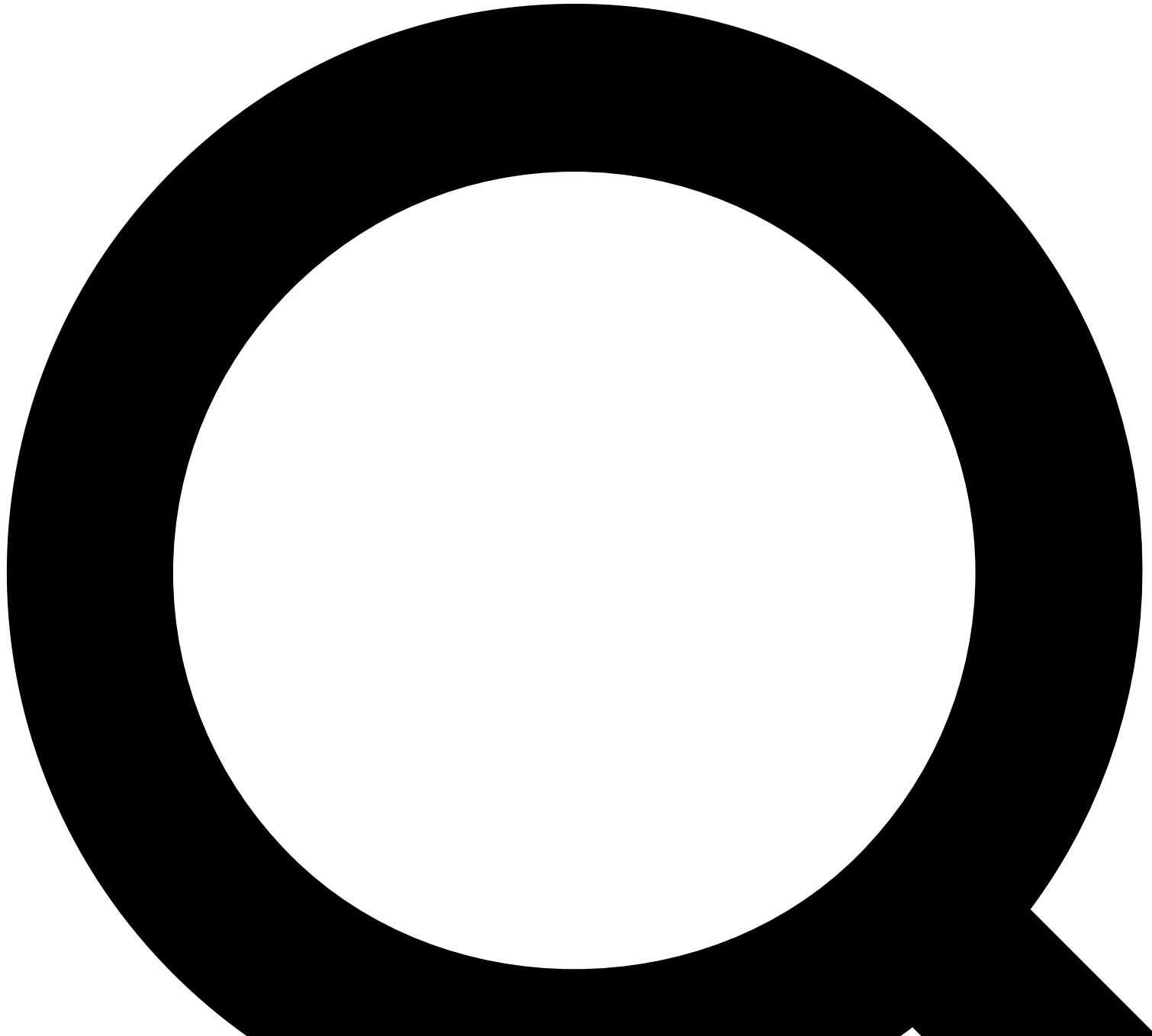
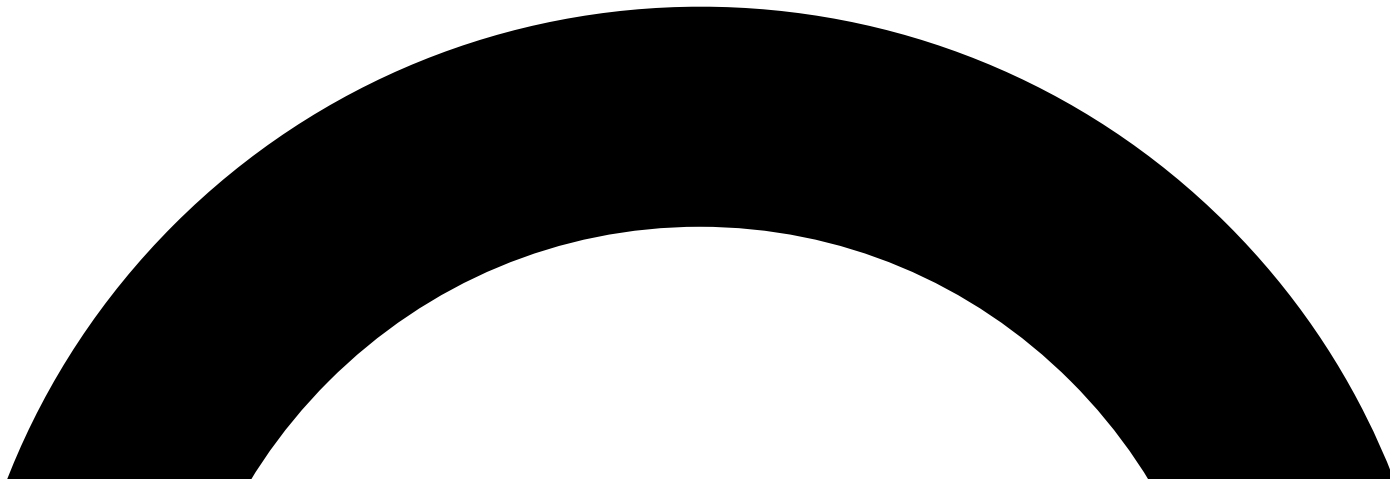


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Audun Alvestad

[Work / Art](#)

Audun Alvestad creates tender paintings of the "ordinary Joe"

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Words by [Emma Latham Phillips](#), [Thursday 19 July 2018](#)

Audun Alvestad paints the unexpected, in the sense that he depicts moments that most forget about. His art is repetitively filled with variations of the "ordinary Joe" — light, pink men, rounded, hairy and often speckled with tattoos. They're pictured drinking an evening glass of wine, taking a shower, ironing a shirt, eating dinner or having a smoke. This seemingly harmless and often melancholic character is certainly not a figure we've seen represented across art history; and as the contemporary world highlights continual issues with toxic masculinity, his is a figure being quickly left behind. "As our world is changing, so do our expectations and ideas about what we should be or how we should live", Audun explains. "I enjoy to play and explore these ideas about society, gender roles and other social structures".

Audun's art celebrates the banalities of everyday life. "I am a routine enthusiast," he tells It's Nice That. "I like my coffee and a cigarette in the morning". The characters he depicts are familiar; he could be the bloke from next door. "I have a tendency to make up stories about the people I encounter", he tells us. "From these ideas, I somehow end up building fictional characters that I use for my paintings". However, this repeated motif is not symbolic of one individual, "but rather something more general he or she represents", the artist explains. "Creating generic archetypes gives me more space to play with painterly or formal aspects". As the figure appears so often, our eyes are turned to other qualities in the painting, the narrative and the painterly techniques.

Reminiscent of Japonisme, in particular, the work of Edgar Degas, who studied ordinary women in everyday scenes, such as bathing, Audun instead investigates men. He similarly uses cropping and asymmetry, using unusual vantage points and cutting off the picture in strange sections. Although the character he depicts is often shown performing typically masculine tasks such as mowing the lawn, hunting and lifting weights, there are continuous moments of tenderness and humour. Men are shown sharing a shower or bath, appearing confused or bemused, scared by the common challenges that face them. Audun's paintings uniquely depict the male gaze, although men are often seen looking at women, they are predominantly portrayed looking at each other.





Audun Alvestad





Audun Alvestad





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The theme of the 2018 London Design Biennale, hosted by Somerset House in September of this year, is an undeniably provocative one. Indeed, *Emotional States* could mean many different things to many different people, let alone designers, artists and those blessed...

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Throughout history, the body has always been deemed as a place of abjection, particularly with regards to the female form. Alix Marie's artwork strives to make us come to terms with our own bodily experiences, forcing us to face what is natural. Breaking away from the narrow...

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It's Nice That has teamed up with Converse and JW Anderson to celebrate the launch of their [latest collaboration](#). A sculptural tribute to colour and gloss, the new collection sees the classic Chuck '70 reimagined in ultra-slick vinyl and conflicting graded colourways. High-energy and provocative...
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Ellie Ji Yang's joyful and colourful paintings explore the rhythms of the natural world. Brought up in Gwang-ju, a city in South Korea “that balances city and nature”, Ellie was surrounded by “greenery and small forests” from a young age. “Connected to nature, my memories of these...

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- [on photographing young America's gun culture, against his moral judgement](#) [Features](#) / [Photography](#) [Sharif Hamza](#)

Could you photograph something you morally object to? For Sharif Hamza, a British photographer living in New York, the question is one he's asked himself repeatedly while working on his eye-opening, difficult to look at, and ultimately honest series, *Young Americans*.

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Pauliina Holma's illustrations ooze with a soft summertime haze. We are reminded of long afternoons spent lazing in meadows, and the cool feel of ocean waves splashing on the shore. Pauliina's work is definitely dreamy; there is an added element of something not...
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- [examines the realities of North Korea, challenging its kitschy visual tropes](#) [Work / Photography](#) [Matthew Connors](#)

Although once a mystery, North Korea is a country we've come to know over the past years as a pastel haven, with wide open spaces so vast and devoid of people they appear like film sets before the crew arrives for the day. *Unanimous Desire* by photographer Matthew Connors...

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- [Ed Fella's exhibition in Portland merges art and graphic design](#) [Work](#) / [Exhibition](#) [Typographic legend](#)

Edward Fella's whimsical and extremely detailed typography has had an important influence on contemporary graphic design. His signature deconstructive style, featuring colourful hand-drawn font, broke every rule in the hand-book. Fun, mad and...

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- [Small Town Country Boy is a rich portrait of race, class and her dad](#) [Work / Photography](#) [India Sleem's](#)
India Sleem's dad learned how to ride a bike by traversing the corridor of a tiny flat above a shop in Manchester's Moss Side in the early-60s. She believes that it is those inner-city limitations which shaped the future of her father's dreams, dreams which came in the shape of...
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This Summer It's Nice That is partnering with [Adobe Stock](#) on a series of articles that celebrate their collection of millions of high-quality images, graphics, video motion graphics, templates, and branding materials. Over the coming weeks, we will be providing an insight into how the Adobe Stock...

[Lucy Bourton](#) — [8 hours ago](#)

- [Work / Publication George Douglas'](#)
[latest book Events in the Year of the Family examines the falsification of memory.](#)
In 2015, we named Edinburgh College of Art illustration grad George Douglas as one of the [It's Nice That Graduates](#) of that year, and his career thus far has been every bit exciting as we first imagined.
[Ruby Boddington](#) — [8 hours ago](#)

- [presents a series of self portraits taken in, and reflecting, each month](#) [Work / Publication Ryan Skelton](#)

Photographer Ryan Skelton is someone who has intrigued us at It's Nice That for years. It's the same for the Skelton family in general really, following a brilliant shoot with the whole clan by Hill & Aubrey back in 2016. We saw the Skeltons in caravans, unpacking a hatchback car, out on...

[Lucy Bourton](#) — [a day ago](#)

[Work / *Graphic Design* Johan](#)

- [Elmehag's typeface Coastline warns of the dangers of our melting ice caps](#)

During his teens, it was the natural sciences and maths which occupied Johan Elmehag's studies. However, in the evenings, he would turn to graphic design as a tool to visually translate his scientific ideas. Eventually the latter overtook the former and Johan headed to Malmö...

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- [Bowley juxtaposes glossy beauty portraits with gritty texture and tone](#) [Work / Photography Xerox by Jackson](#)

“I think subconsciously, and when I really reflect on my photos, my photography tends to be a bit of a projection of my mood,” explains London-based photographer, [Jackson Bowley](#). Originally from the outskirts of Nottingham, Jackson has developed a strong beauty...

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- [Work / Publication Tinted Window](#)
[dives into one person, place, or object to the point of obsession](#)

Tinted Window is a new publication with an editorial angle that focuses on one person, place or object. Although its subject is very focused, thematically the publication touches on a wide range of areas, tapping into multiple audiences too. Its editors, Oscar Gaynor and Alex...

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- [that proves print and digital don't have to be mutually exclusive](#) [Work / Digital Zero: A new publication](#)

Zero is a digital and physical publication realised by Dagné Petraityė, Inês Silva and Nathalie De Vallière of Central Saint Martins. The three creatives noticed that the publications that most inspired them, such as *Aspen* and *Fluxus* largely relied on “traditional analogue...”

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- [intimate portraiture is rooted in astronomy and celestial ideas \(NSFW\)](#) [Work / Photography](#) [Igor Pjörri's](#)
Born and raised (for the most part) on the Portuguese island of Madeira, photographer [Igor Pjörri's](#) remarkable portraiture had us transfixed from the first intimately beautiful shot we saw. Currently in the process of moving from London to Lausanne to pursue a master's in...
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[Work / *Graphic Design* Graphic](#)

- [designer Sepus Noordmans experiments within flexible formats and parameters](#)

“Working on the Billytown identity last year was a true playground,” explains graphic designer Sepus Noordmans of the project which, [last time we spoke to him](#), was a work in progress. This process saw him getting to know the gallery, which is located in The Hague, in order to...

[Ruby Boddington](#) — [2 days ago](#)

- [Work / Animation Sacha Beeley makes toast, eggs and bacon sexy with her brilliant character design](#)
Sacha Beeley, a recent graduate of Central Saint Martins' master's course in character design, has made a film about satire, but in the world of sexy food.
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- [good graphic design from Swiss studio Badesaison](#) [Work](#) / [Graphic Design](#) [More envyingly!](#)
Long have we gazed and adored the work of Swiss Studio Badesaison made up of Lukas Ackermann and Andreas Sporri. So, when we noticed the studio had created not one but three projects with photographer Thomas De Monaco we thought it was time for a catch up with the...
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[Media Partnership](#) / [Events 180 Creative](#)

- [Camp: a week of making, chatting and exploring in the Portuguese countryside](#)

From 1–8 July 2018, It's Nice That visited [180 Creative Camp](#) in Abrantes, Portugal. Below we give a round-up of the week spent creatively exploring different disciplines with a distinct point of view.

[Lucy Bourton](#) — [3 days ago](#)

- [Work / *Digital Half-Life*, *The Matrix* and *Alien*: meet the sci-fi inspired motion designer, Felix Geen](#)

It was while scrolling on Instagram that we first discovered the work of motion designer Felix Geen, courtesy of an ident he created for online music broadcasting platform, Boiler Room. Slick and reminiscent of many a sci-fi interface, the short clip sees...

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- [Giulia Mangione explores why Danes are the happiest people in the world \(NSFW\)](#)

“This turned out to be a very personal journey of observing other people’s happiness, to try and understand what happiness means to me,” remarks visual artist and social documentarist, Giulia Mangione, of her series *Halfway Mountain*. Originally started in 2014 while...

[Ruby Boddington](#) — [3 days ago](#)

- [Work / Publication William Luz's new publication shows how abstract art can sometimes make sense](#)

William Luz makes up one-third of the much loved Nous Vous Collective and has recently released a brilliant publication, *The Shape It Makes*. Over the past few years, William has accumulated sketchbooks full of abstract forms. These drawings usually act as the starting point...

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- [Rodriguez photographs use contorted and twisted limbs to express emotion](#) [Work / Photography Luis Alberto](#)

Luis Alberto Rodriguez uses the body as a vehicle for communication. As a professional dancer of 15 years, Luis's photography is filled with poetic shapes and contorted bodies. "I've been observing the human form for as long as I can remember," he explains...

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- [Felicia Pennant on how the publication puts female football fans first](#)

Regulars / [Nicer Tuesdays](#) [Season Zine's](#)

At June's Nicer Tuesdays Felicia Pennant, the founder and editor of independent football and fashion platform *Season Zine*, took to the stage providing insight on how the publication has added a different tone of voice to the current conversation of football.

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[Work / Film Record label Melody as](#)

- [Truth is carving out a woozy, spacey audio-visual niche](#)

For those of us who daydream about watching the sunset over a negroni from the balcony of La Torre, Jonny Nash's [Melody as Truth](#) record label has become as important as Birkenstocks, blue skies, and DJ Harvey bootlegs.

[Josh Baines](#) — [6 days ago](#)

- [Partnership / *British Council: Venice*](#)
[Architecture Biennale 2018 “Create a flag that represents your own Island” – The amazing entries from the #MyIslandFlag Insta brief](#)

We’ve teamed up with the British Council to create a design brief that explores the themes surrounding [Island: The British Pavilion](#) presentation commissioned by the British Council for the 16th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia.

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- [Redlich, Wieden+Kennedy and more to visualise their highlights of the World Cup](#)

So, the World Cup is officially over for another four years... But what a tournament it was! With 32 teams and a total of 65 matches played across 12 venues, Russia proved itself a worthy host for one of the most entertaining World Cups ever. Packed full of sensational...

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Regulars / [Friday Mixtape Friday](#)

- [Mixtape: Caterina Bianchini's mix to listen to "In your pants! On the bus! Walking! Running!"](#)

With countless record sleeve designs under her belt, we knew graphic designer Caterina Bianchini would provide a brilliant mixtape and she hasn't disappointed!

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Nick White’s playful and often downright silly artwork manifests itself through multiple outputs including painting, collage, ceramics, drawing and zines. As a teacher on the BA Illustration Animation course at Kingston School of Art, Nick believes that “more...

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- [Brenda reveals who Brenda actually is at June's Nicer Tuesdays](#)
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