



«COMING OUT»

Photo exhibition “COMING OUT” is twelve photos, twelve different stories that tell about the lives of LGBTQ people in Belarus. We believe it is important to start talking on the topic from the inside, not marginalizing ourselves. By telling our stories, we transform the cultural space in order to live in it.

The project has no entertainment purposes, and its importance is not dependent on the number of stories. It should have been done even for the sake of just one sounded voice.

Each of the stories somehow touches upon the topic of coming out, documenting different experiences of self-identification, a sense of invisibility, “uninvolvement”, your own rejection by yourself or by others because of who you are.

We do not give any assessments and do not make conclusions about the un/necessity of coming out. All stories are different: some tell about coming out to their families and the importance of staying open, some on the reasons why they choose not to be open for the environment, others talk about the very phenomenon of coming out in our society.

It is important to understand that we are not talking only about the “homosexual” coming-outs, as the photo project is greater than just about and for the LGBTQ community. Through the project, we are trying to start a dialogue that could help overcome the boundary between “us” and “them”. We hope that this photo project will be a source of inspiration for everyone who has ever been ignored, humiliated or knows what it is like to be denied the right to be who you are.

Collaborators:

Idea – Nick Antipov, Nasta Mancewicz

Photos – Eva Falter

Texts – Nasta Mancewicz, Milana Levitskaya

Illustrations – Valeryia Dubitskaya

Exhibition coordinator – Daryia Ramanovich

Management – Vika Biran

And:

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MAKEOUT

MAKEOUT is a project on gender, sexuality and the peculiarities of their manifestations. This is what we are interested in and what certainly needs more information. We discuss taboo topics, share experiences and encourage others to join.

We collect and archive the history of the LGBTQ life in Belarus, document personal experiences of self-identification, create a space where we can be ourselves. We do not need a ghetto or intervention. We are not “close”, we are here.

MAKEOUT is a fully feminist project, because we understand that the conventional binary creates a hierarchy and is always the basis for discrimination. In order to get rid of common practices of exclusion, we transform the cultural field and create space for our lives.