

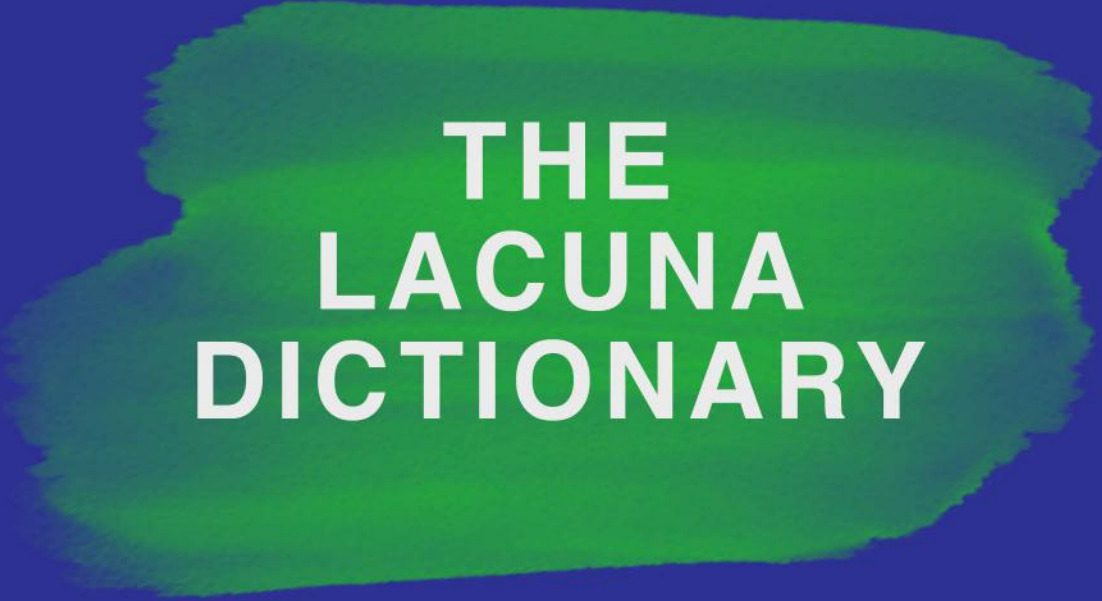
# LA CU NA

GRETA

CHARLOTTE

GASSNER





# THE LACUNA DICTIONARY

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*The Lacuna Dictionary* is a personal project, which came to me some years ago when I first moved abroad with my family. When I began learning English, I would translate literal German words into English, thinking it would hold the same meaning. But quickly, I realised that this wasn't always possible due to different cultural understandings and implications. My international friends would sometimes look at me strangely, unsure of what I meant with the world's *road beer*. I would explain to them that in German, we have a word called *Wegbier*, which refers to a beer you drink in public on the way home, to a party, or anytime you're on the go. Moments like these made me understand that words are more than just mere descriptions. They reflect relationships, attitudes, ideas, and values that can be very specific to one culture.



## LACUNA

*Lacuna* is a conceptual, research-based photographic dictionary that will highlight the importance of culture in understanding, learning, and speaking a language. My aim was to create a cohesion between photography, description, and design to help you understand unique 'untranslatable' words from different languages with different cultural backgrounds. You may have heard people also use the term 'lost in translation' when referring to mistakes in translating from one language to another. But the case is that some languages simply cannot capture the true essence of a word when translated from another language. While researching about these types of words, I learned that each of these words offer a window to better understand different cultures. It gives you a little insight into what a particular group of people find important or have in common.

## LACUNA

The word *Lacuna* is a Latin noun, which stands for an unfilled space or gap. It became the title of my body of work when I recognised that it is easy to think of a language as a framework. If two frameworks generally overlap, for example, Spanish and Portuguese, there will inevitable be grey areas where they won't intersect. These 'gaps' fill up with unique expressions whose complex meanings are totally exclusive in another language. We can understand and try to translate what they convey, but there are often no exact equivalent worlds for them.

My chosen medium is photography, which has the power to speak to many people, from all walks of life, with different cultural backgrounds. I want to bring you closer to the more profound meaning and feeling behind a selected word using photography. My wish for this project is to break language barriers, get people together, and make people more culturally aware.

**But most importantly, make you feel proud of your unique heritage.**





LACUNA

**ENJOY**

## LACUNA



**Abbicco**  
**[ab-byok-ko]**

This *Italian* word refers to experiencing the need to lie down, especially the one that strikes after eating a lot of food.

LACUNA



恋の予感  
[ko-ee no yo-kan]

This *Japanese* word is not quite love at first sight but refers to the feeling of meeting someone and knowing that it's inevitable that you will fall in love with them.



# LACUNA

## Sobremesa [so-bre-me-sa]

This *Spanish* word refers to the time spend after lunch or dinner socializing with the people you shared the meal with. Meals are very important part of the Spanish culture, and the Spanish value the time spent relaxing and chatting after finishing eating.



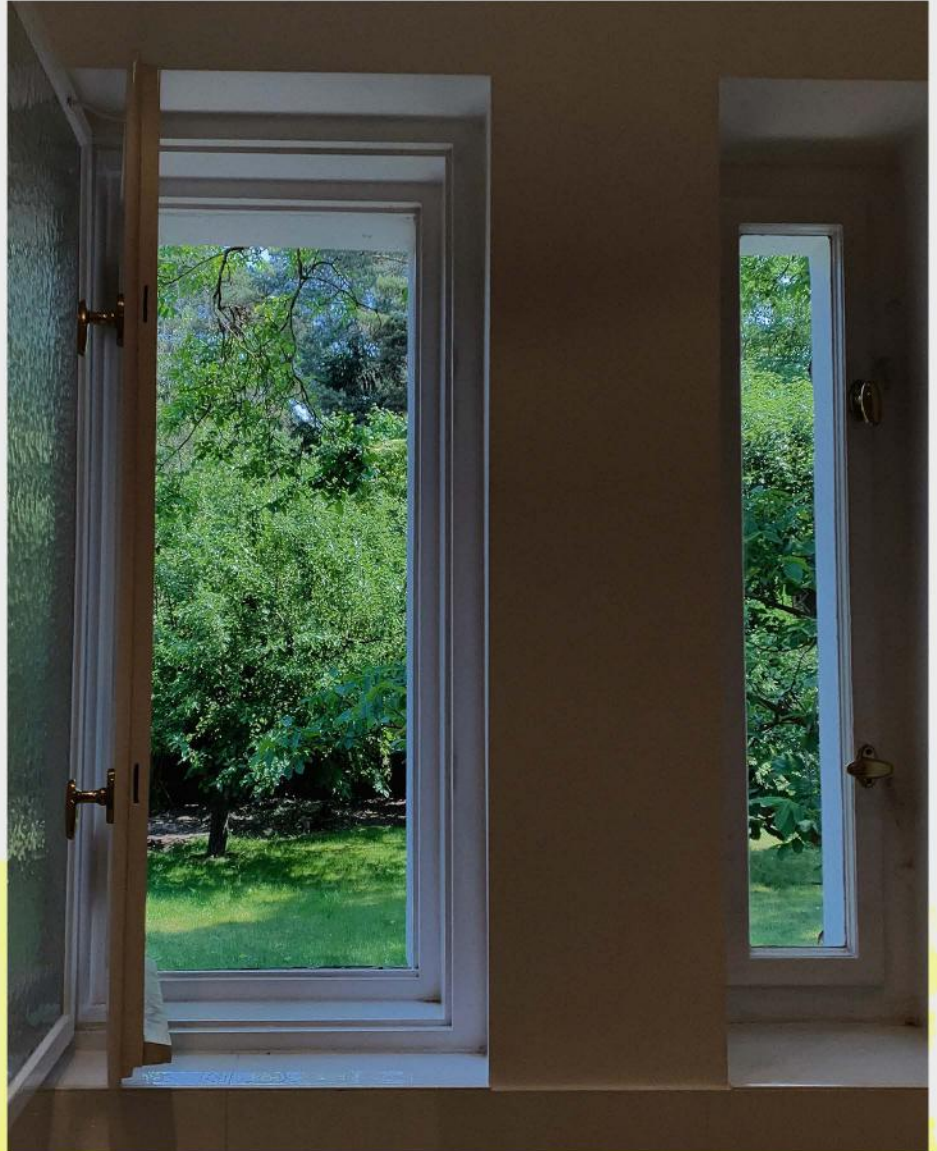
# LACUNA

**Kiling**  
**[kee-leeg]**

This *Filipino* word refers to the feelings of excitement due to various love circumstances, such as making first eye contact with one's crush.







**Waldeinsamkeit**  
[walt-ain-zam-kait]

This *German* word refers to the feeling of being alone in the woods, solitude, and a connectedness to nature. It hints at both the feeling of being alone in the woods and also at a peaceful oneness with nature.

LACUNA



**Mamihlapinatapai**  
**[mami-lah-pi-nata-pai]**

This *Yaghan* word refers to a look that without words is shared by two people who want to initiate something, but neither want to begin or make the first move.



LACUNA



**La petite mort**  
**[la peu-tit mor]**

This *French* expression means 'the brief loss or weakening of consciousness'.  
In modern usage it refers specifically to the sensation of post orgasm as likened to death.

LACUNA



**Lagom**  
**[lah-gom]**

This *Swedish* word refers to when something is just the right amount.  
It also represents the idea of living a balanced life.

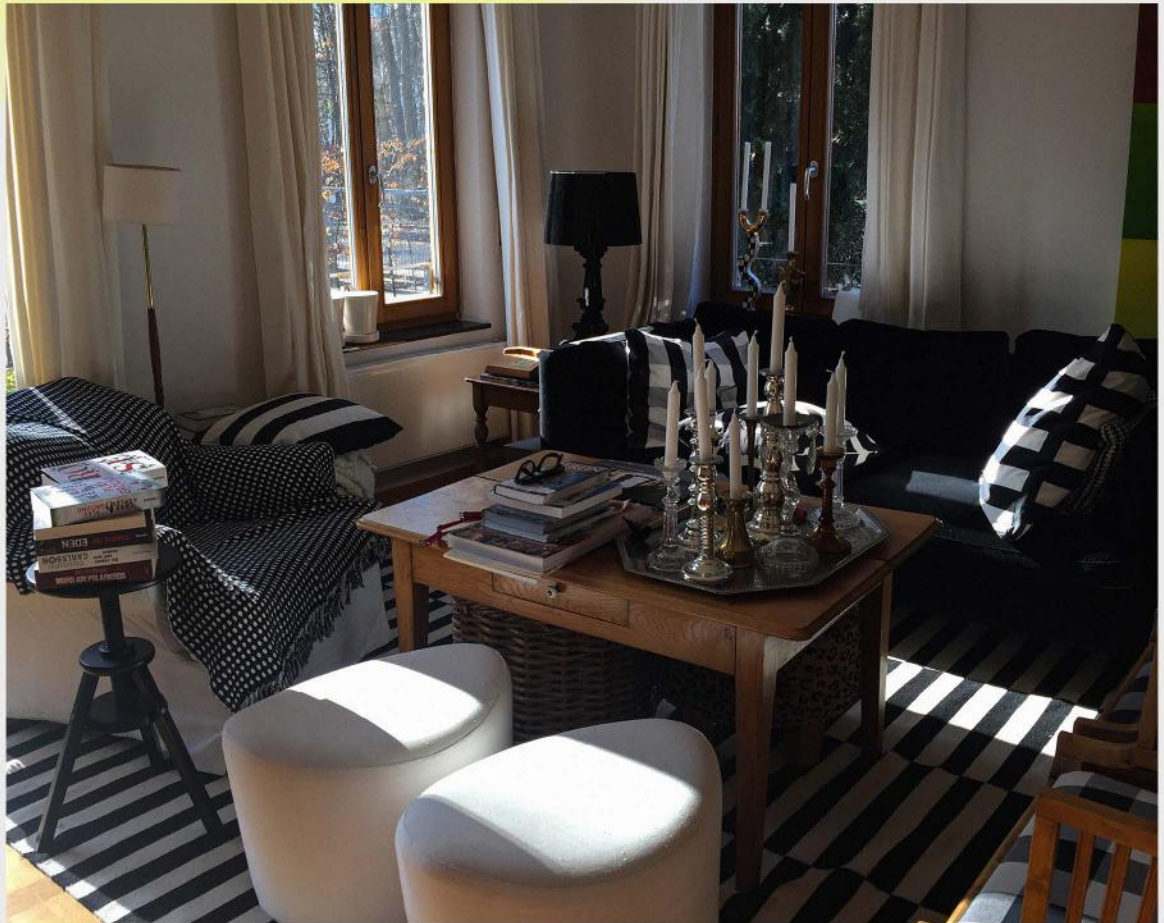


LACUNA

積ん読

[tsoon-doh-koo]

This *Japanese* word refers to buying books that start to pile up but are never read.







木漏れ日  
[ko-mo-rebi]

This *Japanese* word refers to the sunlight that filters through the leaves of trees.

## LACUNA



**Mångata**  
[moon-gah-ta]

This *Swedish* word refers to the road-like reflection of the moon on the water. It's the long wavy shoe that appears across the water when the moon is shining on it.



LACUNA



**Kabelsalat**  
[kah-bell-sah-lahd]

This *German* word refers to a lot of cables being tangled up.

## LACUNA

### Fika [fi-ka]

This *Swedish* word refers to a coffee break that is more about socializing than drinking coffee. Something sweet is also welcome.





LACUNA



缘分

[yuan-fen]

This *Chinese* word refers to the destiny, the fate or luck by which people are brought together.



# LACUNA



**L'heure bleue**  
**[ler-bluh]**

This *French* word refers to the specific time period that arrives shortly before sunrise and after sunset, when the sun's position is just below the horizon and produces those cooler tones.

# LACUNA



رمس  
[suh-mer]

This *Arabic* word refers to having friendly chats with family or friends to pass the time on long nights.



LACUNA



# 森林浴

[shin-rin-ya-ku]

This *Japanese* word refers to the act of inhaling air in the forest to help clear or heal your mind.

LACUNA



**разблюто**  
**[ros-bli-u-to]**

This *Russian* word refers to the feelings you have towards someone you once loved but no longer do.





LACUNA

**THANK YOU**







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