

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

SEAN CHARLTON WHITE

Sean Charlton White (1997) is a Swiss-British freelance photographer, graphic designer and artist. Born in Switzerland, he is currently based in The Hague (NL) where he graduated from the photography department of the Royal Academy of Art The Hague (KABK) after completing a foundation year at ECAL. Besides his own practices, he works for The Wire magazine as a photo editor and designer, while also making books with Ben Weaver for Here Press and various other publishers.

Does the stock market make sense? NFTs? What about that white line in the train station platform - do we really need to know not to get too close? #mindthegap - Why are the Dutch so attracted to flatness yet all come to the Alps for their vacations? I am a curious person with many interests, and my work reflects this diversity as I take inspiration from my surroundings. My artistic practice questions the increasingly absurd world we have built for ourselves and where we are heading with it by bringing new perspectives and raise awareness about the issues of our current system and the inequalities it perpetuates towards people and nature. I do this by making photographic projects that reflect on society's relationship to its environment and the absurdities that transpire. The work that results navigates a fine line between documentary and satire, mixing documentary imagery with staged and manipulated pictures and documents that aim to challenge the audience views while also pushing it to question its relationship to images and media. My goal through this is to tackle complicated issues and give the viewer a point of entry to reflect and engage with the complexities of our surroundings through the use of humour. I am particularly interested in exploring the construct of reality, the intersection of truth and fiction, and the role that images play in shaping our understanding of the world and our interactions with it. My design practice comes from my passion for exploring the use of images in the book form and from an urge I feel to collaborate with others in this. I do this by making books with my own work but also and mostly through close collaborations with other artists, finding ways together to translate their projects and ideas into the book form while learning from each other.

WEBSITES

personal website

www.seancw.ch

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/sean.cw

www.linkedin.com/in/seancw

MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

Touchy Collective

EDUCATION

2019 - Photography Bachelor Den Haag,
2023 Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende
Kunsten diploma

2018 - Photography Bachelor - first year ESA Ie75
2019

2017 - Foundation year in visual communication
2018 and photography École Cantonale d'Art de
Lausanne (CH) diploma

EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 SO'24 Expo Capital C Amsterdam, Netherlands The SO'24 Award organised by DuPho the Dutch professional photography association aims to highlight some of the best photography from the previous year by Dutch based photographers. www.dupho.nl/so-award
Group
- 2024 Swiss Design Awards Halle 1.1 Basel, Switzerland Switzerland's leading national design competition. Each year around 50 finalists from different fields are selected to show their work during Art Basel where the main awards are given out. swissdesignawards.ch/en
Group
- 2023 Chapter six : General Morphology of Urbanism The Balcony The Hague, Netherlands The sixth chapter of The Promise of Ruin(s) turns to the conceptual remnants of the Nature/Culture dichotomy, which became, since the Enlightenment, the dominant paradigm for understanding our relationship with the environment, justifying its commodification, and championing a historicity focused on the development of human civilization and its hub: the city. The exhibition's title is a play on the 19th-century book 'Generelle Morphologie der Organismen' ('General Morphology of Organisms') by German zoologist Ernst Haeckel. Known as a speculator among his peers, he often ventured to use the same physical laws to explain both the organic and the inorganic. Echoing his aim to account for interrelation, the artists in this chapter highlight the obsolete character of positioning nature as an autonomous entity in human development, while articulating how clinging to this binary distinction generates a feeling of absurdity in light of the proliferation of artificial

PROJECTS

- 2023 Welkom in Nederland: A Visual Study of Western Society Through The Dutch Neoliberal Utopia Netherlands seancw.ch/wlkm I left my beloved Swiss hills and mountains nearly 4 years ago, to come live in the flat country that is the Netherlands. After having roamed the country at lengths hoping to better understand this place and looking for belonging, I find myself split between wonder, amusement, and disbelief, more confused than ever, not knowing what is constructed, natural, real or simulated. Welkom in Nederland is a semi-fictional satirical documentary about the Dutch neoliberal utopia that can, more generally, be extended to the West. The project reveals and questions the absurdities of Dutch society through its relationship to its environment while reflecting on my position within this place through self-portraits. In my search for understanding, as I focus on the mundane absurdities I have come across, I underline how constructed nature and mass media entangle with each other to create what we call reality. The use of documentary photography visual codes mixing facts and fiction produce images where the lines between facts and fiction are blurred, creating a satire that challenges traditional forms of documentary by exploring how the Dutch have re-shaped their reality through a highly constructed landscape as they turned their land into a product of the Anthropocene. The resulting images carefully reference the country's cultural heritage and (Dutch) photography history while also twisting them to add new meanings . These photographs, objects and archives create an alternate record of The Netherlands, closer to my subjective perception of it, pushing the viewer to question and challenge not only the value of images as document and how one can be easily manipulated but also his own view of what normalcy should and could be.

landscapes and ultra-controlled natural cycles. How to entertain the illusion of 'virgin nature' after capital's unstoppable expansion into what was once out of its reach? Through works that challenge the conventions of genres typically associated with faithful representations of reality, these artists transform urban areas organised by neoliberal structures—where such dissonances manifest most intensely—into sites of inquiry. Supported by Mondriaan and Stroom.

thebalconythehague.com/The-Promise-of-Ruin-s-Chapter-6

Duo

- 2023 Steenbergen Stipendium 2023
Nederlands Fotomuseum Rotterdam, Netherlands From October 12 to December 1, the Nederlands Fotomuseum, in collaboration with the Steenbergen Foundation, will present the twenty-sixth edition of the Steenbergen Stipendium. The Steenbergen Stipend is the prize for the best photographic graduation work made by a student at one of the Dutch art academies. For this edition of the Steenbergen Stipendium, five nominees have been selected by a three-member jury.
www.nederlandsfotomuseum.nl/tentoonstelling/steenbergen-stipendium-2023/
Group

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

- 2019 Locarno Film Festival Losone, Switzerland Invitation to the launch of the basecamp residency among 15 other young artists to produce work at the basecamp festival initiative that brings together 200 young creatives during the Locarno film festival
festivalbasecamp.ch/

REVIEWS

- 2023 Misschien zijn deze objecten gewoon onderdeel geworden van de natuur'- met Benjamin Earl naar General Morphology of Urbanism bij The Balcony Website Marijn Brill Den Haag, Netherlands
www.mistermotley.nl/met-benjamin-earl-naar-general-morphology-of-urbanism-bij-the-balcony/ Review of show at Balcony through a talk with artist Benjamin Earl.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2023 Audience Prize winner steenbergen stipendium Rotterdam, Netherlands
The Steenbergen Stipend is the prize for the best photographic graduation work made by a student at one of the Dutch art academies. For this edition of the Steenbergen Stipendium, five nominees have been selected by a three-member jury.

2023 - Photography documentation for Rewire
2023 Festival

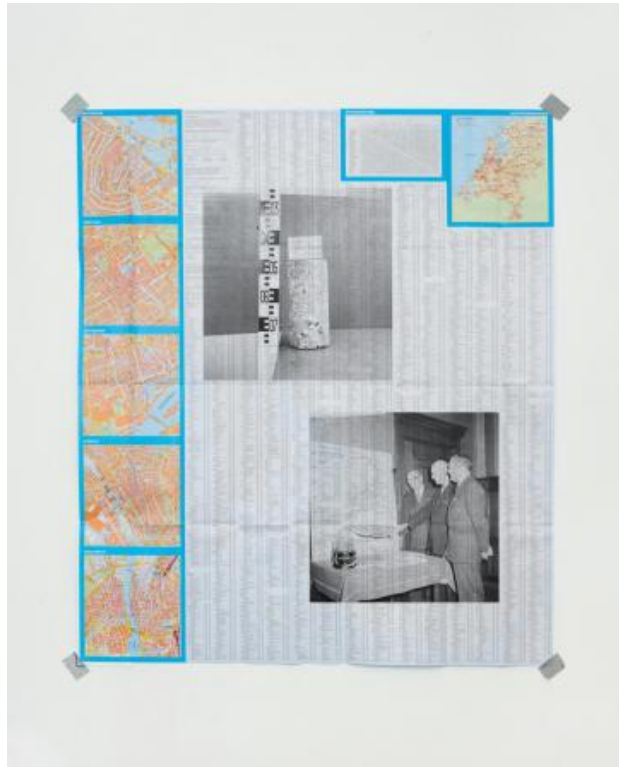
2023 - -- Photo editor for The Wire magazine On-going

2022 - -- Editorial design for The Wire magazine On-going

2022 - -- Book design and production for Ben Weaver Studio and Here Press On-going



, 2024



untitled, 2023
Photography and digital collage



untitled, 2023
mixed media



untitled, 2023



untitled, 2023
Photography



untitled, 2023



untitled, 2023
Photography



untitled, 2023
mixed media, aprox 150x130x210cm



