

HANNE VAN DER WOUDE EMMY'S WORLD

It's about the art of living, of growing old together, of an intimate relationship and valuable time. For five years, the young Dutch photographer Hanne van der Woude accompanied an elderly artist couple with her camera. Fotografie Forum Frankfurt shows her poignant images, titled EMMY'S WORLD from 24/09 to 4/12, 2016. The exhibition is van der Woude's first solo exhibition in Germany and is part of the Frankfurter Book Fair's guest of honour program 2016.

Frankfurt, 23/09/2016 – The exhibition **EMMY'S WORLD** is the result of an unusual, long-term project: starting in 2009, the Dutch photographer, **Hanne van der Woude** took part in the lives of the aging artist couple Emmy Eerdmans and Ben Joosten. The young photographer spent an intensive time with both of the creative free spirits that have been married for over 50 years, in their home, a former school in the Dutch region of Betuwe, in the province of Gelderland. She participated in their daily lives and accompanied them with her camera. She photographed Emmy with her favourite guinea hen, Klara, while she was drawing or gathering branches in an enchanted-like garden. She portrayed Ben with his brothers as they posed boisterous and bare-chested in an old washtub. She went with the older couple on a road trip to the south of France, where Ben's older brother Egbert had lived for a long time. She also captured very intimate moments, such as Emmy lovingly taking care of Ben during the last days of his life.

EMMY'S WORLD shows images of people that despite their age have never lost their love of life and freedom. The focus of the exhibit is on the now 85 year old Emmy Eerdmans. In 2009, Hanne van der Woude met the graphic artist Ben Joosten by chance and spontaneously asked him if she could make a portrait of him. After he agreed and she went to his house, she met Emmy and was fascinated with this unconventional, self-contained, strong yet strangely enraptured woman. "I decided to decipher Emmy", remembers van der Woude today.

The photographer approached the painter and her decelerated world with the tranquillity of an analogue camera. With insightful images, van der Woude shows a woman who lives her own life without caring what others think of it. "I experienced Emmy's life as a kind of dream world, far away from reality and that is how I wanted to portray it", said the photographer.

EMMY'S WORLD is not a photo reportage, but the result of an unusual collaboration between artists: the photographer Hanne, the painter Emmy and the graphic artist Ben. A deep bond was created between the three of them that went far beyond the project. So that it was just natural that Hanne accompanied them to the south of France and documented the rural life of Ben's brother Egbert. "They were like a family for me and I often visited them without my camera and just spent valuable time with them", states van der Woude.

"**EMMY'S WORLD** addresses a number of current social themes", says **Celina Lunsford**, artistic director of the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt. "These include growing older, maintaining the zest for life and creativity in old age, independence, caring, intimate relationships and also this friendship between generations."

With 42 partly large format photographs Hanne van der Woude presents heart-warming insights into this very unique world in the exhibition at Fotografie Forum Frankfurt. In addition, several sketches, notebooks and photographs from Emmy herself, along with a portrait that Emmy painted of Hanne while she was photographing her will be shown. The heart of the exhibition consists of a video installation that was put together especially for Frankfurt. Short films will be shown on 18 monitors, each one a short excerpt from the life of the elderly couple. Hanne van der Woude connected the touching imagery with a subtle and also typical, continuous tone from Emmy's world: quiet murmuring, grumbling and shuffling.

The **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt** presents **HANNE VAN DER WOUDE. EMMY'S WORLD** from **24 September to 4 December 2016** in cooperation with the Huis Marseille, Museum for Photography, Amsterdam, and with support from the Mondriaan Fund. This exhibition represents Fotografie Forum Frankfurt's contribution to the honorary guest program, **"Flanders & the Netherlands"** of the **Frankfurt Book Fair 2016**.

EMMY'S WORLD is Hanne van der Woude's first solo exhibition in Germany. The Dutch photographer is represented by the Van der Mieden Gallery, Antwerp, (www.vandermieden.com). The photographs from can also be ordered through Fotografie Forum Frankfurt.

Publication:

The book accompanying the exhibition, **"Vivace"**, published by Fw:Books, Amsterdam, is available at Fotografie Forum Frankfurt.

Events:

"A Portrait Story". Workshop with Hanne van der Woude

Saturday/Sunday, 24 and 25 /09/2016, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (in English language, registration required).

Book Fair at FFF:

"Photography Players. International specialists featuring upcoming talents."

Thursday, 20/10/2016, 6:00 p.m.

Frits Gierstberg, curator Netherlands Fotomuseum Rotterdam, and **Tamara Berghmans**, curator FOMU, Fotomuseum Antwerpen discuss photo books and talent scouting in photography.

More information can be found at: www.fffrankfurt.org

Press photos:

Press photos can be downloaded from our website at: www.fffrankfurt.org/presse

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