

## Faceless, 2016

These photographs were taken in India (Gujarat, Delhi and Sikkim) in November 2016. The idea for this series came about after I had come back from my six-week trip to India. I'm a filmmaker and photographer, and thought I'd made the most of my trip to India by taking photographs of the beautiful people and places I saw. However, on my return back to the UK as I was looking over my photographs, I realised that many of the portraits I had taken had been purely for aesthetic reasons – whenever I saw someone visually interesting, I would snap away. I had captured their faces, but in reality I didn't know anything about them. This got me reflecting on my core values, my reasons for taking photographs, what I personally wish to achieve with them, and the power of the image. I realised that I had gotten carried away with trying to take beautiful photographs – I ended up with a number of beautiful portraits, but, in the end, what they lacked was substance, a narrative, a story. I don't want to be a photographer who takes photos of people purely for superficial reasons – unintentionally objectifying or exoticizing them. I want to get to know them, find out their story, and communicate a message out to the world. Thus, *faceless* is a reflection of these thoughts – a series of photographs questioning how much we know about the subjects in our photographs – when we capture their faces or not.