

—THE INVISIBLES—

From the series [Bridges]

*Every 1<sup>st</sup> of the month in 2017, I have a mini-exhibition at my house. March the 1<sup>st</sup>, I am showing "The Invisibles". These are 6 worked-on-photographs (10 x 15 cm). Presented in frames (30 x 40 cm) hanging in a classic horizontal viewing style.*

Around the world, I am doing Bridge-Performances. These performances are the makings of photographs of me by tourists on bridges. In post-production, I experiment with these photographs to emphasise certain ideas. Such as the bridge as a metaphor, tourism vs. immigration, power structures, communication, authorship and personal development.

The person who takes the pictures during the Bridge-Performance is at that moment in control. The way s/he takes the picture, from which angle, the timing and such is out of my control. I, the artist can more or less control the framing, because I choose where to stand when I ask the 'photographer' or 'person of interest' to take a picture of me, I can control what I am wearing and more or less how I look. This cooperation with the 'photographer' is a key element. The temporary 'photographer', becomes co-author and participant. And has, therefore, a crucial role, since, without this action or play, the work could not exist.

The interaction makes the 'photographer', part of the artwork. Yet these co-authors remain anonymous. They are behind the camera. They are invisible, yet they are immensely important since they are the participants, co-authors and only real witnesses of the Bridge-Performances. When I think of this presence vs. absence I also think of integration vs. assimilation. And also the evidence of the tourist-artist as producer vs. the passerby as the co-author, participant, and viewer.

Bridges are often overlooked because they seem so obvious in our landscape. So are the tourists taking pictures in our (urban) landscapes, we see them, but we don't really see them. In "The Invisibles" you still don't see them. Yet they are made very visible. And have become an artificial element in the typical looking holiday snapshot. So who is this person standing next to me? Is it my travel companion, a fellow tourist, is it the child of the person who made the photo, or is it a representation of the person who made the photograph but who is not visible. Or is it not even a real person?

I have printed the photographs as you might do when you would print out a hard copy of your holiday photographs at your local drugstore. So they look like typical and more or less boring holiday photographs. The 6 photographs have not been altered with the exception of the diverse added colours blobs to point out something important by making the invisible visible by actually making it invisible.

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