

Sommige informatie is alleen beschikbaar in het Engels

WOUTER VAN WESSEL

Orchestrating the sentimental core of my narratives

Originally from the Netherlands but shaped by my upbringing in Sweden, I, Wouter van Wessel, use documentary photography to construct visual records of rural and isolated communities. Interested in the slow transitional processes within them, I capture the tension between generations undergoing change and the traces felt through personal portraits and landscapes. I embrace the subjectivity inherent in the gaze. In my observative approach, I challenge the roles of history and culture in shaping individual as well as collective identities. By orchestrating the sentimental core of my narratives, I give access for the audience to encounter the matter in hand on an emotional ground. The themes prevalent in my work evoke a sense of melancholy, particularly in relation to isolation and rural life. Driven by these personal leitmotifs, I immerse myself amid of those settings and become part of the world I portray to authentically capture the essence of the surroundings. Ultimately this results in a photographic series aiming at giving a holistic view of a region and its people in its time.

WEBSITES

Personlijke Website

woutervanwessel.com/

Graduation Catalog KABK

graduation.kabk.nl/2024/wouter-van-wessel

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/woutervanwessel/

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MAAKT DEEL UIT VAN KUNSTENAARSINITIATIEF / COLLECTIEF / BROEDPLAATS

The Fool Collective

OPLEIDINGEN

2020 - Documentaire fotografie Den Haag,
2024 Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende
Kunsten Diploma behaald

TENTOONSTELLINGEN

2024 We Who Walked in The Mountains:
Solo Exhibition Wouter van Wessel
Nora Konsthall Nora, Zweden A project

PROJECTEN

2024 The Sky Is A Hazy Shade Of Winter
Bergslagen, Sweden, Zweden
woutervanwessel.com/the-sky-is-a-hazy-

made during the year of 2023/24 about the final mineworkers in the Bergslagen region of Sweden.

Solo

2024 We Who Walked In The Mountains Nora Konsthall Nora, Zweden A chapter of the project 'The Sky Is Hazy Shade Of Winter' woutervanwessel.com/the-sky-is-a-hazy-shade-of-winter
Solo

2023 As Above So Below The Greyspace in the Middle Den Haag , Nederland Groep exhibitie van The Fool Collective, presentatie van mijn project 'Gone When I Went'
Groep

2023 As Above So Below The Grey Space In the Middle Den Haag , Nederland Collective exhibition showing own project: Gone When I Went (2022-23)
Groep

2022 Fuelbox: Short Movie 'Switch' With Magali Speicher Fuelbox Luxemurg Stadtbredimus, Groothertogdom Luxemburg Een exhibitie van mijn shortfilm samen met fotograaf Magali Speicher.
Duo

2022 Fuelbox 2022 Fuelbox Luxemburg stadtbredimus, Groothertogdom Luxemburg Project: Shortfilm Switch by Wouter van Wessel & Magali Speicher (2021)
Duo

[shade-of-winter](https://woutervanwessel.com/the-sky-is-a-hazy-shade-of-winter) In the heart of Sweden lies Bergslagen, a region steeped in history, particularly known for its once-thriving iron mining industry which closed their doors in the 1980s, changing the fabric of the community, culturally and economically. Today, there's a delicate balance between generations in the area. The elders, with their memories forged deep in the mines, share space with a younger crowd whose ties to the region aren't as rooted. Some among them find solace in wild nature and rural life, embracing the identity of Bergslagen's past, while others seek their fortunes in the bustling cities, chasing opportunities far away from their home. Yet, there are those caught in the middle, torn between preserving the traditions of their families and pursuing their aspirations elsewhere. In my work, 'The Sky is a Hazy Shade of Winter', I seek to capture the essence of this transformation weaving together personal narratives and the ever-changing landscapes of Bergslagen. Winters descend with a stark contrast, bringing long, dark days and a chilling cold that test the resilience of its inhabitants. It's a cyclical process, where the summers give way to the winters, shaping the rhythms of life in Bergslagen. I paint a picture of my home, a place where the past and present dance in a delicate balance.

2024 The Sky Is A Hazy Shade Of Winter Bergslagen, Zweden woutervanwessel.com/the-sky-is-a-hazy-shade-of-winter In the heart of Sweden lies Bergslagen, a region steeped in history, particularly known for its once-thriving iron mining industry. But as the last mines closed their doors in the 1980s, a ripple effect began, changing the fabric of the community, culturally and economically. Today, there is a delicate balance between generations in the area. The elders, with their memories forged deep in the mines, share space with a younger crowd whose ties to the region are not as rooted. Some among them find solace in wild nature and rural life, embracing the identity of Bergslagen's past, while others seek their fortunes in bustling cities, chasing opportunities far from their home. Yet, there are those caught in the middle, torn between preserving the traditions of their families and pursuing their aspirations

elsewhere. However, this region's transformation is not solely a result of human decisions; it is also deeply intertwined with the harshness of its natural environment. Summers here are paradise-like, with lush forests painting a picture-perfect landscape. But as the seasons shift, so does the temperament of Bergslagen. Winters descend with a stark contrast, bringing long, dark days and a cold that tests the resilience of its inhabitants. It's a cyclical process, where the blissful summers give way to the unforgiving winters, shaping the rhythms of life in Bergslagen. In his work, 'The Sky is a Hazy Shade of Winter', Wouter van Wessel seeks to capture the essence of this transformation, weaving together personal narratives and the ever-changing landscapes of Bergslagen. He paints a picture of his home, a place where the past and present dance in a delicate balance.

2023

Iron Boys Nora, Sweden, Zweden
woutervanwessel.com/jern-boys 200 years ago 90% of the Swedish population lived on countryside. Today 85% of the population lives in the city, due to tough living conditions, lack of jobs and education possibilities many decide to move to the cities in search of an easier life. The sound of home is the wind rushing through infinite tree tops, splintering ice echoing through the cold, announcing the return of the inexhaustible darkness. The isolation seems suffocating but these boys have been born into this silence, there's a familiarity to it. Isolated groups of kids grow up in the forests all around Sweden. Having nothing but space, harsh winters, unending summers and each-other, a bond is forged. Like brothers they traverse the wild as if it were theirs to keep, depending on each other and their machines to keep them going. In the Swedish village Järnboås a group of boys now almost men deal with having to leave and go their separate ways. Leaving the brotherhood forged since young and the freedoms the forest provided.

PUBLICATIES

2024 The Sky Is A Hazy Shade Of Winter

Boek Wouter van Wessel Den Haag,
Nederland Fotoboek van het projekt
'The Sky Is A Hazy Shade Of Winter'

2024 The Sky Is A Hazy Shade Of Winter
Boek Wouter van Wessel Den Haag,
Nederland Fotoboek van het projekt
The Sky Is A Hazy Shade Of Winter.



Flooding River, 2024
inkt fotoprint op Bariet papier, Lindt float frame, 1m x 1m



Young boy during easter celebrations, 2024
inkt fotoprint op Bariet papier, Lindt float frame, 1m x 1m



Linne and Lenart Eldsfors , 2024
inkt fotoprint op Bariet papier, Lindt float frame, 1m x 1m



The slow degradation of an Apple tree, 2024
inkt fotoprint op Bariet papier, Eiken float frame, 35cm x 35 cm



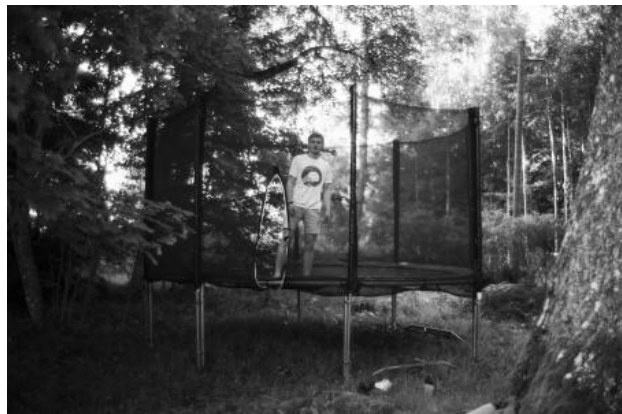
Merja Renz riding her Horse, 2024
Image shot on negative film with Rolleiflex



Easter Celebration, Nora, 2024
Image shot on negative film with Rolleiflex



Karl-Axel Plays Ping-Pong, 2023
Image shot on negative color film with Rolleiflex



Studsmatta, 2022
Digital Photograph taken with Leica m10



Pulling home , 2020
Digital Photograph taken with Fujifilm S5pro



Transportation through the forests , 2020
Digital Photograph taken with Fuji xh-1