

Nick Helderma

Photographer.

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Nick Helderma is a young photographer to whom the term 'upcoming' does not apply. When one sees his work it's like he has always been there, with an all-seeing, non-judging eye. In 2005 Helderma, at the time a Graphic Design student, started taking pictures of Dutch bands, like Bettie Serveert and Voicst, performing in a small venue in his hometown. Soon, he followed the bands on their journey throughout Holland, and five years later he has travelled the globe with bands like Women, The Ex and Sleepy Sun, and visited independent music festivals from Poland to Mexico. His travels have resulted in intimate documentation of the musicians behind Pissed Jeans, Les Savy Fav, Bowerbirds, Health and Megafaun, to name a few.

In his work, Helderma has quickly shifted from being a distant observer to being part of the entourage. But his attention never wanes: he is the photographer, not the subject. His camera serves as a framework around reality, highlighting the extraordinary in the ordinary. His pictures exhume sincerity without the sloganesque emptiness that often comes with the term. He captures people without the guards and inhibitions they usually adorn themselves with when being photographed, giving new meaning to the term 'up close and personal'. He captures music without the music: the backstage, the tour van, the exhaustion and the dirt, and the people who immerse themselves in it. His work is documentary; Helderma avoids the glitter of the rock cliché's and prefers to focus on the beauty of the grim. His view on contemporary independent music is as exciting as it is indispensable.

Nominations.

Popview/Lex van Rossen Award 2010

Exhibitions.

2011: Genre – Incubate Festival, Tilburg, The Netherlands.

Photo show #2 / Sled Island Festival – The Gallery, Calgary AB, Canada.

Devil In The Details launch party – The Mashroom, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Pop! – With Tsjalling, Groningen, The Netherlands.

2010: Recent Work – Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

Popview 2010 – Popkomm, Berlin, Germany.

Amsterdam Recording Company, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Popview 2010 – Noorderlicht Gallery, Groningen, The Netherlands.

Popview Outdoor – City centre, Groningen, The Netherlands.

2009: These Pictures Of You – Delicatessen Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Le Guess Who? Festival – Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Subbacultcha! / This Is Work – Meneer De Wit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The Moi Non Plus Remixed – Trouw, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

2008: 10 years 3voor12 – Dutch Photo Museum, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Amsterdammer van het Jaar Event – Stadsschouwburg, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

20 Photos of Feverdream – Rotown, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

2007: De Nieuwe Anita – Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Selected clients and publications.

+1 Magazine

3voor12

Artrocker

Beep! Beep! Back up the Truck

British Journal Of Photography

Converse

Dead Oceans

Flemish Eye

Glamcult

Guide to Unique Photography (GUP)

Hometapes Records

Incubate Festival

Jagjaguwar

Nieuwe Revu

OOR

Het Parool

PS van de Week

Secret City Records

Self-Titled Magazine

STAF Magazine

Subbacultcha! Magazine

Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra

Terp Records

Vice

VPRO

XLR8R Magazine