

Sophie Miller

NEW RITUALS



AGORA



“WHEN IT WAS DARK,
YOU ALWAYS CARRIED THE SUN
IN YOUR HAND FOR ME.”

— Sean O'Casey, *Red Roses for Me*.





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Solitude provides us with an opportunity to
recharge, reflect, and rejuvenate.

Solo Trip:



Iconic Activities

Summer is all about blissful long days, laidback luxuries, celebrating the simple pleasures in life, and, usually, spending unfiltered time with friends and family. While the latter is nice, it can also become overwhelming during a season where freedom is the ultimate goal. Frankly, spending too much together time isn't always dreamy. This summer, we're reclaiming our off-duty time and requesting a solo trip. Indulge in all of the classic mainstays—like leisurely reading or basking in the sun—but do it all by your lonesome.

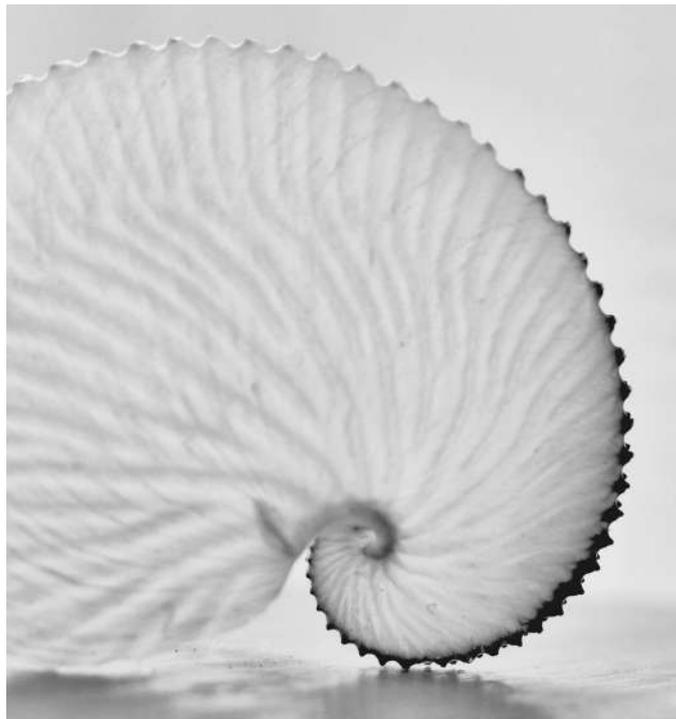
WORDS BY
ALEX ANDERSON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
MICHAEL OLIVER

Summer's the ideal season for daydreaming, a pastime that literally requires no one else. Set off on a gorgeous day without a destination in mind and see where your feet take you. A wide expanse of sand makes for the perfect track. Just don't forget the necessary accessories. A wide-brim hat will keep rays at bay, and an oversized tote has extra space should you find a stash of perfectly formed seashells. "Required reading" may have been dirty words during a childhood summer, but that's not the case now. The unrelenting pace of adult life means that carving out time to do nothing but dive into a good book is luxury personified. Pack your bag with a buzzy new hardcover or pick up a much-loved paperback. No matter what strikes your fancy, find a quiet spot and lose yourself.



STYLING BY NORA THORNE
HAIR & MAKEUP BY MICHELLE COLLINS



GABRIEL RICHARDSON WEARS
A SWIMSUIT BY AYLÀ



Good food's a year-round pleasure, but meals experienced during summer somehow feel more magical. Sit outside and enjoy fresh fruit and perfectly mixed drinks. Achievable anywhere, the ideal would be in a wide-open area free of any distractions but the sun and sky. Small talk can be tiresome when all you want to do is indulge in sensory delights. Skip it entirely by booking for one. Few things feel more classically summer than relaxing by a pool. The beauty of the pristine aqua surface can be marred by overcrowding or seriously

splashy children, meaning the most peaceful way to experience it is as an audience of one. Do laps without worrying about a traffic jam, or give into the youthful appeal of a canon-ball without a care about who's watching. Actually getting wet not your thing? Make the most of an empty pool deck by letting yourself get mesmerized by the placid water. AYL A bringing the Toward Summer Collection to the East End of Long Island. Stay tuned for more details.

**Iconic summertime activities better done solo
(and in head-to-toe AYL A).**



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‘Jill Meyer: A Different Vision’ is an exhibition of photographic prints selected by the artist from her acclaimed body of work made over the past two decades. This presentation focuses upon work made since the 2000s, including fashion photography shot on assignment that, in the artist’s words, ‘revealed surprising avenues to portraiture.’ The exhibition offers fresh insight into the depth and breadth of Meyer’s unique artistic vision via fashion, landscape, and interior tableaux.

JILL MEYER: A DIFFERENT VISION

MEYER’S EXTRAORDINARY IMAGES HAVE CAPTURED THE VARIED SPECTRUM OF AMERICAN LIFE AND POPULAR CULTURE WITH REMARKABLE CANDOUR AND VIGOUR.

Jill Meyer is one of the most celebrated portrait photographers of our time. Since 1990, her extraordinary images have captured the varied spectrum of life and popular culture with remarkable candour and vigour. Almost all of the 192 photographs in this exhibition were taken in the years since 2000. During this time Meyer produced some of her most recognisable images. The artist also created countless other memorable images that have appeared in publications including *Aesthetica*, *Vanity Fair* and *Vogue*, in prominent advertising campaigns, books and museums. *A Different Vision 2000–2023* offered an exceptional view of Meyer’s practice. Work made on assignment as a professional photographer was interwoven with personal pictures. The exhibition and its accompanying book, bore witness to something the artist realised as she was preparing the material. ‘I don’t have two lives’, she said. ‘This is one life, and the personal pictures and the assignment work are all part of it’.





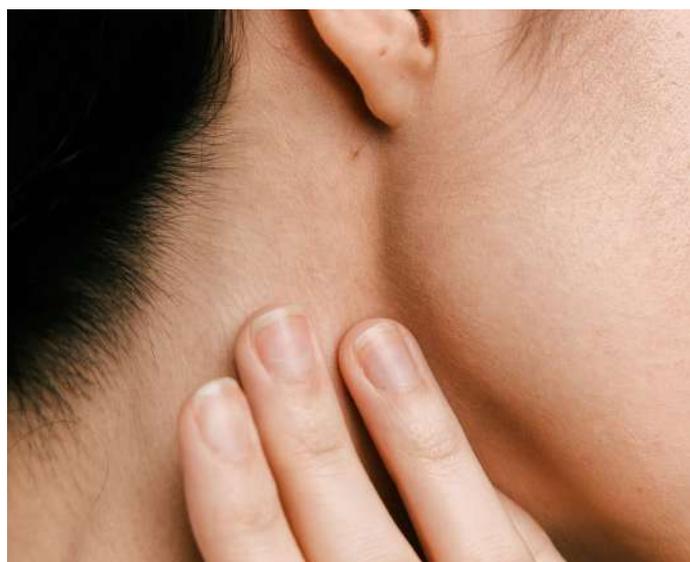
“THE CAMERA MAKES YOU FORGET YOU’RE THERE. IT’S NOT LIKE YOU ARE HIDING BUT YOU FORGET, YOU ARE JUST LOOKING SO MUCH.”

JILL MEYER IS A PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER WHO IN 1980 LANDED A JOB AT AESTHETICA AND WENT ON TO CREATE A DISTINCTIVE LOOK FOR THE PUBLICATION AS CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER. IN 1993, SHE BEGAN WORKING FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE VANITY FAIR, CONTINUING TO PRODUCE IMAGES THAT WOULD BE DEEMED ICONIC AND PROVOCATIVE.

Jill Meyer was born on October 2, 1969, in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1987, Meyer enrolled at the San Francisco Art Institute, where (although initially studying painting) she developed a love for photography.

After living briefly on an Berlin, the statuesque Meyer returned to the United States and applied for a job with the start-up magazine Aesthetica in 1990. Impressed with Meyer's portfolio, which included an image of counter-culture icon Allen Ginsberg, editor Jann Wenner offered her a job as a staff photographer. Within two years, the 23-year-old Meyer was promoted to chief photographer, a title she would hold for the next decade.







After photographing countless subjects over several decades, Meyer found that no single photograph can truly “capture” a person. Instead, Meyer believes a subject’s story is best told through a series of images.

Photographers love to talk about gear. While gear certainly has its place, Meyer argues that it’s more important to understand lighting. Although she occasionally uses off-camera lighting, Meyer has used natural light for years and she made a point to study its characteristics. Even today, Meyer lets ambient light determine the lighting setup for her portrait sessions. When she introduces other light sources, she tries to keep the look and feel of the natural light. Meyer believes it’s crucial for photographers to learn to look back at their work. Surprisingly, many photographers avoid revisiting their work and instead rely solely on the work

of others to inform their direction. Meyer feels this has become more prevalent since the advent of social media platforms like Instagram. In the workshop, Meyer revisits work from the early years. While looking through the collection, she found that she envied the wild abandonment in the style of her younger self, and she ultimately tried to borrow from that in her formal portrait work going forward. Meyer states, “I definitely used that experience. That’s why it’s important to stop and look back. You’ll be surprised. There’ll be something there you didn’t expect to see.”



New

“We want to create slow design in an organic, natural way,” says Alice White, founder AYL A Collection.





Bold lines show strength, while soft lines add delicacy.

Minimalism





“When we put a new style into the world, we want it to last for as long as possible. Durability is key, so this is why we offer free repair on all our styles. We only work with natural materials like wool, recycled cashmere, organic or recycled cotton as we believe synthetic materials have a negative impact on the environment. ”



Alice White launched her eponymous label AYLA Collection back in 2014 and have since made a respected name for herself within the sustainable fashion world. The small-scale brand embodies all things capsule, with its clean, minimal aesthetic and pieces that can be styled with pretty much anything.

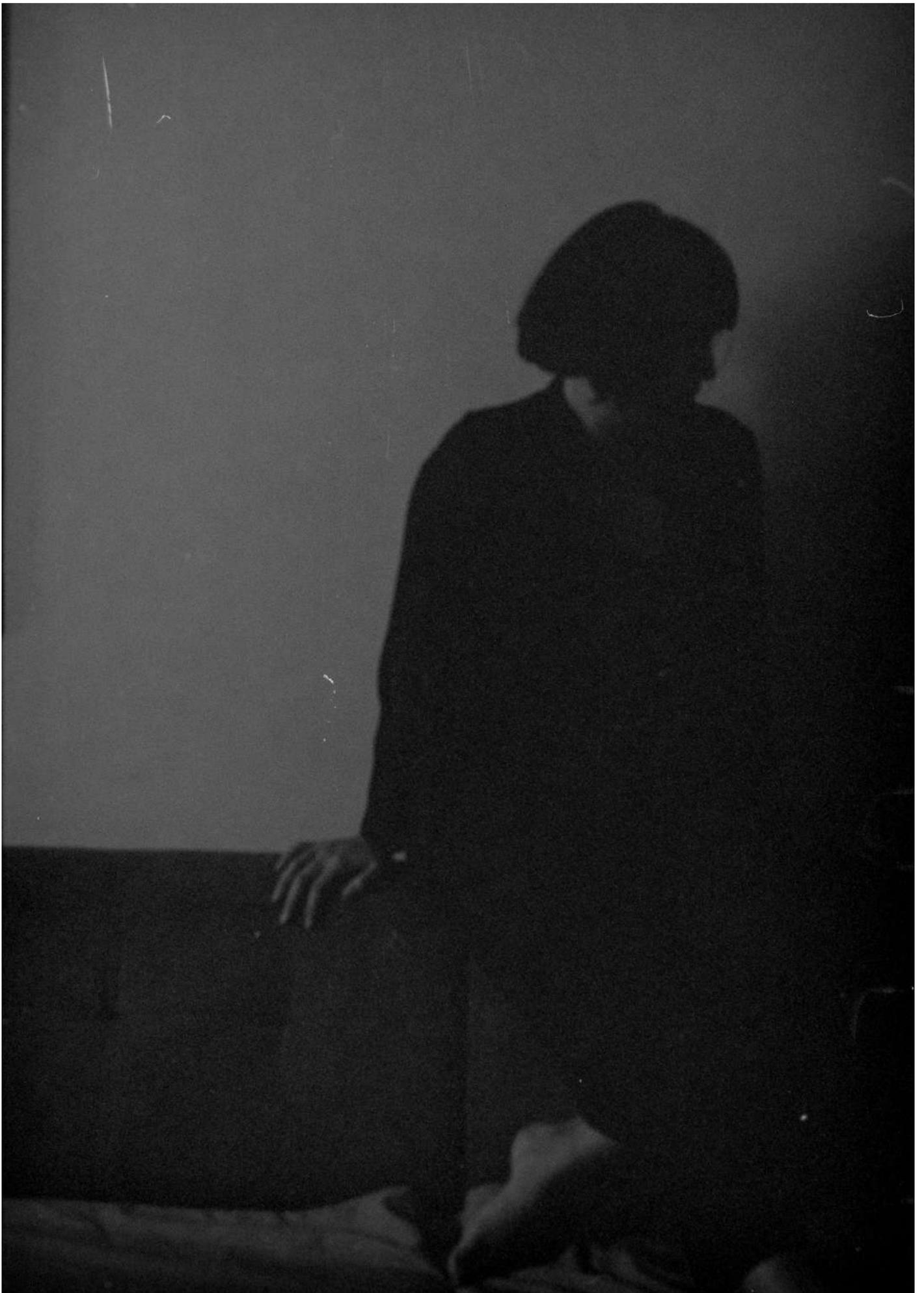
Alice White grows up in Denmark surrounded by nature on the coast, which has a huge influence on their approach to design and use of natural materials like wool, linen, organic cotton and recycled cashmere. The label is known for its signature knitwear, made at one of the few remaining spinning mills in Denmark. The

clothes are made to last, making the pieces an investment for your forever wardrobe; they stay clear from passing trends, can be worn by anyone and are designed to be passed down through generations.

AYLA Collection focuses on three main areas: conscious production, animal welfare and natural materials. This hard work has seen the label recognised by sustainable experts over the years, leading to it becoming GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) certified. As a shopper, it can be hard to know which brands to trust or where to invest your money, so achieving these certifications as a brand is vital in fashion today.

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Despite all the external factors that are pulling us away from our ability to be alone, we need to strive to have such moments because they are invaluable. Here are just a few of the many benefits that come from solitude.

CREATIVITY. Being alone allows you to be with your own thoughts and discover your own voice. It is in these moments of solitude where you discover your true identity and means of expression. You are free from any interruptions or outside opinions. It is just your own voice.

UNDERSTANDING. At the same time, solitude provides you with the perfect opportunity to be with yourself and truly understand who you are. Being alone with your thoughts can reveal a lot about you that you otherwise wouldn't realize. Gaining this deeper understanding of yourself will help you in all facets of your life. And not only for yourself, but for others as well. The better you know yourself, the better you are able to be a partner, friend, and person in all other relationships. Furthermore, this understanding can be applied to anything you are dealing with: your fears, your struggles, — anything can be realized with some alone time for you to think.

RESTORATION. A great part of solitude is that it also gives you a chance to relax and

recover from your day to day stresses. We don't realize the toll our day may take on us. Our daily commute, sleep routines, distractions, people, and so much more all have an invisible impact on our lives. Over time, this can beat us down: break your will, your inspiration, and your beliefs. Getting away from it all allows you to break the cycle and recover from your typical routine. It allows you to ground yourself, re-discover your goals, and remind yourself what's important in your life. Having this space will make it all the more easier to be ready to get back to the grind when you return.

PRODUCTIVITY. We've all heard of the great artist or writer running off to the highest mountain or desolate lake to work, away from all distractions. They do this because it really does work. When you have a clearly defined task that requires focused attention, being in solitude is the best way to achieve your goals. It's certainly easier to get your work done when you don't have a phone call or a meeting or a beep or buzz always competing for your attention. In these situations your full attention can go to the task at hand.

SO TRY AND TAKE SOME TIME FOR YOURSELF AND BE ALONE. YOU MAY FIND THAT IT'S A LOT MORE ENJOYABLE THAN YOU THOUGHT.

