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### ARTIST STATEMENT

My images display a *live* construction of an inner, wondrous world. I create and stage an imaginary world, a composed interplay between imagination and reality. A world in which I have the direction and in which matters outside their context get a new meaning, structured and surprising at the same time. After investigation, observation and analysis, inspired by a location, everyday life, (dance) theater, artists and (art) history (such as the life and work of Piet Mondrian and the sketches of Hokusai manga) I come to original work.

All its elements are relevant to the subject and carefully synthesized, creating a unique imagery. By bringing together different aspects in a single image, detailed narratives arise that can be perceived as movie stills or images from a comic book.

In the detailed staged scenes I bring together substantive, technical (photographic) and visual aspects of fashion, choreography, architecture and theater. When composing a scene I aim for a striking balance between its various elements. I carefully gather colors, shapes, patterns, lines, clothing, an expressive body language and the precise location in order to produce the harmonious composition in mind. An abstract, aesthetic, silent world in which man, the environment, scenery, objects, clothing and action are carefully balanced *and* connected.

Despite the utterly thought out balance in the image, there is the unforeseen, the unexpected and the unpredictable. The open character of the theatrical and stimulating photographic narrative gives room to the viewers' own imagination.



CURRICULUM VITAE:

Ilse Leenders 13-09-1979 Leiden NL – lives and works in Rotterdam NL

EDUCATION:

1997-2001 Royal Academy of Art The Hague NL – B.A. Fine Art Photography 2001

PRIZES:

2010 Fotosommer Stuttgart – Awardshow – Nomination  
Top 20 SCREENING Awards 2010 – Nomination  
Bouw in Beeldprijs NL – Nomination  
Dutch Doc Award NL – Longlisted

2009 The Johanna and Tom Baruch Honorary Fellowship Award, USA  
Viewbook PhotoStory 2009 NL – 2nd Jury Prize – Conceptual Photography  
50th Annual Photography Exhibition *Communication Arts* USA – Award of Excellence 2009  
IPA International Photography Awards – Honorable Mention  
Hyeres International Photography Competition – Longlisted

2008 PANL Awards #17 NL – Nomination

2006 PANL Awards #15 NL – Silver Award  
PANL Awards #15 NL – Best of Members Award

2003 PANL Awards #12 NL – Members Choice Award

GRANTS:

2011 O & O subsidie (Research and Development Grant) Centre for Visual Art Rotterdam  
2008 Contribution to working budget – The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture  
2005 Startstipendium – The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture

RESIDENCIES:

2013 Gyeonggi Creation Center, KR  
2009 Djerassi Resident Artists Program, USA  
2008 Tokyo Wonder Site, JP  
2005 Van Doesburghuis, Meudon FR

EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION):

2013 BETER Consortium – research exhibition by Martijn Engelbregt – Medisch Centrum Haaglanden, The Hague NL  
Taste of Samurai – Gallery Wereldmuseum Rotterdam NL

2012 City Drifts – Retort Art Space, Amsterdam NL  
Grid Photo Festival, Stadsgalerij Amersfoort NL  
Tokyo-Ga – New York Photo Festival, NYC  
Solo exhibition – Semblance – ACF Amsterdam Centre for Photography NL

2011 M – ACF Amsterdam Centre for Photography NL  
Nieuw – CBK Amsterdam Oost NL

2010 Fantastische Fotografie – CBK Rotterdam NL  
Bouw in Beeldprijs 2010 – Belvédère, Maastricht NL  
Stories of the Unseen – CBK Amsterdam NL  
Solo exhibition – Short & Sweet, CBK Rotterdam NL  
Award Show – Fotosommer Stuttgart 2010 - Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart GER  
Update – Salon for Photography, Frankfurt GER  
Bouw in Beeldprijs 2010 – Cobra Museum - Museum of modern art, Amstelveen NL

2009 Simulacre – La Galerie la Ferronnerie a 20 ans (9), La Galerie la Ferronnerie, Paris FR  
Sons & Daughters of Amersfoort – Mondriaanhuis Amersfoort NL

COLLECTIONS:

Leaseplan Nederland  
Centrum voor Beeldende Kunst Rotterdam  
Centrum voor Beeldende Kunst Amsterdam  
Mondriaanhuis Amersfoort  
Korn Ferry International Amsterdam