

Paul Cupido (*1972, NL)

“My aim is to immerse myself to the point where I forget the photographic process altogether. Every step begins with the notion of *mononaware*, the transience of everything, the gentle melancholy of things.”

Born on the Dutch island of Terschelling, Paul Cupido grew up surrounded by the sea. The changing tides, seasons and cycles of the moon continue to inform his visual language.

At the heart of Cupido’s work is *monu*, a philosophical notion of emptiness understood as a space buzzing with potential. Nature and the human body are constant elements, through which he explores love, time and transience. He prints on handmade Japanese paper, for its tactility and the way it holds the image.

In praise of shadows.

Cupido graduated cum laude from the Fotoacademie Amsterdam in 2017. He has published several artist books, including *Searching for monu* (2017), *Continuum* (2019), *4 a.m.* (2021), *Ursa Major* (2024) and *Drifting Stones* (2025), most of them in collaboration with graphic designer Akiko Wakabayashi. His work is presented internationally at major photography fairs, including Paris Photo and AIPAD New York, as well as festivals such as Les Rencontres d’Arles and InCadaqués Photo Festival. In 2017, he received the Hariban Jury Award. In 2022, he was the inaugural artist-in-residence with Château Palmer & Leica Instants, followed by a residency at InCadaqués Photo Festival in Catalonia in 2023. In 2026, Cupido received the Alberto Stabile Award, which includes an artist residency on Favignana, Sicily.