

NEW RELEASE

EUSA Naomi Harris

Text by Naomi Harris, E-mail conversation between Erik Kessels and Carolina Miranda

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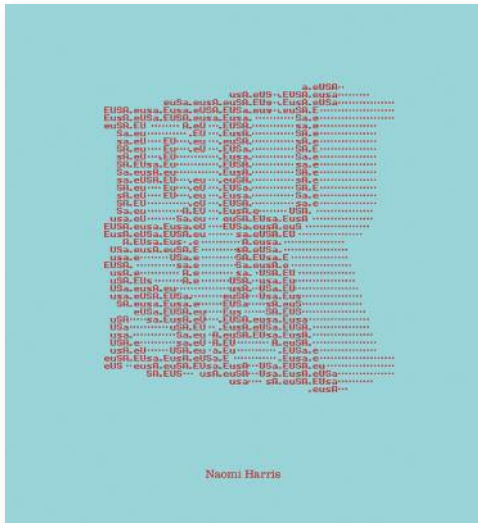
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***EUSA* is a reaction to the homogenization of European and American cultures, a sentimental and idealized depiction; an homage to a heritage that isn't ones own.**

EUSA documents American-themed places in Europe and European-themed places in America. Primarily portraiture, the photos are sentimental and idealized, a reaction to the homogenized, indistinguishable common world community, a direct result of globalization. In »Olde-World« towns in California, Wisconsin or Iowa the respective Danish, Swiss, or Dutch heritage being celebrated is ostensibly that of a significant segment of the local population and reflects a desire for authenticity. In other places the »heritage« is blatantly designed and marketed purely for its entertainment and touristic value. This is also the case with many of the Western theme-parks visited in Europe. Many of the pictures make it hard to locate when and where they were taken: are we in the US or somewhere in Europe? *EUSA* is an ambitious project that raises questions about authenticity, cultural identity, and appropriation, about the function of »other-directed« places and their enduring appeal.

Canadian **Naomi Harris** is an environmental portrait photographer who seeks out interesting cultural trends to document through her subjects. *EUSA* is her third book after *America Swings* (2008/2010), and *California Dreaming* (2007).

Theme places included in the book are:

EU
High Chaparral, Hillerstorp, Sweden; PonyparkCity, Collendoorn, The Netherlands; Gipsy Horses Ranch, Evergem, Belgium; Karl May Spiele, Bad Segeberg, Germany; El Dorado, Templin, Germany; Karl May Festival, Radebeul, Germany; Westernstadt Pullman City, Eging am See, Germany; The Last Indian Wars, Brezno,

Czech Republic; Šiklův mlýn, Šikland, Czech Republic; Western Park, Boskovice, Czech Republic; West 'n Bike, Porcieu-Ambagnieu, Rhone-Alpes, France; OK Corral, Cuges-les-Pins, France. Cowboyland, Voghera, Italy; Rock & Roll and US Car Weekend, Agárd, Hungary; Sioux City, San Agustin, Las Palmas, Spain.

USA

Little Norway Festival, Petersburg, Alaska; Maifest, Leavenworth, Washington; Wilhelm Tell Days, New Glarus, Wisconsin; Bavarian Festival, Frankenmuth, Michigan; Windmill Mobile Homes, Holland, Michigan; De Zwaan, Holland, Michigan; Tulip Festival, Orange City, Iowa; Oktoberfest, Helen, Georgia; Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas, Nevada; Wurst Fest, New Braunfels, Texas; Danish Days, Solvang, California.

From the e-mail conversation between Erik Kessels and Carolina Miranda:

On Sun, September 3, 2017 at 1:12:55 PM <erik@kessels> wrote:

Hello, Carolina.

*Of course, Europe at the moment is in a situation far from perfect. But at least European countries try to stick together to solve issues like migration, while England has decided to separate from the Union. I'm afraid that neither of us can solve all the confusion that's going on worldwide. But confusion is the basis of Naomi's *EUSA* book. The confusion she shows in her photographs is often funny, ironic and entertaining. Let's believe in the positive energy from these mixed-up identities and the reconciliation effect of them.*

Greetings

Erik

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Press images



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