

Be Merry, Be Happy...

European photographer, New Yorker adapted since 2001, I was and still am attracted by Gay Pride Parade and other cultural events having a noticeable presence of LGBTQ+ community. Each year these demonstrations provided me with an extraordinary opportunity to portray these people, their play and creative activities. Thus, was born my monograph "Be Merry, Be Happy...", the images taken during these festivities, the portraits of people and their specific, playful games during the shooting.

These masquerades, sometimes accompanied by a smile, hide – but not completely – the faces of human beings marked by social reality, often intolerant and cruel, and by their own reality, sometimes dramatic.

"Be Merry, Be Happy..." , the title of my work expresses my irony on their lives and on mine, on life in general that I often consider tragic. Finally, I think that all the images in this series translate my existential angst, my deep disagreement on the fate of Man and the fragility of humanity, a subject continuously haunting me.

Andrew Aitch

New York City, 2001 – 2025