

The testing of reality

Photography has a peculiar relationship to reality. Once upon a time, as opposed to paintings, photographs were believed to objectively depict the world. Nowadays, we've learned to question images. Yet, there are still many traces of the belief in photography's truth.

In this workshop, we will tell stories through photographs, sometimes accompanied by writing and other media. In each of our stories we will expand reality and gently blur it with elements of fiction. What if you photograph a woman as if she is your mother? What if you use a lot of imagination when writing captions for an image? What if you present the photos you've made as if they were found on a flea-market, made decades ago, by someone else?

Together, we will carefully test reality, always considering subtlety and plausibility. When drifting too far into the fictional, we might lose the desired ambiguity. It's a challenge to keep our viewers uncertain, on the edge of their seat, unsure of what they are seeing.

The workshop will entail practical exercises, close readings of each other's images and discussions on storytelling. Also, we will pay attention to how our works are presented, taking in consideration small booklets, large scale prints, and more. Eventually, we will present our projects in a small exhibition.

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Technical equipment required: a projector, paper, printing facilities, cameras for the students, potentially (depending on their projects) the photo studio and lights, a space to use for a small exhibition as the final presentation.

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Sanne Kabalt is a Dutch artist who works with the medium of photography, often accompanied by writing. At present, Sanne is engaged in a long-term research on mental and physical illness, focusing on the complex relations between pain and language. Her first book, 'Zolang je niet zo over problemen praat zie je er toch niks van' (which roughly translates to 'As long as you don't talk about problems so much you won't see them anyway') was published in 2018 by Het Vijfde Seizoen.

After her studies in photography at the HKU (2011) Sanne obtained her MA degree from the Dutch Art Institute (2018). Recent exhibitions include Beautiful Distress House (Amsterdam), Württembergischer Kunstverein (Stuttgart), Public-Source (Manchester), Lítost Gallery (Prague), Institute for Provocation (Beijing) and Yellow Brick (Athens).

www.sannekabalt.com