

# When the trees are gone

When the trees are gone is a series of evocative composite images in which relaxed beachgoers find themselves amidst carefully composed urban settings in front of dramatic skies.

Diana Cheren Nygren

Words by · Diana Cheren Nygren



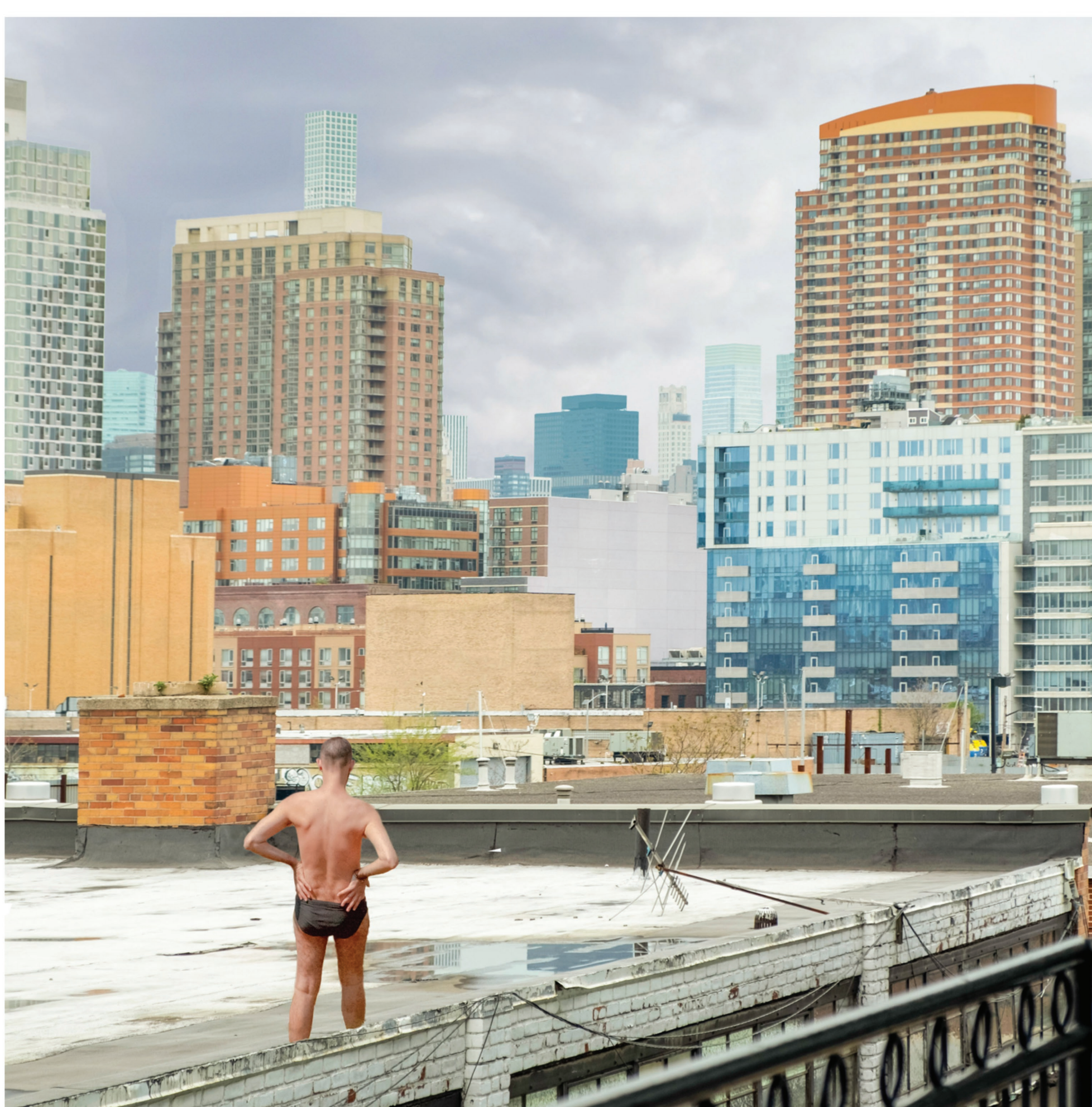
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Our surroundings have implications for our experience of the world and reveal hints about the culture around it. I treasure the city and try to make space for quiet contemplation within it. The series *When the trees are gone* imagines city dwellers searching for moments of relaxation in a world shaped by climate change, struggling between an environment in crisis and human-made structures.



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The question of the struggle between nature and the built environment is ever more central in urban life. In these images, relaxed beachgoers find themselves amidst carefully composed urban settings in front of dramatic skies. They search without seeming to find what they are looking for. The beach becomes rising tides, threatening the very foundation of the city. The clash of nature and city results in an absurd profusion of visual noise and little relief.



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The resulting images lay bare challenges to both my urban fantasy and to city planners, and the problematic nature of the future that lies ahead for humanity and the planet. Benign at first glance, the viewer soon becomes aware that something about the images seems off. The compositions carry unsettling undertones as they suggest an apocalyptic future wrought by climate change.



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## Bio

Diana Cheren Nygren is a fine art photographer from Boston, Massachusetts. Diana was educated as an art historian with a focus on modern and contemporary art, and the relationship of artistic production to its socio-political context. Her emphasis on careful composition in her photographic work, as well as her subject matter, reflects this training. Her work explores the visual character of place defined through physical environment and weather. She won Best In Show in the exhibition *Nurture/Nature* juried by photographer Laura McPhee, the Grand Prize in Photography from Art Saves Humanity, and is a finalist for Fresh2020. Her photographs have received numerous honourable mentions from the Lucie Foundation. They have been included in several juried exhibitions at Subjectively Objective, PhotoPlace Gallery, the Midwest Center for Photography, Rhode Island Center for Photographic Arts, PH21 Gallery in Budapest, Arlington Center for the Arts, the Griffin Museum of Photography, and The Curated Fridge.

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