

Marcel van Beek

Unsustainable Earth

The artist. *Marcel van Beek* is an aspiring young artist from Leipzig-Lindenau. He studied painting, graphic arts and photography at the Alanus University of Arts and Social Sciences (Alfter near Bonn) with Prof. Michael Reisch and Prof. Andreas Orosz. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with honors in 2017. Since then, he created an impressive œuvre of artworks in photography, painting and graphic arts and presented them in various exhibitions (most recently in 2023 at gallery Bilderbogen Leipzig) and art publications (including the major retrospective »Schattenlicht« [»Light of Shadow«], 2022).

The exhibition. *Marcel van Beek* approaches the subject through large-format photographic prints that zoom powerfully into various topoi of the 'unsustainability' of human existence. Especially in the enlargement of seemingly insignificant details – be it plastic sheet agriculture, climate change effects in the landscape or fossil structures – the challenge becomes tangible. The aesthetics of the compositions form frozen state manifestations that subtly reveal their dubiousness via their superficial grace.

The works of *van Beek* create deep moods and fascinating spaces for mystery and threat, but also for longing and grace. It is no coincidence that they remind us of the works of (Dark) Romanticism and Symbolism. The work »Spring« (recalling Rachel Carson's »Silent Spring« from 1962) is not coincidentally reminiscent of the equally silent compositions of *Caspar David Friedrich* or *Eugen Bracht*, which, by means of aesthetically constructed landscape compositions, tell of melancholy and decay.

Catalogue. All displayed artworks together with additional sustainability-related photographs of mine are collected in a full-colour catalogue (German/English).



Marcel van Beek
Unsustainable Earth. Fotografischer Zyklus
ISBN 978-3-00-074580-5 | 34 pp.
MarcelvanBeek Selbstverlag 2023 | 24,90 €

The artworks.



Spring. 80 x 80 cm | 2022
Photograph u/Acrylic Glass (matt)
Catalogue, p. 7

In the Field. 80 x 80 cm | 2018
Photograph u/Acrylic Glass (matt)
Catalogue, p. 17





Cloaked I. 80 x 80 cm | 2017
Photograph u/Acrylic Glass (matt)
Catalogue, p. 11

Cloaked II. 80 x 80 cm | 2013
Photograph u/Acrylic Glass (matt)
Catalogue, p. 13



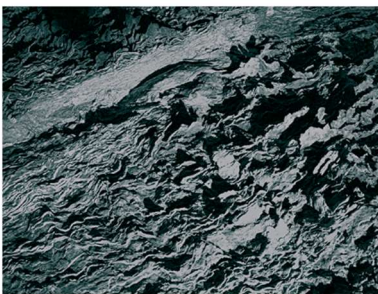
Maize Tunnel. 80 x 80 cm | 2017
Photograph u/Acrylic Glass (matt)
Catalogue, p. 15

Leakage. 60 x 95 cm | 2017
Photograph u/Acrylic Glass (matt)
Catalogue, p. 20, 21



Preterm Ending II. 60 x 60 cm | 2019
Photograph u/Acrylic Glass (matt)
Catalogue, p. 25

Loss. 80 x 111 cm | 2018
Photograph u/Acrylic Glass (matt)
Catalogue, p. 26, 27



Fossil. 80 x 105 cm | 2022
Photograph u/Acrylic Glass (matt)
Catalogue, p. 8, 9

Coal Mining. 2022
Photograph
Catalogue only, p. 31



If you are interested in one of my artworks (be it in the exhibition, be it in the catalogue) please do not hesitate to contact me.
I am looking forward to hearing from you.

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All artworks are presented in a limited edition. They are available in any size/format you like. The artworks can also be issued with a wooden floater frame (Schattenfugenrahmen).



Marcel van Beek
Schattenlicht. Werke 2012-2022
Leipzig 2022 | MarcelvanBeek Selbstverlag
200 pp. | ISBN 978-3-00-073678-0

»Van Beek presents a de luxe retrospective of his work: a large-format, magnificent volume of 200 pages on high-gloss photographic paper, a visual and tactile delight.«
Andreas Diesel, Berlin