

Unique photo series records changes in Marken culture

The Zuiderzee Museum in Enkhuizen presents the photographic exhibition entitled *Henk van der Leeden, Marken*. Between 1969 and 1999, photographer Van der Leeden captured the transience of traditional culture and of the inhabitants of Marken. The exhibition will be on show until 3 October 2010.

The photographer, who lives in Marken, used to go abroad regularly to carry out large photographic assignments: 'I was often away for so long that a number of neighbours died in my absence. I suddenly realized that Marken was in the process of change, that a whole generation was vanishing, especially those with authentic hairstyles and corkscrew curls. I captured them on polaroid photos. I took three, gave two of them away and kept the best one. That worked.' The pictures in the exhibition confirm this.

One of the causes of modernization is the connection with the mainland, which was realized with the construction of a dike in 1957. Large parts of the population now go to look for work and education in the bigger cities. This being the case, traditional costume has gradually fallen into disfavour among the young people. Nevertheless, the inhabitants still wear traditional dress during important happenings, such as the Queen's Birthday celebrations.

Collected work

The exhibition will be accompanied by the publication of a book of the same name, *Marken*. The 120-page collected work alternates powerful images with an outline of the history of Marken. Aart Staartjes wrote the foreword. ISBN 978-90-89101-77-8

Learning photography intuitively

Henk van der Leeden will give a workshop in the Zuiderzee Museum on the theme of holiday and hobby photography. Van der Leeden teaches students about his specific working method: making photos purely on intuition. After an introduction and guided tour, participants are given a practical assignment. For more information, please see: www.zuiderzeemuseum.nl. Those interested can enrol for the workshop via events@zuiderzeemuseum.nl

About Henk van der Leeden

From 29 April 1969 onward, photographer Henk van der Leeden (1941) lived and worked on Marken for decades. Van der Leeden is specialized in reports, portrait and travel photography in black-and-white and in colour. He has carried out various international assignments for magazines, airline companies and exhibitions. www.henkvanderleeden.com

About the Zuiderzee Museum

The Zuiderzee Museum in Enkhuizen is oriented toward art, culture and heritage around the former Zuiderzee, the present-day IJsselmeer. In 1932, the sea was closed off by the *Afsluitdijk* (barrier dam) and the IJsselmeer was formed. With its activities, approach and co-operation, the museum has achieved international allure and broad public reach.

Communities, crafts and water are the central features of the Museum, which consists of an open-air collection in the form of a museum park, and a large number of exhibition areas for the permanent collection, temporary exhibitions and studio use. www.zuiderzeemuseum.nl

Note for the editor, not for publication:

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