

# ikeness

special edition



**human  
kind  
project**



Low Entropy is headquartered in Kwikwetlem First Nation Territory of the Coast Salish people, and in the shared territory of the sə́lilwətaʔtəməxʷ, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Stz'uminus, Qayqayt and S'ólh Téméxw nations.

Special Edition

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- Ness Gale - Executive Director
- Vanessa Wideski - Founder
- Shazia Saif - Magazine Coordinator
- Breanne Chan - Graphic Designer
- Mandy Cummings - Blog Program Coordinator

About Low Entropy: Founded in 2015, the Low Entropy Foundation is home to free programs and events that focus on personal and community growth through empowerment, authenticity and meaningful interpersonal connections.

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# Human Kind

A photographic project by Natalia Forgacova

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# Artist Statement

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**Human Kind** begins with a simple idea: human connection is one of the most valuable things people can share. Achievements, possessions, and recognition may come and go, but what stays are the moments of warmth, honesty, and presence that remind people they are not alone. The title speaks both to our shared humanity and to the kindness that holds it together.

# About the Project and Process

Created in collaboration with **Low Entry Thrift Store** in British Columbia, the project looks at identity, clothing, and community through portraiture. Staff and volunteers became participants in a series shaped not by fashion or trends, but by individuality, dignity, and the quiet power of being seen. The portraits were made outdoors beside the store, using clothing and props found there. This gave the process a sense of play, spontaneity, and personal character, while also keeping it rooted in the spirit of the place itself.

# The Artist's Role

Natalia Forgacova approached the project with the desire to reveal rather than transform. Many of the participants had never been professionally photographed and did not think of themselves as the kind of people who are meant to be in front of the camera. That was precisely what made the project meaningful. **Human Kind** offered a fine art experience that placed value on presence, trust, and individuality rather than perfection.

# About the Artist

**Natalia Forgacova** is a Vancouver-based fine art photographer known for her vibrant use of colour, eclectic visual language, and deep curiosity about people. She is an accredited member of the Professional Photographers of Canada, a winner of an international photography award, and her work has been published in magazines and featured in Vogue Italia’s PhotoVogue.



## A Few Words from the Artist

For me, this was a fast and joyful project — a true burst of creative energy. It became especially meaningful thanks to the participants, whose trust, openness, and willingness to help made the whole process deeply inspiring.

"dream of a world  
where everyone's  
free"



From Tanvi's Questionnaire:

"I edit reels, bake when I'm stressed, and dream  
of a world where everyone's free to create—  
preferably in lilac and magenta."

KAILEY



**From Kailey's Questionnaire:**

"I want to write a hundred books,sing when no one's listening, and keep being the kind of person who surprises people just by being myself."

During my time with the Human Kind project, it was really inspiring to see Natalia's style and vision mix with our own identities, and how that would come across with the photographs. It made me reflect on my own personal style in regard to who I am, what I like, what colours, vibes, or images make me feel good. Especially afterwards, having people see it and say, "That's so you!" was such an interesting perceiving feeling. It made me feel seen and think about how I want to present myself and style to others.

I had never experienced a photo shoot like this before, and it was really exciting for me. Being photographed in the thrift store was something new and interesting. The lights, the camera, and the creative atmosphere made me feel confident and happy. I enjoyed every moment of it, especially because it was a different way to express myself. This project was not only fun but also inspiring, and it made me realize how photography can capture emotions and tell stories in a beautiful way.



**From Roya's Questionnaire:**

"I am tiny but really strong—people are always surprised to learn I'm a mother of a 17-year-old and that I see the positive side of everything."

JEREMY



**From Jeremy's Questionnaire:**

"I've played soccer in the Special Olympics, traveled to five countries, and still—nothing beats dinner and video games with my family."

**"Love Thrift &  
Fund it makes me  
happy."**

Being a part of the Human Kind project has helped me change my way of thinking. I've always been really insecure while getting my photo taken. I would have these expectations of what it should be and how I should look for it to be a nice photo, a piece of art. But being a part of this project has made me realize that me as myself is art. We all are, in our own ways, and I think that's very special. I think the Human Kind project really signifies the beauty and brilliance of you as yourself, as we are all beautiful works of art.

CHANTAL



**From Chantal's Questionnaire:**

"I'm a cat person in love with my dog, a shy girl who's bold when it counts— and always changing, just like my story"



**From Consuelo's Questionnaire:**

"I love giving clothes a second life, dancing to new rhythms, and coming home to my cat's excited greeting."

**"I love giving clothes a second chance"**

How did I feel during and after the Human Kind project photo shoot? I felt as though I had received a dose of rocket fuel for my soul. An elevation or revival of sorts. Or as though my call out into the cosmos for more creative and artistic magic had been answered by some benevolent guiding force that connected the threads of those destined to meet and assist one another.

On the day of the photo shoot I felt enlivened. I felt vulnerable. I felt gratitude at being able to collaborate and tell a story with someone whom I trusted, AND I also felt a moment of inner contraction because facing the camera straight on felt intimidating and confronting, as though a tender and delicate part of myself was being exposed. I worried, "What if I let Natalia down, or what if I don't do it right?" However, not allowing that fear of inadequacy to dissuade me from being photo-

graphed felt like taking a step up the ladder of worthiness - there was liberation in it.

After the Human Kind project photo-shoot I felt a rekindling of creativity. I began working on a creative project I had lost hope for, and I also noticed that I began paying more attention to colour. Experiencing Natalia's appreciation for and fluency with colour influenced me in deciding to explore my own relationship with colour, and how I can work with it in ways that feel uplifting.

I'm so grateful for the opportunity that I had to be a part of this, and it will always stay with me. As one of my favorite poets, Rainer Maria Rilke, once said, "Where I create, there I am true." and during the photo-shoot for the Human Kind project I was reminded of the essence of those words. Natalia, thank you.

MELISSA



From Melissa's Questionnaire:

"I dream of a peaceful sanctuary filled with wild-flowers, art, and quiet moments—where every step feels aligned and every path leads home."



**From Kam's Questionnaire:**

"I dream of a whimsical home filled with friends nearby, and I find joy in seeing people's eyes light up when they open gifts."

**"I dream of a whimsical home filled with friends"**

I am very happy to be a volunteer at Low Entropy. During my time here, I was honored to be a part of the Human Kind project. I feel excited to have my pictures taken by a professional and have my pictures displayed at a prominent place in the store. Thanks to the Human Kind project, I made more new friends who also volunteer here that I wouldn't have previously due to different schedules. Through these pictures, I've had customers recognize me and remember my name, especially at the recent annual meeting. I feel amazing to be known and to meet new people through these pictures. I was really excited to hear that the Human Kind project is going to be published as a magazine.



**From Theu's Questionnaire:**

"My life's a comedy—full of smiles, singing, and the hope to make others happy too."

NIRALI



From Nirali's Questionnaire:

"I began with a hope to belong, and now I share kindness, stories, and soft colours—like pink whispers and my son's bright laughter."

The Human Kind project felt like stepping into a softer version of the world, one where people meet you with openness instead of judgment. It reconnected me with a part of myself I don't always give space to: the part that feels deeply, observes quietly, and still believes in gentle human goodness. Something inside me shifted, not loudly, but like a curtain opening to light. The experience left me feeling hopeful in a grounded way, as if healing had begun in places I didn't even realize were waiting for it.

I am really thankful to be a part of the Human Kind project. The Human Kind project was a wonderful experience that celebrated equity, inclusion, and kindness. During the event, photos were taken of volunteers and staff to showcase diversity and the beauty of treating everyone equally. It was a joyful and positive environment where everyone felt valued and respected, without any discrimination. We all dressed nicely, shared smiles, and supported one another, creating a sense of unity and belonging. The experience reminded me how small actions like participating, showing kindness, and being open to others can make a big difference in building an inclusive community.

RUPINDER



**From Rupinder's Questionnaire:**

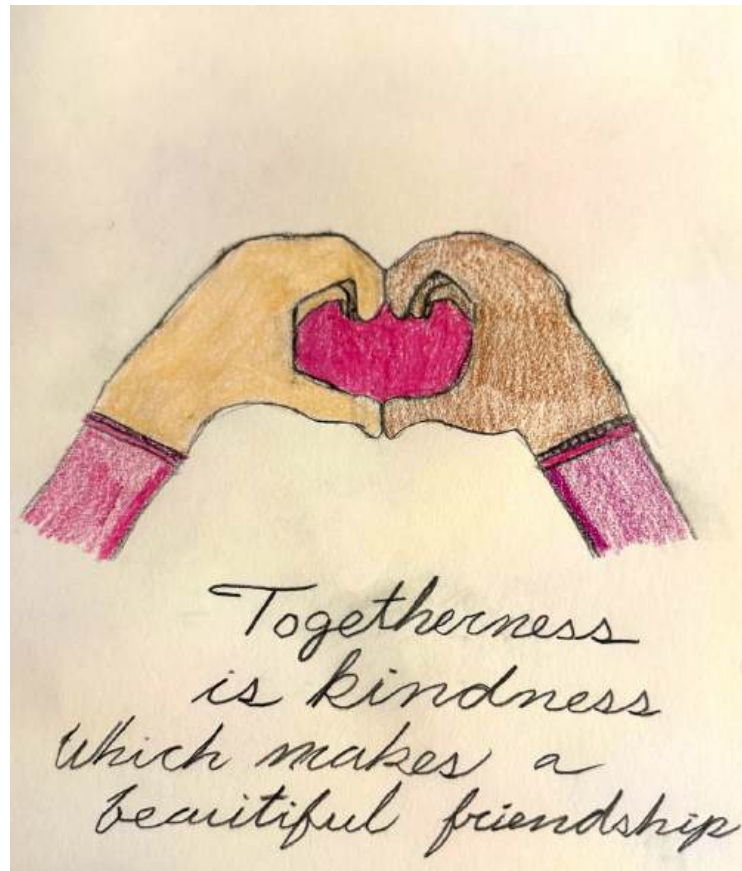
"Pink reminds me to stay cheerful, dancing helps me relax, and rain always makes me smile—I believe life can be simple and beautiful."

RENAE

**From Renae's Questionnaire:**

"I work to overcome anxiety and find strength in helping others, dreaming of sharing stories that heal families and bring hope."

At first, I was hesitant to participate in the Human Kind photography project because I'm not usually comfortable in front of the camera - I'm more used to advocating for others than putting myself in the spotlight. But after seeing Natalia's incredible work, I trusted the process, and I'm so glad I did. What started as a fun experience - dressed in a colourful cat outfit showing off joy and weirdness - turned into something unexpectedly meaningful. As I posed, I felt a part of my younger, more confident self come back, the version of me who once loved being on stage and in photos. Later, I realised the outfit I chose also reflected how I sometimes hide behind humour, using it as a shield. The project became a moment of self-discovery, reminding me to show up more authentically. I'd love to do another photoshoot in the future - this time without hiding.



TINA



**From Tina's Questionnaire:**

"I love singing musicals when no one's watching,  
drawing animated characters, and being made  
to smile by me sweet, silly dog Maggie."



**From Natalia's Questionnaire:**

"I am a chromatic hedonist chasing beauty,  
dancing through absurdity, and believing still in  
goodness."

**"a chromatic hedonist  
chasing beauty"**

# The Human Kind Questionnaire

The Human Kind questionnaire became an essential part of the project. Through these ten questions, Natalia Forgacova was able to get to know each participant more closely, while the responses added depth, texture, and shape to the work itself.

**Questions**

- 1. Why am I part of the Low Entropy Thrift Store team?  
(What brought me here — fate, fashion, or friendship?)
- 2. My secret dream (the wilder, the better):  
(Don't worry, we won't tell NASA you want to go to the Moon.)
- 3. My favourite movie or book (the one I secretly watch or read again and again):  
(Yes, even if it's a cartoon.)
- 4. My favourite colour and why it totally deserves the spotlight:  
(Because let's be honest, beige had its time.)
- 5. My hobby:  
(aka what I do when nobody's watching)
- 6. What makes me smile no matter what:  
(Rain, deadlines, missing socks — but I still smile because...)
- 7. One thing people are surprised to learn about me:  
(A hidden talent, a plot twist, or something you've never posted on Instagram.)
- 8. A small act of kindness I'll never forget:  
(It could be something you received or something you gave.)
- 9. If my life were a movie, what would the title be?  
(Drama? Comedy? Mystery? You decide.)
- 10. What do I want people to feel when they see my portrait?  
(A smile? A question? A warm fuzzy feeling? Something else?)

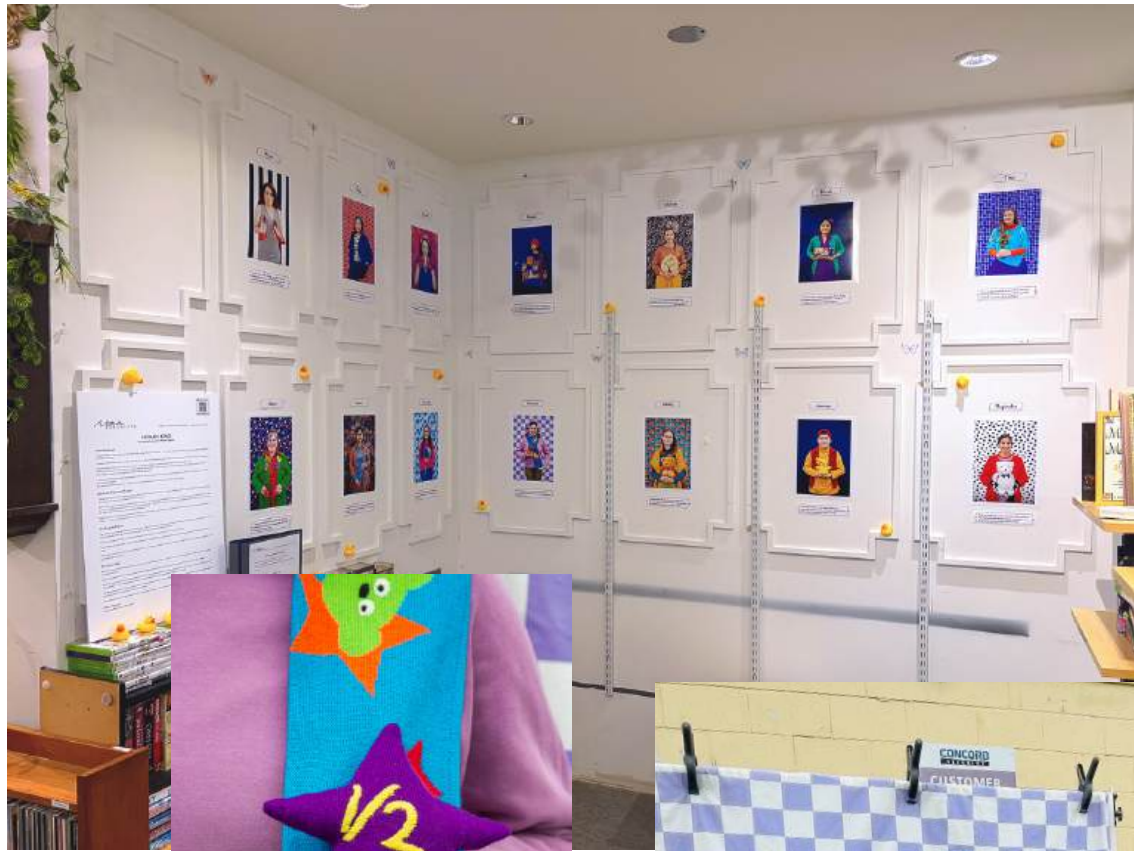
Their answers — honest, poetic, funny, and surprising — become the narrative layer of the project.

# Behind the Scenes



The making of the project was no less engaging than the finished portraits themselves. Full of spontaneity, energy, and shared involvement, the process became an essential part of the work's spirit.





**What remains in the  
end is not only the  
images, but the sense  
of connection that  
made them possible.**

