

UNBEATABLE

KAYEE C

“Unbeatable” not only reminds us of the often underestimated feminine power that lies within us but also the power of a sense of humor and playfulness that helps us push through difficult moments.

- Kayee C





God Confined #10, 2020
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Kayee is a fine art photographer raised in Hong Kong before relocating to France. She creates storytelling images by assembling her self-portraits to explore the dynamics of human relationships. Her work can be expressed with a humorous, dramatic, or melancholic staging of various social interactions. Kayee attempts to offer a critical, offbeat, and sometimes poetic look at how we relate to each other. Her main body of work consists of an ongoing series entitled "Visual Guide to Social Life." Her creations have been exhibited in galleries in Hong Kong, Paris, Rome, Glasgow, and the prestigious photography fair Paris Photo 2021. She has also been published in international magazines such as Art Market Magazine and F-Stop Magazine.



The Taking of All of Us #1, 2019
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Left Page: Merry Christmas #7, 2021
Kayee C © All rights reserved.

Top: Family Resemblance #3, 2020
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The small series, "Unbeatable," is a playful exploration of power and strength via an imaginary divine character. This central female character interacts with herself as people in different settings. We can see admiration expressed to a goddess representing kindness, a powerful goddess demonstrating her supernatural strength, a dominating goddess

proud of her "divide and rule" policy, and even a goddess caught off guard by a flying banana thrown towards her.

Power is expressed in its different colors: our ability to remain kind, to use our physical strength, to govern based on our beliefs despite adversity, and to react to unwelcome events.

The setting of this series is inspired by various representations of the Last Supper. The table is a metaphor for our collective social life at work, at school, and within our close circle with friends and family. The idea of assembling multiple self-portraits comes with this curiosity to live thousands of different lives within one's limited lifetime, like the desire for an eternal rebirth.



The technique of composite photography provides an extra layer of possibility by accumulating the narrative power of photos shot individually in a small studio.

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Top: God Confined #3, 2020
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Right: Family Resemblance #2, 2020
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I Love Team Building #2, 2020
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I Love Team Building #4, 2021
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Kayee works solely alone. She is a lone ranger, from hair, makeup, wardrobe, lighting, camera set-up, acting to retouch. This is her chosen way of working, allowing her flexible hours and deep focus. She sees technical obstacles while being alone on set as fuel to problem-solving. Born partially deaf, she views her solitary way of working as a perfect balance between physical constraints and creative excitement.

Kayee's work can be seen as a whole narrative piece in which each element tells its own story. Viewers should feel free to reorder them the way they wish in order to create their own narratives. Many of the photos were inspired by classical paintings, such as the two versions of "Salome with the Head of Saint John the Baptist" by Caravaggio and "Salvator Mundi" by Leonardo da Vinci.

Unbeatable - Kindness, 2021
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Transferred #13, 2021
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Transferred #1, 2021
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Human relationships are Kayee's primary source of inspiration. She builds up her inspiration reserve through her daily observations of human interactions and her own emotions. Her favorite subject above all is the paradox between social disconnect and our desire to belong. She attempts to offer a critical, offbeat, and sometimes poetic look at how we relate to each other.



Transferred #2, 2021
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God Confined #5, 2020
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Transferred #11, 2021
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Characters staged in Kayees' portraits range from complete strangers, friends, coworkers to family members, trapped in familiar settings from famous paintings, mysterious surroundings, or entirely surreal dimensions. They often struggle to maintain a perfect balance between social roles and their primal desire to be themselves. Out of phase with the pursuit of an appearance of cohesion, some cannot help but display marginal attitudes such as laziness, contempt, sadism, or disillusionment.

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