

Noah Heylen
Artistic Portfolio June 2023

Seaweed and milk photography

During the first lockdown in 2020 I walked around everyday. I live between the sea and the farmers, a province called West-Flanders which is marginalised a lot within Belgium. My photography interest started around 2017 and I was immediately obsessed with analog photography. I wanted to capture my environment, not only on the photo's themselves but also in the way I develop and handle them. With the seaweed I found on the beach I made my own film developer, adding chemicals like Vitamine C and washing soda. With the milk we bought from the farmer shops, I substituted the water in the developing process. The following photos are scans of some of the 'successful' negatives.



Postcards

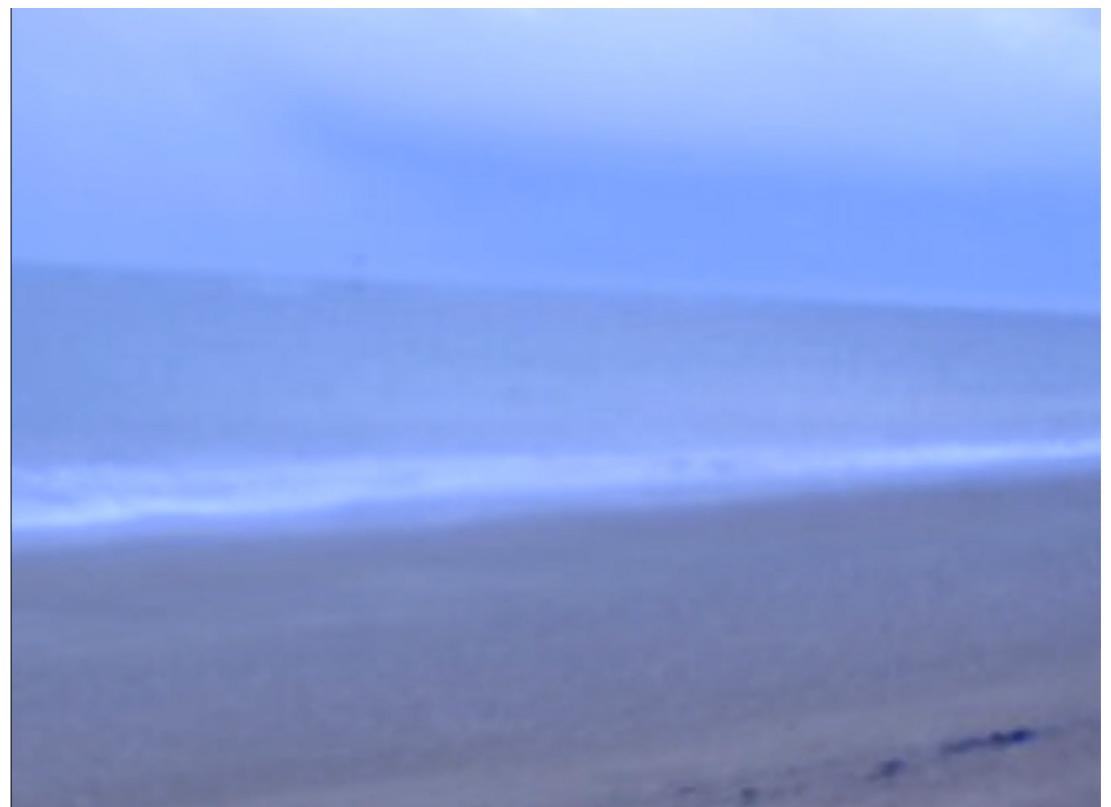
Looking for a more democratic way of distributing photographs and giving the community something back/ something to be happy about, I stumbled across postcards. A project I did with postcards was a photography project in Charleroi, voted the ugliest city in the world. Charleroi is a city with a big industrial history in Belgium, but has decayed since the end of the 20th century. I photographed the city during the summer and winter and made postcard from the photos. I distributed them back in Charleroi for free through a number of book shops, restaurants, night shops and the museum of photography in Charleroi.



CCTV Works

8 seas and a dog

In October 2021, I started collecting unsecured CCTV-footage through various websites. At this moment, I have a collection of around 3000 images and videos. Security cameras sometimes have some sort of poetic aesthetic to them. This poetic view distracts us from the actual intention of CCTV-camera's. From this collection, I build videos and photo collections, I have also made a new poetry album focused on CCTV-camera's. I make certain narrative structures through Artificial Intelligence. CCTV-camera's and AI have certain equal values. Both make an incredible amount of matter, set up by a human, made by a machine, all to be picked again by a human. I am interested in how our interpretation of images changes by the context it is given. One of the first works I made with CCTV-footage is a video called '8 seas and a dog'. It is exactly what the title says it is. Watching the video in a dark space is a really meditational experience, seeing the sea is always a sublime/frightening experience in a way. At the end of the video, a dog catches a frisbee on the beach, giving a spark of joy and hope. Here is the link to the video and also various stills: <https://vimeo.com>.



Involuntary Kinship

A lot of CCTV-cameras are hacked, telling something different than the name of the place or time and date. I spread a poem, generated by an AI about CCTV-footage, across eight different cameras. Each owner of the camera saw a different part of the poem, not knowing the underlying connection to other cameras, nor my work. Each owner reacted to the poem as well, some in the form of typing 'WTF?' or 'Who dis?' onto the camera, others adding actual security to the CCTV-camera or removing the camera as a whole. Over the past few months, the work has crumbled into a digital ruin. Now, the only connection holding the cameras together isn't the poem, it is myself. I made a video telling the poem as a whole, and an installation of the eight cameras projected live every time one got altered. Here is the vimeo-link and also some stills from the installations: <https://vimeo.com/655336050>



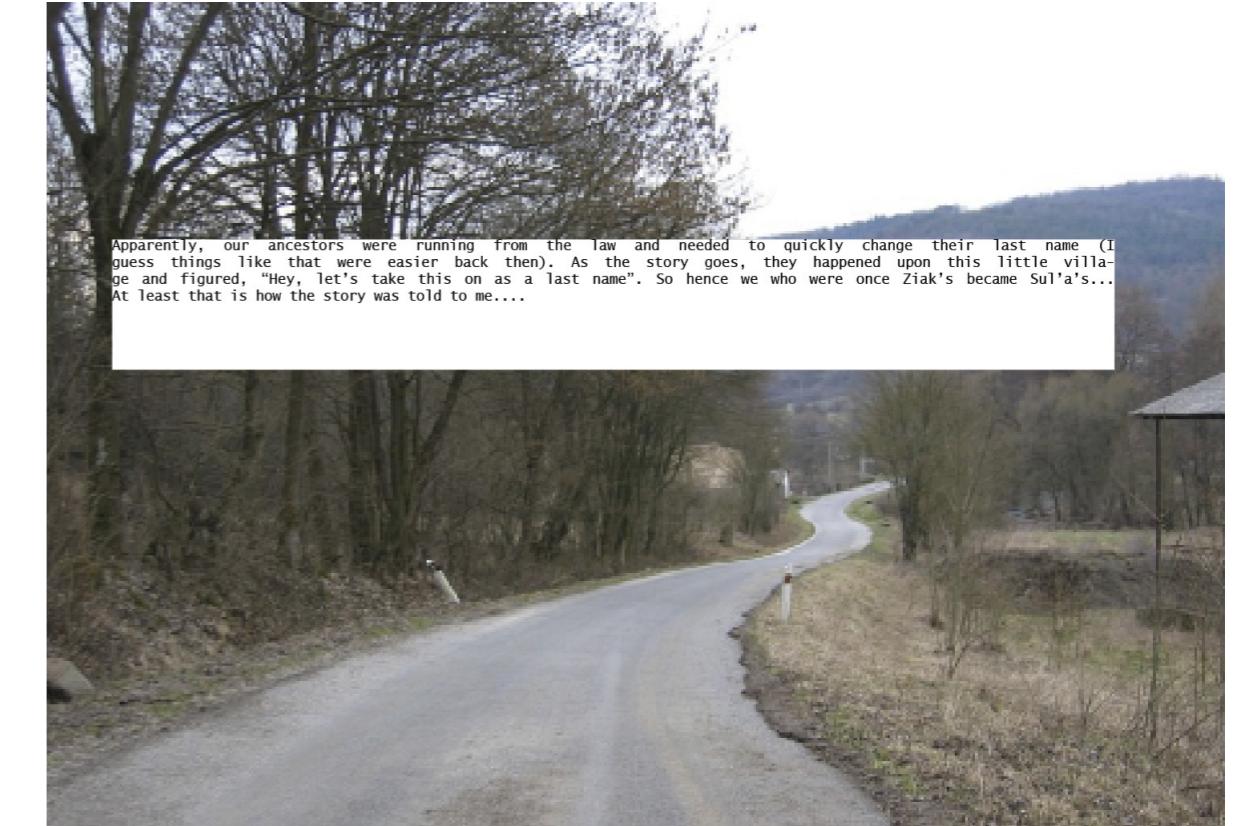
Untitled

In march, I got the news I had a 50/50 chance of having the gene causing young dementia. I have always been interested in flashing pre-existing footage with my camera. I went through my old photos as a kid, and flashed them with my camera, putting a contemporary and personal stamp on them. I looked at different aspects of one photo and flashed them as well. This work is still in process. I am interested in how our personal archive functions in support of our memory and how we look back at it. I am still not sure how I will work the imagery out, I am thinking of making a replica of my original photobook, with a flash on every photo. I also printed all the photos I made of one specific photo and pasted them onto a door.



Miscellaneous life trilogy

Three photobooks made from a digital personal archive of one person who lived in Yugoslavia and Slovakia before moving to Canada.



storiesaftertheamerican dream.eu

A website conveying a fake personal archive, built from collected images of personal archives of persons who moved to the U.S. after 9/11. All images were found on fotki.com, a website made by a person who also moved to the U.S. from Estonia.



[Image 1](#) [Image 2](#)

stories after the american dream

open the door
happy
fucking hit and run
9/11 and a drink
electricity
for all the people there is some colour
camera record crash
citizenship
animals and holes
my car)
homesickness:
coyote
party lifestyle ending ending ending ending
Daniel2008
turnover
NEW YORK AND OTHER PLACES
flowers for 9/11
no worries, there is still candy
women, cars and child
see through
getting a dog
and look where you are
feeling part of the community
WHAT YOU NEED TO BE PEACEFUL
flashbacks after dinner
today, i worked on the photos you see
got drunk pretty quickly
travelling around etc., we do a lot actually
going back, transformed
press
finishing the house.
snowy days
necessities
fishing
sorry for not posting, I went on a roadtrip
life here
I'm lucky to be alive to be honest

stories after the american dream

← → ⌂ https://www.storiesaftertheamerican dream.eu/candy.html



[Image 1](#) [Image 2](#) [Image 3](#) [Image 4](#) [Image 5](#) [Image 6](#) [Image 7](#) [Image 8](#) [Image 9](#) [Image 10](#) [Image 11](#) [Image 12](#)