

# Celebrating Women in Photography Today

## TITLE

### Marianne van Loo

These are images of my fellow photographer and friend Kate Yates.

We were recently invited by BBC radio Lancashire to talk on the radio about arts in Blackpool, as part of celebrating international women's day. The interview took a turn away from the arts for Kate that day and she told listeners the story about her voyage and living the life she wants in the identity she has now chosen. She told listeners: 'When the baby (e.g. Kate) was born, the parents were told you have a little baby complete with a set of 10 fingers and toes'. Gender wasn't mentioned. In the early years of her life she had corrective surgery, as biologically she was neither male nor female. And as the first born, traditionally, a male was preferred to keep the family name going. Kate was raised as male but never identified or felt comfortable in that physic. About 7 years ago, she decided to drag the real her out of the cupboard. Each day, small steps from then on and with the help of her friends and the creative community in Blackpool, she is finally living her life the way she wants to. In these portraits I have caught some of the real Kate Yates, a strong and beautiful women. Her favourite is the side on smokey shot.

*Marianne van Loo is a documentary photographer with an MA in photography from UCLAN. Originally from the Netherlands she nows lives in the UK. She is interested in place and non-place and how images relate to identity and history. She is also an advocate of self-publishing and self-published a number of zine newsletters and a limited edition photo book called 'Lines of Gurgaon' documenting a new town in India. She has exhibited her images in the UK, India, Italy, France, USA and the Netherlands. Marianne was nominated for the RPS 100 heroines campaign celebrating women in photography today.*

#### MORE INFO

Website: [www.mariannevanloophotography.com](http://www.mariannevanloophotography.com)  
Instagram: [instagram.com/loomariannevan](https://www.instagram.com/loomariannevan)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/VanlooMarianne](https://twitter.com/VanlooMarianne)  
Email: [mariannevanloophotography@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mariannevanloophotography@yahoo.co.uk)