



NEW RELEASE

Cleo Campert Festivalland

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In *Festivalland* Cleo Campert lets the surroundings play a major role.

Each year about 700 festivals are held in the Netherlands, it has become a music festival country. Audiences embrace partying outdoors; the nightlife has gained a well-developed daytime division.

Cleo Campert photographed the nightlife since the late eighties, in her reportage photography she has always focused on people. Now in *Festivalland* she lets the surroundings play a major role, inspired by landscape paintings from the Dutch Golden Age. Campert has captured the culture of festivals with the changing landscape as a starting point. In *Festivalland* are portraits and mainly landscapes, taken during and after the festival, all from the same position. Exploring the differences between the landscape with and without the festivals, Campert visited 20 festivals like Lowlands, Mysteryland and Pinkpop. The landscape without the festival is a Festival of the Elements with the rising and setting sun, clouds, mist and rain as its effects. Photographing the festival landscapes is a way to show the human lure of the culturally determined unity with nature.

Decades after my first festival, I walked between thousands of festivalgoers with my camera and wondered what the surroundings would look like without all the fuss, the people, and the tents. This inspiration led me to the idea of Festivalland. In 2015 and 2016, I photographed 20 festivals and went back to the same locations, which were now practically empty.

My photography has always addressed people, so of course I captured the residents of the temporary villages, but in the festival landscapes I let the environment play a major role.

These temporary, and temporarily altered, environments show the human tendency to unite with nature in specific ways. Landscapes are always changing, seasonally and over longer timelines. A landscape's colors fade in autumn; it is barren in wintertime, and blossoms in spring, to be fully grown in summer, and reaching its final bloom with the vivacious festivals that descend on it.

This is why I see the festival as a magnificent flower. The landscape without the festival is a Festival of the Elements on its own, with the upcoming sun, the mist, clouds, and rain as its effects. The visitors are two swans, gardeners, and a nudist.

– Cleo Campert

Exhibitions

PS Camera Part ONE

Museum Hilversum, Netherlands, October 2016

Festivalland at Amsterdam Dance Event

Melkweg Expo Amsterdam, Netherlands

October 20th 2016

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