

JOANNA BAXTER

Vancouver, BC

This on-going photographic series turns the viewer's gaze towards "the elephant in the room", the unaddressed tensions existing in countless scenarios, homes, and relationships. Be it exhaustion or conflict, these states exist and can weigh heavy. Figures slump statically across seemingly idyllic tableaux of travel and domesticity. Their jarring juxtapositions across these otherwise pleasant snap shots awaken us to what was always there, even if never heard from, and do so with an engaging pinch of subversive humour.

Joanna Baxter is a multidisciplinary artist and creative entrepreneur based in Vancouver, British Columbia. Across a variety of media, Baxter celebrates the private and public complexities of women. "Man Down" is her first collection of photographs on exhibit.

Since 2018, Joanna has co-hosted a quarterly reading series and podcast to support emerging writers called "SPiEL". She is a frequent contributor to the online magazine Pelak 52 and is published in Simon Fraser University's student anthology Emerge 18. Joanna is a graduate of SFU's the Writers' Studio and is currently working on her first book of short stories. She lives with her husband and two children.

Work from the MAN DOWN series has been featured in UK literary magazine, *Beyond Words*, in their 12th Issue (March 2021), and in the April 2021 issue of *High Shelf Literary Magazine*.

ARTIST STATEMENT

"The Man Down figure is juxtaposed to a scene to weave an odd, uneasy trickle of doubt. Compelled equally by the supernatural or the mundane, the artist is most often the subject, posing as an inert figure like a warning or a weariness to a world around us that we can never fully control. The Man Down is an expression of the artist's nuanced curiosity, imagination and humour. Meant as an uncomfortable bump in the road of complacency, Man Down is an attempt to provoke intellectual curiosity, thoroughly awakened by the absurd and the unsettling.

This concept has become an inadvertent symbol and symptom of living in a global pandemic, and has inspired others to contribute as photographer, casual on-looker, or as instigator."

— Joanna Baxter

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