

الدورة المتقدمة في التصوير الفوتوغرافي

إبداع وإتقان الصورة

FRAME AND FOCUS

Advanced Photography Course

تصوير
TASWEER

X





FRAME & FOCUS: Advanced Photography Course

This 14-week intensive Vocational Program covers various photography genres and techniques, combining hands-on workshops, theoretical lectures, practical assignments, and a focus on writing for visual storytelling. The program culminates in a final project and public exhibition.

In Collaboration with:

Tasweer x The VII Foundation x QPS

Who is Tasweer?

Tasweer is Qatar's Leading photo festival; Tasweer aims to build and enhance the community of Photographers in Qatar and the WANA region. Tasweer has a festival year and an off year, during the festival year, Tasweer aims to showcase works of photographers from around the world and present Tasweer's Project and Single Image Award winners in different locations around Qatar. During the Off year, the festival aims to really focus on the community providing programs, workshops, masterclasses and courses that help push photographers to the next level.



Credits:
Images Courtesy of Ziya Gafic - The Foundation VII

Who is The VII Foundation?

The VII Foundation is dedicated to transforming visual journalism by empowering emerging voices and creating impactful stories that advocate for change. In a time when beliefs and actions often diverge from reality, the need for transformative visual journalism has never been more urgent. For more information on the VII Foundation, please visit theviifoundation.org.

Who is QPS?

QPS is Qatar's upcoming vocational school for the creative industry, while still under development, QPS is working with Tasweer to enhance the delivery of the course and the partnership with VII foundation. Coming together, Tasweer x The VII Foundation x QPS have create this advanced three-month Course designed for aspiring photographers, combining both online and in-person learning.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Participants will engage in both online sessions and in-person workshops, culminating in a final project that requires them to produce a cohesive body of work accompanied by an essay.

Modules:

Foundations:

Building Visual & Technical Skills

Advanced Practice:

From Craft to Career

Video Introduction:

Technical Aspects of Short Video Making

Writing & Captions:

Convincing captions and Introduction Texts

Event Photography:

Covering live, Dynamic Events

Landscape Photography

Landscape as Protagonist

Architecture Photography:

Technical Skills for Architectural Storytelling

Personal Style & Environmental Portraits

Project Development

Project Editing:

Editing final Projects for Exhibition

Digital Processing:

Advanced practices for National Geographic

Business & Grants:

Business models and Grant Writing

Time-Based Media & Film Workshop

Final Week:

Final Projects, Portfolios



Credits:
Images Courtesy of Ziya Gafic - The Foundation VII

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

January 25 - May 7, 2026

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------|---|
| Online seminars | In-Person Seminars | WEEK 1 | 25 - 31 January |
| | | WEEK 2 | 1 - 7 February |
| | | WEEK 3 | 8 - 14 February |
| | | WEEK 4 | 15 - 21 February |
| | | WEEK 5 | 22 - 28 February |
| | | WEEK 6 | 1 - 7 March |
| | | WEEK 7 | 8 - 14 March |
| | | WEEK 8 | 15 - 18 March [EID AL-FITR BREAK: March 19-24, 2026] |
| | | WEEK 9 | 25 - 31 March |
| | | WEEK 10 | 1 - 7 April |
| | | WEEK 11 | 8 - 14 April |
| | | WEEK 12 | 22 - 25 April |
| | In-Person Seminars | WEEK 13 | 26 - 30 April - FINAL WEEK |
| | | WEEK 14 | 3 - 7 May - FINAL WEEK - Exhibition Preparations |

In-person Program Locations:

Museum of Islamic Art

Fire Station: Education Studio/Annex Space and Studio 101

*Please kindly note that some locations may be liable to change



CORE COURSE TEAM

Alessia Glaviano

Alessia Glaviano, the esteemed Head of Global PhotoVogue and Director of the PhotoVogue Festival, is a leading figure in international photographic criticism. Since joining Vogue Italia in 2001, Glaviano rapidly ascended from Photo Editor to Visual Director, where she played a crucial role in shaping the visual identity of the publication.

In early 2022, with the relaunch of PhotoVogue on a global scale, Glaviano's role shifted to focus on leading PhotoVogue, collaborating with all editions of Vogue worldwide. This marked a significant expansion of PhotoVogue's mission to include media in all forms, further establishing it as a platform that champions both emerging and established talent while influencing visual literacy to create a more just, ethical, and inclusive visual world.

PhotoVogue's open calls have been instrumental in launching the careers of notable photographers such as Nadine Ijewere, Luis Alberto Rodriguez, Kyle Weeks, Camila Falquez, Kennedy Carter, Scandeborgs, and Mous Lamrabat, among others.

Under Glaviano's leadership, PhotoVogue has become an industry-leading platform, curating a diverse pool of image-makers and exemplifying diversity behind the camera through a multitude of perspectives. In her expanded role, she continues to steer the platform into its future while overseeing its creative direction and driving key special projects.

The PhotoVogue Festival, launched in 2016, represents the pinnacle of Glaviano's vision for the intersection of ethics and aesthetics in fashion photography. As the first conscious fashion photography festival tied to an influential fashion publication, the event has consistently addressed themes that are both ethically and aesthetically crucial—from the female gaze and issues of representation to inclusivity, masculinity, and the ethical implications of artificial intelligence in image-making. The festival has not only engaged the entire city of Milan with its talks, exhibitions, and photography-related initiatives but has also sparked global conversations about the role of imagery in society. The festival's success across its nine editions (2016–2025) has cemented its place as a significant cultural event, attracting critical acclaim and public engagement alike.

In addition to her editorial work, Alessia regularly lectures at esteemed institutions, including the United Nations, the University of Brighton, Central Saint Martins, IED, Bocconi University, and the Milan Polytechnic. She has also served on the juries of internationally acclaimed photography contests, including the World Press Photo, the Festival International de Mode et de Photographie à Hyères, and the Leica Oskar Barnack Award, and has participated in several prestigious portfolio review sessions, such as the New York Times Portfolio Reviews.



CORE COURSE TEAM

Anush Babajanyan



Anush Babajanyan is a Contributing Photographer to The VII Foundation and Armenian photographer who focuses her work on social narratives and personal stories. In addition to working extensively in the South Caucasus, she continues to photograph in Central Asia and around the world. She recently published her book on Nagorno-Karabakh, called *A Troubled Home*.

Anush is the winner of the 2019 Canon Female Photojournalist Grant and a laureate of the Prix Photo Terre Solidaire. She is a winner in the World Press Photo 2023 Contest's Long Term Projects category. Her photography has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *National Geographic*, *Foreign Policy Magazine*, and other international publications.

CORE COURSE TEAM

FIONA TURNER



Fiona is a five-time Emmy award-winning producer and documentary filmmaker. After 20 years of broadcast experience with ABC News and NBC News, much of it in war zones and areas of conflict, she now focuses her narrative storytelling on social justice and human rights issues with The VII Foundation.

Her documentary feature "Eat Up" follows a philanthropic entrepreneur as she sets to elevate school meals within Boston Public Schools. Fiona produced and co-edited The VII Foundation multi platform project, "Imagine: Reflections on Peace", a book, short films, exhibition, and education project examining post conflict nations. Most recently Fiona produced the documentary film, "The Stringer" which premiered at Sundance 2025 and was released on Netflix, November 2025.

CORE COURSE TEAM

Gary Knight

Gary Knight is the Executive Director and co-founder of The VII Foundation.

Gary was a photojournalist between 1988 and 2017 and a former Newsweek Magazine photographer who covered the wars in Cambodia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, amongst others. Twice chair of the World Press Photo Award, and President of the Prix Bayeux Correspondents de Guerre, he was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 2009 and a Logan Non-Fiction Fellow at the Carey Institute in 2017. Gary founded and ran the Program for Narrative and Documentary Practice at Tufts University between 2011 and 2018.



CORE COURSE TEAM

M'hammed Kilito

M'hammed Kilito is a Contributing Photographer to The VII Foundation and documentary photographer residing in Morocco. His artistic journey revolves around exploring the intricate connections and bonds that individuals and groups form with their environments – be it places of residence, memories, or transit points. Kilito's work is dedicated to capturing narratives that provide insight into this profound connection, delving into subjects like cultural identity, labor sociology, and the impacts of climate change.

He is a National Geographic Explorer, a Magnum Foundation grantee, a World Press Photo winner, a Prince Claus Fund and AFAC Grantee. Kilito holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Montreal and a Master's degree in Political Science from Ottawa University.

His work has garnered awards and grants, including the Louis Roederer Prize for Sustainability, Contemporary African Photography Prize, Photography Prize of Fondation des Treilles, and Sheikh Saoud Al Thani Project Award. He has also been a finalist for the Leica Oskar Barnack Award and nominated for Prix Pictet.

His photography has been showcased in various festivals and venues worldwide and has been featured in publications that include The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The British Journal of Photography, Vogue Italia, L'Express, Libération, and El País.



CORE COURSE TEAM

Marie Sumalla



Marie Sumalla has worked as a photo editor at Le Monde since 2011, where she has coordinated major visual coverage of international conflicts and social movements. She joined the paper during the Arab Spring, working on the Libyan uprising and the fall of Muammar Gaddafi, before covering the early stages of the Syrian revolution that soon turned into civil war.

In 2013, she oversaw the reporting mission of journalist Jean-Philippe Rémy and photographer Laurent Van der Stockt, who entered Syria clandestinely and documented, from the front line in Jobar, evidence of the regime's use of chemical weapons against its own population — material that later became crucial in confirming the use of sarin gas. In 2017, she coordinated Van der Stockt's coverage of the battle for Mosul in Iraq, a nine-month assignment recognized with the World Press Photo Award and the Visa d'or News at Visa pour l'Image in Perpignan.

In August 2021, she worked with photographer Andrew Quilty to chronicle the fall of Kabul and the return of the Taliban to power. Since 2022, she has supervised Le Monde's photo

CORE COURSE TEAM

Rena Effendi



Rena Effendi is a Contributing Photographer to The VII Foundation and award-winning documentary photographer and author of two monographs "Pipe Dreams: A Chronicle of Lives along the Pipeline" and "Liquid Land." Her photography has been described as having a deep sense of empathy with a quiet celebration of the strength of the human spirit.

She is the laureate of the Prince Claus Fund award and has been shortlisted for the prestigious Prix Pictet award in Photography and Sustainability. She spoke at the World Economic Forum in Davos twice and is a member of its Cultural Leadership network.

Effendi's work has been exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Saatchi Gallery, Istanbul Modern, Venice Biennial and NYC MOMA.

Rena Effendi is a frequent contributor to the National Geographic Magazine and has worked on commissions for the New Yorker, Time, The Wall Street Journal, the New York Times Magazine, Monocle, The Sunday Times and many others.

CORE COURSE TEAM

Rola Khayyat

Rola Khayyat is a Lebanese interdisciplinary artist, educator, and curator, currently an assistant professor of painting and printmaking at VCUarts Qatar. She holds an MFA in photography from Columbia University, a bachelor's degree in history from the American University of Beirut, and a certificate in intensive drawing and painting from the Florence Academy of Art. Her curatorial work has been featured in exhibitions around the world, including “BEYroute” for the 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale, “Lattice Work” at the Black and White Gallery, and “Light in Wartime” at Apexart.

At VCUarts Qatar, Khayyat has been working on a project centered on the themes of home and belonging in post-conflict landscapes. This exploration looks at how art can foster dialogue and redefine belonging in places shaped by turmoil, revealing both the everyday and the extraordinary aspects of life in such environments. From 2022 to 2023, she was a curator in residence at Fire Station, where she led interactive sessions, curated exhibitions, and connected with the local art scene in Qatar.

As a core member of our teaching team, Khayyat brings her academic experience, expertise as an educator, and deep understanding of cultural narratives to the classroom. Permanently based in Qatar, she will ensure a continuous physical presence during this pilot project, helping to navigate the local landscape and its unique dynamics. Her lectures and workshops focus on the evolution of photographic styles and their cultural significance, giving students a well-rounded perspective on visual storytelling.



CORE COURSE TEAM

Ross Kauffman



Ross Kauffman is an Academy Award-winning filmmaker whose career in the film industry spans more than three decades. He began as a documentary editor, shaping stories for major broadcasters including HBO, WNET/THIRTEEN, National Geographic, and The Discovery Channel. As a director, his body of work includes the Oscar-winning *Born Into Brothels* and acclaimed documentaries such as *E-Team*, *Tigerland*, the Academy Award shortlisted *What Would Sophia Loren Do?*, *Of Medicine and Miracles*, and *Wild Wild Space*. He was also a contributing director on *The Me You Can't See*, the mental health series produced by Oprah Winfrey and Prince Harry. His short film *Fire with Fire* went viral, garnering over 25 million views helping raise billions of dollars for cancer research.

In addition to directing, Kauffman is an accomplished cinematographer and producer with a commitment to supporting emerging filmmakers. He served as executive producer on the Academy Award-shortlisted documentary *In a Dream* (directed by Jeremiah Zagar, 2009.) He also specializes in short-form documentaries and socially conscious branded content, partnering with clients such as Apple, GE, Microsoft, and Toyota. Passionate about education, Ross frequently leads documentary workshops and guest lectures at high schools and universities around the world.

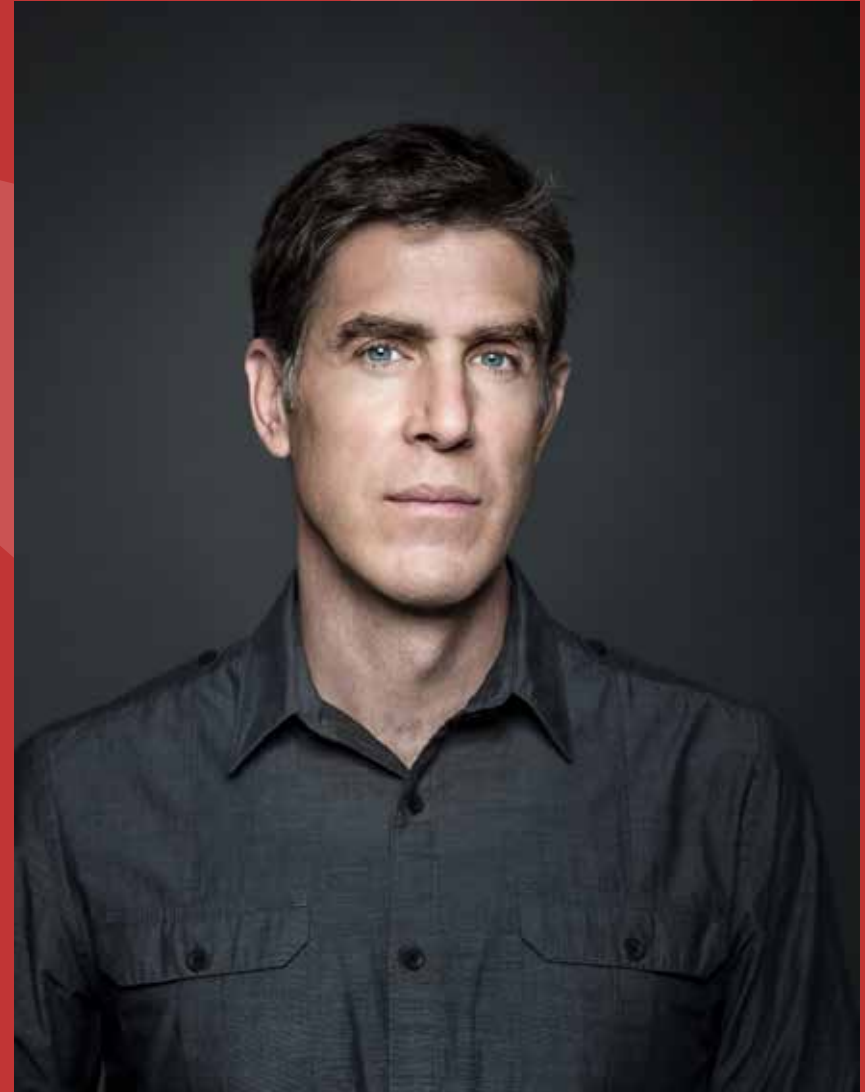
CORE COURSE TEAM

Dr. Yannis Kontos

Dr. Yannis Kontos is an award-winning documentary photographer and artist with over 25 years of international experience in visual storytelling, media, and the creative industries. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the United Arab Emirates University, specializing in Visual Arts and Creative Industries.

Kontos has documented wars, conflicts, and pivotal global events, capturing the defining moments of history in more than 50 countries. He holds a PhD in Documentary Photography and a Master of Arts in Photographic Journalism, emphasizing his deep commitment to truth and artistic expression. His photography has earned him 20 prestigious international awards, including first prize in the World Press Photo Competition. His work has been widely published, appearing on the covers of Time, The New York Times, L'Express, Nouvel Observateur, Le Monde, and The Sunday Times.

In addition to his photographic career, Kontos is the author of two critically acclaimed books, *Possible / Impossible: Aporias* and *North Korea: Red Utopia*, which explore diverse societies through compelling visual narratives. His work is part of both private and public collections and has been exhibited worldwide in galleries, museums, and major art festivals.



CORE COURSE TEAM

Ziyah Gafic

Ziyah Gafic was born in Sarajevo and grew up during the siege of the city. He briefly became a refugee in Italy before returning home, crawling through a tunnel under Sarajevo airport to his father, a fighter in the city's resistance. His project "Quest for Identity" is a catalog of objects found in mass graves, a document of crimes, and validation and restitution of the individual lives of his neighbors and countrymen who were murdered by Serbian soldiers and paramilitaries before being buried anonymously in mass graves.

Ziyah is Director of The VII Foundation, Sarajevo and an award-winning photojournalist, author, TED speaker and contributor to National Geographic magazine. His photography focuses on societies locked in a perpetual cycle of violence and Muslim communities around the world. Over the past 25 years, he covered major events in the Middle East, Caucasus, Arabian peninsula, and Asia, and his work has received some of the most coveted prizes in photography from World Press Photo, Visa pour l'image, Les Rencontres d'Arles, Prince Claus Fund, National Geographic Society and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.



In Partnership with QPS

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In Collaborations with

الحوش
ALHOSH GALLERY

متاحف قطر
QATAR MUSEUMS