

How can photography capture what it means to be human? *Being: New Photography 2018*, the latest edition of MoMA's New Photography exhibition series, asks this question at a moment when the rights, responsibilities, and dangers inherent in being represented—and in representing others—are subjects of debate around the world.

The featured works call attention to assumptions about how individuals are depicted and perceived by using a variety of tactics, such as challenging the conventions of photographic portraiture, masking the face, cropping figures, or replacing the body with proxy objects. While some works might be considered figurative representations, others do not include imagery of the human body at all. Since its invention, photography has been widely seen as a way to record an exact likeness of a person; and for just as long, artists have worked with or against that expectation in a variety of ways. Those included in *Being* contribute to this rich conversation by exploring how personhood is expressed today, and offer timely perspectives on issues of privacy and exposure; the formation of communities; and gender, heritage, and psychology.

The New Photography series presents urgent and compelling ideas in recent photography and photo-based art. Since 1985, it has introduced new work by over one hundred artists working in the United States and internationally. This year's edition, *Being*, brings together recent work by seventeen artists at various stages in their careers, all presenting their work at the Museum for the first time.

Organized by Lucy Gallun, Assistant Curator, Department of Photography.

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Included artists:  
Sofia Borges  
Matthew Connors  
Sam Contis  
Shilpa Gupta  
Adelita Husni-Bey  
Yazan Khalili  
Harold Mendez  
Aïda Muluneh  
Hương Ngô and  
Hồng-Ân Trương  
B. Ingrid Olson  
Joanna Piotrowska  
Em Rooney  
Paul Mpagi Sepuya  
Andrzej Steinbach  
Stephanie Syjuco  
Carmen Winant