

## *We Others: Donna Gottschalk and H  l  ne Giannecchini* Fri 6 March 2026 - Sun 7 June 2026

*We Others* is an intimate exhibition that brings together Donna Gottschalk's tender photographs of queer life with texts by H  l  ne Giannecchini, in a dialogue across generations about visibility, memory, remembrance and the courage to be seen.

In January 2023, American photographer Donna Gottschalk and French writer H  l  ne Giannecchini met for the first time. Despite their forty-year age difference, an immediate bond formed as archives were unearthed and stories shared. Deeply moved by Donna's life and photographs, H  l  ne set out to give Donna and her subjects a voice.

Donna Gottschalk (b. 1949, New York) grew up in the tenements of New York's Lower East Side in the 1950s, spending much of her time on the streets. This backdrop – often marked by violence and homophobia – shaped her perspective, creating a vision of the world that is raw, real and up close.

Active in the early lesbian, trans and gay rights movements, her intimate photographs capture the daily lives of her chosen family – friends, lovers, siblings and fellow activists – offering a tender portrait of people living on the margins. At a time when gay relationships were still illegal in the US, she described the people she photographed as "brave and defiant warriors."

*"I got my first camera at 17 and discovered all of these noble, marginalised people entering my life. I forced myself to be brave and ask to take their pictures... Sometimes they asked why, and my answer was always:*

*'Because you are beautiful and I never want to forget you.'*" - Donna Gottschalk

On meeting Donna and spending time together, H  l  ne said:

*"I realised that this was a special encounter, that we would be bound together from then on and that those photos taken 20 years before I was born, also had something to say about my life."* - H  l  ne Giannecchini

***We Others*** presents Donna Gottschalk's intimate portraits of queer life spanning over five decades, alongside H  l  ne Giannecchini's texts, which illuminate these hidden histories. Together, they create a powerful dialogue about visibility, memory and the enduring courage to be seen.

The Photographers' Gallery  
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The Photographers' Gallery is a  
registered charity no. 262548.

Special event at The Photographers' Gallery on Friday 6 March:

[Donna Gottschalk and H  l  ne Giannecchini in conversation](#)

*The exhibition is conceived by LE BAL and co-produced by LE BAL, The Photographers' Gallery and Gwinzegal. Curators of the exhibition: H  l  ne Giannecchini and Julie H  raut*

The Photographers' Gallery Limited is registered in London no. 986208. VAT registration no. GB645332251.

The exhibition *We Others: Donna Gottschalk and H  l  ne Gianneccchini* is at The Photographers' Gallery from 6 March to 7 June 2026. *An Army of Lovers Cannot Fail* by H  l  ne Gianneccchini will be published by Fitzcarraldo Editions in March 2026.

#### **Notes to Editors:**

For further information on exhibitions, print editions, press images and credits/captions, please contact Robyn Deane [robyn@margaretlondon.com](mailto:robyn@margaretlondon.com) or Alex Finch [alex@margaretlondon.com](mailto:alex@margaretlondon.com).

#### **Donna Gottschalk**

Born in 1949, the American photographer Donna Gottschalk grew up in New York's Alphabet City neighbourhood, where her mother ran a beauty salon. In 1967, she graduated from the High School of Art and Design before joining the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art the following year. She joined the Gay Liberation Front in 1970 and took part in the action led by the lesbian feminist organisation Lavender Menace to protest at the convention of the National Organisation for Women against the exclusion of lesbians from the feminist liberation movement. She moved to San Francisco in 1971 with her sisters Myla and Mary, where she became a cab driver. In California, she continued her photography and activism.

In 1974, she joined the photographic printing company Action Photo Service in San Francisco, before moving to Connecticut, where she set up her own laboratory with her partner. In the 2000s she became a caregiver and moved to Vermont. In 2018, the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art in New York devoted its first exhibition to her.

In 2023, Donna Gottschalk met the researcher and writer H  l  ne Gianneccchini, with whom a dialogue began and who organised an exhibition of her work at the Galerie Marcelle Alix in Paris in the spring of the same year. The exhibition *WE OTHERS* at LE BAL featured dozens of previously unseen images and was her first solo show in Europe. Her work is held in private and public collections in the USA and France (ICP, Cnap, Kadist). Throughout her life, Donna Gottschalk has continued to photograph those closest to her – her brothers and sisters, queer people, butch, fem, trans, gay, activists, comrades and friends.

#### **H  l  ne Gianneccchini**

Born in 1987, H  l  ne Gianneccchini is a French writer, researcher and art theorist. She holds a PhD in literature, specialising in the relationship between text and image, and is a member of the Centre de recherches sur les arts et le langage (EHESS/CNRS). Gianneccchini is professor at the University of Lille, where she teaches the history and theory of contemporary arts. She is also the director of the Alix Cl  o Roubaud collection, a photographer and writer who died in 1983, to whom she devoted her initial research, as well as an exhibition at the Biblioth  que nationale de France in 2014 and a thesis in 2016.

Gianneccchini undertook residencies at the Villa Medici between 2018 and 2019 and at the Villa Albertine in 2021. Her books *Une image peut-  tre vraie. Alix Cl  o Roubaud (An image that may be true. Alix Cl  o Roubaud)*, (2014), *Voir de ses propres yeux (See with your own eyes)*, (2020) and *Un d  sir d'ensembles d'amiti   (An excessive desire for friendship)*, (2024) were all published by   ditions du Seuil in the "Librairie du XXI   si  cle" collection. Her current work, based on research and creation methodology, focuses on minority archives from the second half of the twentieth century and on the relationship between exhibitions and literature.

#### **The Photographers' Gallery**

The Photographers' Gallery explores how photography is connecting, captivating and radically changing our world today. The Gallery's programme and spaces – from exhibitions, talks, workshops and digital platforms, to the galleries, shop and cafe – all explore the beauty, complexity and future of photography. Right outside the Gallery, the very best of contemporary photography is shown for free, day and night, in Soho Photography Quarter.

Find out more at: [thephotographersgallery.org.uk](http://thephotographersgallery.org.uk)

Visitor information - The Photographers' Gallery

Monday – Wednesday 10am – 6pm

Thursday & Friday 10am – 8pm (Friday free from 4pm this summer)

Saturday 10am – 6pm

Sunday & Bank Holidays 11am – 6pm

Also on show at The Photographers' Gallery from 6 March – 7 June 2026:

[Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2026](#)

[Connection Established: Digital Folklore and Web Craft](#)

On show in Soho Photography Quarter, free, every day, until May 2026:

[Lisa Barnard: The Canary and The Hammer](#)

Tickets - your ticket covers entry to all exhibitions on the day of your visit.

£10 / £7 concessions (members go free)

Advance online booking: £8.50 / £6 concessions

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