



## **Christian Houge**

### Biography

Based in Oslo, Norway, Christian Houge (b. 1972) has been making photographs for twenty five years, and new insights continue to open. Exploring humankind's condition and the complicated relationship between Humankind and Nature has been an ongoing theme in his work throughout his life as an artist. By exploring this relation, Houge wishes to invite the viewers to ask new questions in the new era we are currently in; the Anthropocene. Houge often juxtaposes the visually aesthetic with an underlying sense of unease as this often emanates a cognitive dissonance in the viewer to invite deeper truths and personal references.

The series 'Death of a Mountain' (2016-2020) was nominated for the Leica Oskar Barnack Award 2021, which also received an arts grant from the Norwegian Government. The solo show at Buer Gallery received much attention and was presented at OsloNegative Photo and exhibited at Street Level Photoworks in Glasgow, together with other Scandinavian artists concerned with the effects of climate change. This was set up with the climate summit opening COP26. This series was also exhibited at Huis van de Fotografie, Rotterdam, in 2021 including a climate symposium with the Norwegian Embassy in Haag.

Houge's previous environmental work has been nominated for the annual Prix Pictet Award three times with my series 'Barentsburg', 'Shadow Within' and 'Residence of Impermanence', for Earth, Power and Fire themes.

Other series have also been shown in museums, including a symposium at Johnson Museum, N.Y. and have been part of traveling exhibitions with WHATCOM (Museum of Washington) with the exhibition 'Vanishing Ice' and a three-year China tour ('Paradise Lost') on environmental issues with Three Shadows Photography Art Centre in Beijing and the Norwegian Embassy.

A full retrospective will be exhibited, including 10 series at Bomuldsfabriken Kunsthall in Arendal in 2025 curated by Åse Kamilla Aslaksen. Houge has held several artist talks and symposiums on his work with Norwegian Embassies in Beijing, New York, Rotterdam, Praha og London. In 2012 he made a TED Talk with the title 'Exploring Man's condition through photography' and in 2021 I received Fotografiprisen (the bi-annual Photography Prize in Norway).

Houge's work has been acquired by both institutions, museum collections and private collections. These include (SKMU) Kunstsiloen, Nevada Museum of Art, Ministry of Defence, DOX Museum, Fotografiska, Eiendomsspar, Arctic Securities, Carnegie, WhatCom Museum, Haugar Artmuseum, Herbert Johnson Museum, REV Ocean, Økokrim, og Ministry of Environment. His work has been published in several books on environmental awareness Publications include 'Altered Landscape', Rizzoli (Nevada Museum of Art), including purchased work for their collection at Center for Art and Environment. Vanishing Ice (Whatcom Museum, Washington), AntArctica, Haugar Museum of Landscape Futures, Actar and Nevada Museum of Art, SNU (Cappelen Damm), Rom for Kunst and Haydens Review.

[www.christianhouge.no](http://www.christianhouge.no)

[christian@soulfood.no](mailto:christian@soulfood.no)



## Selected exhibitions and nominations

2024

`Death Of A Mountain`, Bermondsey Project Space, London. Solo  
`Antropo-Cen`. Buer Gallery. Solo

2023

`Oslo Negativ Fotofestival. Gamle Veterinærhøgskolen, Oslo. Collaborative.  
`Til den skjønneste`-Kunstsilo I bevegelse. Bomuldfabriken Kunsthall. Collaborative  
`Facing Fire`, Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah. Collaborative.  
`Konstellasjoner` (Daisy), Buer Gallery, Oslo. Collaborative  
`Rev Ocean kunstsamling`, Galleri Duer, Oslo. Collaborative  
`Mellom sort og hvitt`. Buer Gallery, Oslo. Collaborative

2022

`Temple of Light`- Bold Gallery, Prague. Solo, including symposium and book  
`Facing Fire`- Jundt Art Museum, Washington. Collaborative  
`Vanitas`- OsloNegative Photofestival, Deichmans, Oslo - Solo  
`Facing Fire`- St.George Art Museum, Utah. Collaborative  
`Paradise Lost`-selected works. Huis Van de Fotografie, Rotterdam. Solo

2021

`Death of a Mountain`, Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow – Collaborative  
Bi-Annual Photography Prize, for environmental work. Oslo, Norway  
OsloNegative Photofestival, Deichmans, Oslo - Collaborative.  
`In:Human Nature` – The Expedition Exhibition`  
`As Fra as my I Can See`, Bomuldsfabrikken Kunsthall, Arendal - Collaborative  
`Residence of Impermanence`, Berger Museum, Norway - Solo  
Nine nominations to Prix Pictet Award/ `Residence of Impermanence`  
`Facing Fire`, Collaborative, UCR ARTS:California Museum of Photography, Los Angeles  
Nominated for Leica Oskar Barnack Award/ `Death of a Mountain`  
`Death of a Mountain`/ `In;Human Nature`, Buer Gallery, Oslo - Solo

2020

`Facing Fire`, UCR ARTS California Museum of Photography - Collaborative

2019

`Metafysica` (`Residence of Impermanence`), Haugar Kunstmuseum, Vestfold - Collaborative  
`Residence of Impermanence`, Fotografiska Museum, Stockholm - Solo  
`Helt Dyrisk` Residence of Impermanence`, collaborative, Preus Museum, Horten. Collaborative.  
`Residence of Impermanence`, Galleri Fineart, Oslo – Solo

2018



`Transfiguration`, Galleri Balder, Oslo w/ Andres Serrano, Christer Strømholm  
`Into the Light`, Galleri Balder, Oslo. Collaborative

2017

`Shadow Within/Rituals` Gulden Kunstverk, Drammen - Solo  
Commission, MAAEMO restaurant. `In;Human Nature`  
`Mirror,Mirror` Hosfelt Gallery, San.Fran. Collaborative w/Ed Ruscha, Adam Fuss, Liliana Porter

2016

`In;Human Nature`, TM51 Gallery, Oslo - Solo  
Fotofever/ParisPhoto, Louvre, Paris  
Cornette de Saint Cyr, Auction, Paris

2015

`Paradise Lost` Three Shadows Photography Art Center, Beijing, China.  
`Arctic Technology/Barentsburg` / Shadow Within - Solo  
Fotofever (ParisPhoto), Artistics Art Gallery, Paris - Collaborative  
`Paradise Lost` How Art Museum, Wenzhou, China.  
Arctic Technology/Barentsburg/Shadow Within - Solo  
`Paradise Lost`, Redtory, Guangzhou, China.  
Arctic Technology/Barentsburg/Shadow Within. Solo

2014

`Shadow Within` 2010-2013 / `Darkness Burns Bright` 2013/2014, Fineart Gallery, Oslo -Solo  
Beyond Earth Art • (contemporary artists and the environment)  
Johnson Museum of Art, New York. Shadow Within. Collaborative (incl. Olafur Eliasson, Edward  
Burtynsky, Mathew Brandt, Yun-Fei Ji amongst others)  
The El Paso Museum of Art, Texas. `Arctic Technology`. Collaborative  
Glenbow Museum, Alberta. `Arctic Technology`. Collaborative  
LIFF (Lofoten International Photofestival)  
`Shadow Within` w/speaking. Solo

2013

Nominated for the Prix Pictet Award/ `Shadow Within`.  
Hosfelt Gallery, San.Fran. USA. `Shadow Within`. Solo  
Accompanied by Call of the Wild` ( Joseph Beuys, Ed Ruscha, Patricia Piccinini and Alan Rath)  
Carnegie, Oslo, Arctic Technology` series. Commission.  
`Vanishing Ice` Tour, USA/Canada, Whatcom Museum 2013-2015.  
Publication `Vanishing Ice`, Alpine and Polar Landscapes in Art, 1775-2012. Author: Barbara Matilsky.  
Altered Landscapes: Photographs of a changing environment (Impact of human activity on natural  
landscapes) by Ann M. Wolfe. Rizzoli Publications.

2012

`Vanishing Ice`, Whatcom (Museum of Washington), USA  
Public speaking, Ambassadors residence, London. `Shadow Within`.  
2011



`Ut med det`, Rådhusgalleriet, 2011  
`Okurimono`, Oslo Photo, 2011

2010

Akershus Kunstsenter, Oslo. `Arctic Technology`. Collaborative  
`In full color`, Hosfelt Gallery, New York.  
Arctic Technology/ Barentsburg. Collaborative

2009

Nominated for the Prix Pictet Award with the series `Barentsburg`.  
Hosfelt Gallery, San. Fran, `Arctic technology/Barentsburg`. Solo  
AntArctica, Haugar Kunstmuseum. Collaborative  
`The coldest winter`, Hosfelt Gallery, San. Fran. Collaborative

2008

`Arctic technology` Hosfelt Gallery, New York, USA, Solo  
Gardemoen Airport, 10-year Anniversary Oslo. Public (Arctic Technology)  
Oslo Sentral Station/Rom for Kunst, Oslo. Public (Arctic Technology)

2007

ArtBasel/Scout Gallery, London, Miami. Collaborative  
PhotoLondon Fair, Zebra Gallery London. Collaborative  
Annual Grants exhibition Kunstnerenes Hus, Oslo. Collaborative  
Annual grants exhibition Fotogalleriet, Oslo. Collaborative  
Defence Ministry H.Q. Oslo. Commission (Arctic Technology)

2006

Sotheby's London. Collaborative auction  
Zebra One, London. Collaborative  
Annual Grants exhibition, Oslo. Collaborative  
Defence Ministry H.Q. `Arctic Technology`. Oslo. Commission

2005

Scout Gallery, London. `Arctic Technology`, Solo  
BMW Awards, Paris Photo. `Arctic Technology`. Collaborative  
Paris Photo, Louvre, Paris, Scout Gallery (London). Collaborative  
Arctic Technology/ Barentsburg  
PhotoLondon Fair (Scout Gallery, London). Collaborative

2003

Annual grants exhibition, Kunstnerenes Hus, Oslo. Collaborative  
Økokrim, Oslo, Commission. Public  
Eiendomsspar, Oslo. Commission. Public

2002

Autumn grants exhibition, Kunstnerenes hus, Oslo. Collaborative