

If Mountains Could Sing

Melanie Manchot



Melanie Manchot, *Inversions 1*, 2026, Black and white Giclee print on Hahnemühle paper, *Mount Makalu*, Himalayas, Nepal



Melanie Manchot, *Inversions 2*, 2026, Black and white Giclee print on Hahnemühle paper, *Mount Makalu*, Himalayas, Nepal

Technical Note:

- 1. *Inversions* (Mount Makalu basecamp with lake)
 - Location: *Mount Makalu*, Himalayas, Nepal
 - May 2026
 - Black and white Giclee print on Hahnemühle paper
 - Edition of 5
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- 2. *Inversions* (Mount Makalu high camp helipad)
 - Location: *Mount Makalu*, Himalayas, Nepal
 - May 2026
 - Black and white Giclee print on Hahnemühle paper
 - Edition of 5

Statement

Started in January 2021 in the midst of a hard Covid lockdown, the 'Inversions' are a series of photographs made in response to specific locations and environments. One set is made continuously in London, my hometown, the other in response to nature, often in relation to mountains. The gesture enacted in each image remains constant: turning myself upside down, standing on my hands, to draw a line into landscape or cityscape. Based on iconic feminist performance histories, especially from the 1970s, each inversion is a form of physical tagging, or graffiti – albeit momentary, fleeting and archived through the photographic document.

The images for SPHERA were made in May 2026 on Mount Makalu in the Nepalese Himalayas. I was there working on a docu-drama centred on my brother Karel, who became the first Czech mountaineer to reach the summit of an 8000 meter + peak. He never returned.

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