Valentin Goppel

Documentary Photographer

BIOGRAPHY

Valentin Goppel (b. 2000, Regensburg) is a documentary photographer based in Hannover, Germany. In his work, he combines document and expression into a subjective form of testimony, linking personal perspective with broader social questions.

At nineteen, Goppel traveled to rural Argentina to photograph the lives of teenagers in the village of Maria Susana. The resulting project, Allá, en la pampa, received the Vonovia Award for Photography in 2020 and set his career in motion. In its wake, Die Zeit commissioned him to document a his own generation during the Covid pandemic. That commission grew into Between the Years, his first major project. Moving between found scenes and arranged portraits, it reaches for the diffuse feeling of growing up in times of upheaval. It was published as a photobook by GOST in 2024.

Fleeting, made at the Polish-Ukrainian border in the early weeks of Russia's full-scale invasion, is an uncertain, self-questioning work: a record of displacement in which Goppel confronts the limits of photography as witness.

Since 2023, he has been developing False Prophet Radio, an ongoing portrait of the United States made across repeated solo journeys through the American West and South. Drawing on the long tradition of European photographers turning their gaze on American life, Goppel uses his own sense of displacement as an outsider to probe the gap between America's self-image and the country he encounters on its roads. Goppel's work has been published by The New York Times, Die Zeit, Der Spiegel, The Guardian, Rolling Stone, HUCK, and others. His photographs are held in the collections of the Sprengel Museum Hannover, the Kunsthalle Bremen, and the Grafschafter Volksbank, among others. He has received the Leica Oskar Barnack Newcomer Award, the Visa pour l'image Urban Newcomer Grant, and the Alexander Tutsek Photography Grant, and has exhibited internationally. He holds a teaching position at the University of Applied Sciences Deggendorf and will be an artist-in-residence at Maison Marcelle in autumn 2026.

Valentin Goppel

Born 2000, Regensburg, Germany
Based Hannover, Germany
Education Hochschule Hannover — Visual Journalism and Documentary Photography (studies without degree)

SELECTED PROJECTS

2023 – False Prophet Radio (ongoing)
2022 Fleeting
2022 Allá, en la pampa
2020 – 22 Between the Years

Selected Awards

2025 Alexander Tutsek Photography Grant
2024 Deutscher Fotobuch Preis, Bronze
2023 Visa pour l'image Urban Newcomer Grant
2022 Leica Oskar Barnack Newcomer Award
2022 World Report Award, Student Category
2022 VGH-Fotopreis
2022 Ian Parry Scholarship — Highly Commended
2022 Hamburg Portfolio Review
2022 New York Portfolio Review
2020 International Photography Grant — Talent of the Year (Finalist)
2020 Vonovia Award für Fotografie — Newcomer
2020 VGH-Fotopreis (Finalist)

Selected Exhibitions

2026 Visa pour l'image, Perpignan, France (upcoming)
2026 Photoville, New York, USA (upcoming)
2026 Leica Gallery, Los Angeles, USA (upcoming)
2026 Leica Gallery, Stuttgart, Germany (upcoming)
2026 Fotofestival Zingst, Germany (upcoming)
2026 Galerie Koschmieder, Berlin, Germany (upcoming)
2026 Fotoraum, Cologne, Germany (upcoming)
2026 St. Ulrich Kathedrale, Regensburg, Germany (upcoming)
2025 Kunstmuseum Heidenheim, Germany
2025 Kunstverein Heidenheim, Germany
2024 Alexander Tutsek Stiftung, Munich, Germany
2023 Biennale "Something Else", Cairo, Egypt
2023 Galerie Palermo, Stuttgart, Germany
2023 Festival Fotografischer Bilder, Regensburg, Germany
2023 Leica Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
2023 Kunsthalle Bremen, Germany
2023 Leica Gallery, Singapore
2023 Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, Dresden, Germany
2023 Galerie Koschmieder, Berlin, Germany
2022 GAF Eisfabrik, Hannover, Germany
2022 Ernst Leitz Museum, Wetzlar, Germany
2022 Festival della Fotografia Etica, Lodi, Italy
2022 Neuer Kunstverein Regensburg, Germany
2022 Kranj Fotofest, Slovenia
2022 Galerie Koschmieder, Berlin, Germany
2021 Kunstmuseum Bochum, Germany
2020 Sprengel Museum Hannover, Germany
2020 GAF Eisfabrik, Hannover, Germany
2020 Thon-Dittmer-Palais, Regensburg, Germany

PRESS & EDITORIAL (SELECTION)

The New York Times · Die Zeit · Der Spiegel · The Guardian · Frankfurter Allgemeine · Rolling Stone · HUCK · STERN · Dazed Digital · Dare Magazine · CNN · Forbes Magazine · ELLE