

An interview with the artist

Where are you from?

The Netherlands, I was born in The Hague and grew up in Amsterdam.

When were you born?

1951

Where do you live?

In the Netherlands and in Scotland.

Education and qualifications?

After having studied French and Spanish I first worked as a teacher and as an interpreter.

Later I became a selftaught art historian and a selftaught photographer.

Are you a full time artist or do you have another job too?

I used to work as a free-lance museum guide in several Galleries and Museums in The Netherlands.

It was also a great pleasure to introduce art into the life of many people during guided visits in Galleries and Museums throughout Europe.

To be able to concentrate fully on my own photographic work I recently stopped the job and am a full time artist now.

Do you do commercial photography as well?

No

What is your connection to Scotland?

My partner Fred Schley is a painter. Scotland and the rest of the UK is his source of inspiration and he knows the country very very well.

I first came to Scotland with him about 18 years ago and I immediately loved the country and the people.

We now spend part of the year travelling around in the UK and Scotland. He for his paintings, I for my photographs!

How long have you been a member of Scottish Photographers?

2 years.

In 2006 I stayed a couple of months in Skye.

I first heard about Scottish Photographers from Caroline Dear and Hazel Rae, both member.

We started to have our own portfolio-sessions and every time I am in Skye we discuss our new work which is very inspiring.

In 2007 I met Alicia Bruce, Douglas May, James Baster amongst other Scottish Photographers during a portfolio session in Stills in Edinburgh.

With James Baster I had the exhibition "Temporarily Misplaced" in Total

Kunst Art Gallery.

In that exhibition there were 180 photographs of my archive of found gloves on the wall.

During the exhibition people spontaneous started to drop gloves they had found in the street on the floor of the gallery!

Why do you like Scotland?

In every aspect Scotland is the opposite of The Netherlands.

In The Netherlands everything is clean and cleared away.

In Scotland I come across old caravans, lost gloves, left pots, forgotten jackets and so on.

You hardly see that in the Netherlands.

As lost and neglected objects are my main subject in photography

Scotland is a good place for me.

Besides that I like the Scottish landscape for its variety and I like the Scottish cities.

And last but not least, I love the Scottish people and have some good friends in Scotland.

Where are your favourite places to look for images?

I am never really looking for images.

It just happens that my eye catches an interesting object.

And it can happen everywhere and any time. In the city, in the countryside, in a building.

It always comes unexpexted.

That is why I never walk without my camera, just in case.....

Where would you like to go in the future?

I would like to explore more areas of Scotland although I know the country quite well.

I have been many times in Skye, the Orkneys, Shetland and The Outer Hebrides.

Technical specifications

Camera:

Minolta and Canon reflex cameras.

All photographs in the exhibition have been taken with an analogue camera.

Printing technique and paper:

All photographs in the exhibition are Lamda-prints.

The Lamdaprocedure is a high quality laser print technique.

The analogue negative is first digitalised and then printed on high quality photographic paper.

Frames:

Depending on the photograph I decide about the size and how to present it.

If I decide to mount it on aluminium a very thin almost invisible foil is put on the photograph to protect the surface.

For smaller ones I often choose to present them in a handmade wooden box-like frame.

Limited Edition:

all my photographs are in an edition of 12.

Any other things you would like to add:

"From object to subject"

I am fascinated by discarded and rejected everyday objects which are usually not considered worthy of being noticed let alone of being photographed.

All these objects like gloves, curtains, jackets, pots, sofas and so on have once been carefully made, have been bought, have served till for one reason or another they are discarded, neglected, lost or whatsoever. And at that state the object starts to interest me. There is a whole story behind. Which story? Who knows? You can invent your own story. For me as a photographer a sudden " kind of shock " by seeing an unexpected image makes me decide to take a photograph but immediately after that I can start to image to whom the glove once belonged, where the other one of the pair might be, who made the curtains so carefully, where did people take the caravan and which view did they choose and so on.

I am also intrigued by the fact that by the act of photographing an object can be turned into a subject. One moment the object is just an object. And as soon as you take a photograph of it it seems to be something, a subject!

I noticed this by having several times the experience that people seem to think that I work for Forensics!

When I am for instance in the middle of the road, taking a photograph of a glove, a sock or a shoe people sometimes ask me what happened and if there are any victims. When I am ready and walk away I see in a glance that they bend forward to have a closer look!

At those moments I think of an old chinese saying: "Turn waste into valuables" and I think that is what I am trying to do with my work.

It was only in 2005 that I decided to come forward with my photographic work.

Since then my work has been included in the following exhibitions.

● **2008** ●

Three Camuslusta Gallery, Waternish, Isle of Skye.

Annual Exhibition 2008 The Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh.
Summer Exhibition 2008, Royal Academy, London.
John Davies Gallery, Moreton-in-Marsh.

● **2007** ●

Visual Arts Scotland, Edinburgh.
Society of Scottish Artists, Edinburgh.
Novas Gallery Camden, London.
John Davies Gallery, Moreton-in-Marsh.
The Art Gallery, Grampian Hospitals Art Trust, Aberdeen.
Atticsalt Gallery, Edinburgh.
Total Kunst Art Gallery, Edinburgh.

● **2006** ●

WKG-Architects, Utrecht.
Galerie Achter De Kan, Den Bosch.
An Tuireann Art Centre, Portree, Isle of Skye.
Arlington Gallery, London.

● **2005** ●

Foundation for Contemporary Art,
Woudrichem.

Forthcoming exhibitions 2009:

Mussel Inn Gallery, Glasgow.
Liber Amicorum, 's-Hertogenbosch.
Atticsalt Gallery, Edinburgh.
Mikst Media, Woudrichem.