

MAGNUM
P H O T O S

**A
DC**

JONAS BENDIKSEN / MAGNUM PHOTOS
PRESENTED BY
ADC SWITZERLAND
IN COOPERATION WITH
MAGNUM PHOTOS SWITZERLAND

Opening: Exhibition at ADC Gallery on October 4th – November 8th 6pm – 9pm

Artist Talk: Frank Bodin in conversation with Jonas Bendiksen (in english) on October 4th 7pm
about Jonas' career and long-form storytelling, how he uses his visual style in his commercial
work, how his commercial work supports his own interests.

THE LAST TESTAMENT



RUSSIA. Krasnoyarsk Territory. 2015.
Disciples of Vissarion at a communal lunch during a Christmas pilgrimage. Christmas for them is
January 14th, Vissarion's birthday. © Jonas Bendiksen / Magnum Photos

THE LAST TESTAMENT

By Jonas Bendiksen

“Surely I am coming back soon.”

The New Testament’s penultimate verse prophesying Jesus Christ’s imminent return remains one of history’s defining sentences. Christians have waited two thousand years for the second coming of Jesus Christ, when he will usher in the End Times, judge mankind and bring the blessed into God’s Kingdom.

Luckily, those who are eager to meet the Savior no longer have to wait: Jonas Bendiksen’s *The Last Testament* chronicles seven men who all claim to be the biblical Messiah returned. Some are powerful and have thousands of followers. Others are true underdogs, with only a handful of disciples. All are united in the faith that they themselves are the Chosen One and have come to save the world.

Visiting their communities in England, Brazil, Russia, South Africa, Zambia, Japan and the Philippines, Bendiksen photographed the Messiahs themselves, as well as their disciples’ daily life and rituals. Through photography, Scripture and found materials he explores who these individuals are, who the biblical Messiah was - and what people today yearn for him to be in the flesh.

Through Bendiksen’s personal testimonies and intimate portraits, *The Last Testament* investigates the boundaries of religious faith, and a world in need of salvation, yearning for a new prophet. Whether escaping an angry mob in the streets with the Jesus of Kitwe, joining a Messianic birthday pilgrimage in Siberia or witnessing the End of Days with Moses in South Africa, Bendiksen immerses himself among the disciples of each of them. He takes at face value that each are the one true Messiah returned to earth, to forge an account that’s both a work of apocalyptic journalism and compelling artistic imagination.



RUSSIA. Krasnoyarsk Territory. 2016.
Vissarion, the Christ of Siberia. In 1988 the man born as Sergei Torop lost his job as a traffic policeman in the Siberian town of Minusinsk. Shortly afterwards, just as the Soviet Union unraveled around him, he had his first revelations that he was Jesus Christ. He founded the Church of the Last Testament in the early 1990s. © Jonas Bendiksen / Magnum Photos



RUSSIA. Krasnoyarsk Territory. 2015.
Followers of Vissarion arrive in the innermost Vissarionite village of Obitel Rassveta during a Christmas pilgrimage. © Jonas Bendiksen / Magnum Photos

HOME

By Jonas Bendiksen

These are some of the most important pictures I'll ever take – but not because they are necessarily very interesting for others to see. But this summer, when Billie arrived and Boe went from being our little baby to being a big sister, is one that I will never forget.

I wonder what it will be like looking at them in twenty years. This time capsule from when Anna and I were young, and the kids were just two bundles of limitless potential.

In 2017, sixteen Magnum photographers were invited by Fujifilm to reflect on the universal theme of HOME, in their own style and sensibility, with the same camera. “Home,” universally known in English, was chosen precisely for its global nature, and for the inherently human sentiment that it conveys. The medium format, mirrorless camera to be used would allow for the discreet, sensitive, and intimate treatment the subject required. This project provided photographers with an ideal pretext to explore a place they held dear, a familial landscape; it was an invitation to look both inward and outward. To some, “Home” was the place in which they lived; to others, it was a welcome and peaceful return to their childhood memories. Some, like Bendiksen, chose to focus on their family, past and future generations, taking this opportunity to draw a portrait of their babies as they were being born, of their aging parents, or their teenage children about to leave the nest.



NORWAY. 2017. Nesodden.
Breakfast. © Jonas Bendiksen / Magnum Photos



NORWAY. 2017. Risør.
Anna's morning swim. © Jonas Bendiksen / Magnum Photos

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© Arnfinn Johnsen

BIO
Jonas Bendiksen

Jonas Bendiksen was born in Norway in 1977. He began his career at the age of 19 as an intern at Magnum Photos' London office, before leaving for Russia to pursue his own work as a photographer. Throughout the several years he spent there, Bendiksen photographed themes from the fringes of the former Soviet Union, a project that was published as the book *Satellites* (2006), as well as solo exhibitions internationally.

In 2005 he started working on *The Places We Live*, a project on urban slums across the world, which combined photography, projections and voice recordings to create three-dimensional installations. This resulted in both a worldwide exhibition and book in 2008.

His latest project, *The Last Testament*, about seven men who claim to be the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, was released as a 460-page book in fall 2017.

He joined Magnum Photos in 2004, and was the agency's president from 2010 to 2011. He works regularly with publication such as *National Geographic*, *New Yorker*, *TIME*, *VG* and commercial clients such as Land Rover, Samsung, Apple, BCG, HSBC and others.

After living in London and New York for twelve years, he now lives in Oslo with his wife and three children.

BIO
Frank Bodin

Frank Bodin is President of ADC Switzerland and a member of several boards of trustees and advisory boards. Until recently he was Chairman & CEO of Havas Switzerland and Chairman of the Global Creative Council of Havas.

He studied piano at the conservatory and law at the University of Zurich. He has received countless awards worldwide and was "Advertiser of the Year".

In 2015 "*Do it, with love - 100 Creative Essentials*" was published by Hermann Schmidt (Mainz), a bestseller in its 6th edition.