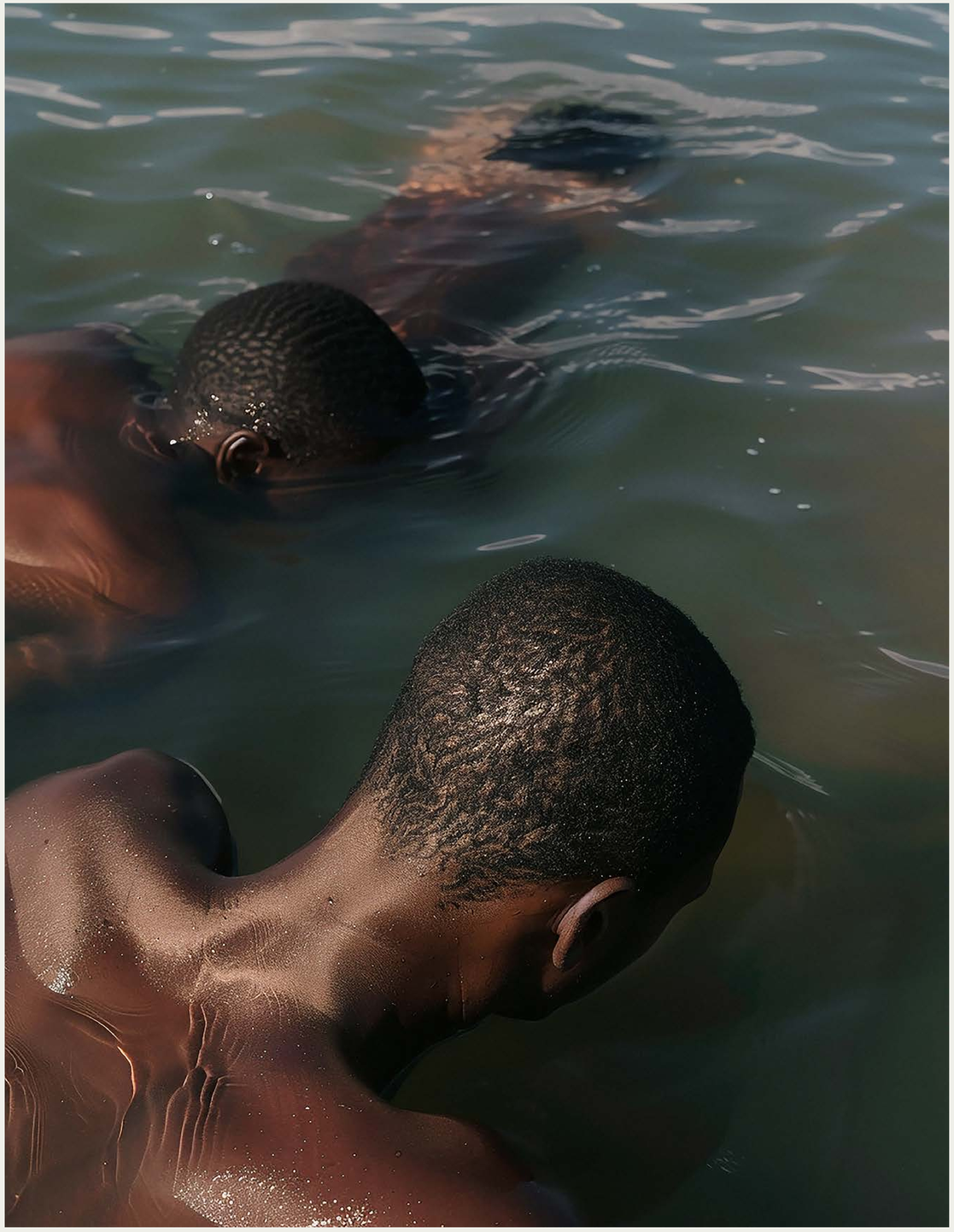
"Untitled" - 2021 - 100X70
Analog photography, medium format

"Afternoon" - 2020 - 60X90
Analog photography, medium format





"Untitled" - 2020 - 50X70
Analog photography, medium format



"Swimming with Sharks" - 2020 - 50X70
Analog photography, medium format



"Untitled" - 2025 - 50X70
Analog photography, medium format



"Untitled" - 2020 - 90X60
Analog photography, medium format



"Untitled" - 2018 - 50X70
Analog photography, medium format



"Fish eye" - 2020 - 100X70
Analog photography, medium format



"Untitled" - 2025 - 100X74
Analog photography, medium format

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Education

Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design
Department of Photography
2016-2020

Jolt & INT - Digital Marketing
2024

Framing - "Da Vinci" Culture Cell TLV
2026

Collections

Lack Gorie Els Collection - London
2021

Contests

PDNedu Student Competition, NIKON
sponsored - Grand Prize: Fashion&Portraiture
March 2020

Publications

Ynet Magazine - July 2026

WÜL MAGAZINE - July 2022

VULKAN MAGAZINE - April 2022

Vogue Italia - PHOTOVOGUE - 2021/2022

KALTBLUT MAGAZINE - July 2021

The Jerusalem Post - Barry Davis - August 2020

Makor Rishon - Asaf Kugler - August 2020

Legit Magazine - August 2020

Portfolio Magazine - August 2020

Ynet Magazine - August 2020

Shamenet Magazine - July 2020

Fashion Israel Magazine - April 2019

GAMARO Magazine - July 2019

GRANTA 8 - July 2018

Fashion Israel Magazine - July 2017

Exhibitions

Fresh Paint art fair TLV - 2026

"Let the Art of Talking" - Exhibition at the Israel Train Station, Group Exhibition, January 2022

BFAMI - British friends of the Art Museums of Israel - Group exhibition 2021

Bezalel Final project exhibition- Bezalel Academy 2020

"Publishing" - Sponsored by Portfolio Magazine and the Old Jaffa Development Company - Group Exhibition 2020

"Hot Meal" Beer is satisfying in collaboration with the Bezalel Photography Department Be'er Sheva 2019

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