

Knack, 02 02 2011, Jan Braet

Art

Chronicle

Light and darkness

Nightly appearances in the Leuven M Museum.

(...) Others do not drown in the night, but seek miracles there. Katrien Vermeire (31) travels to the Smoky Mountains in America and photographs fireflies making their appearance in June. The luminous swarms among the trees make us all believe we ended up in a fairy tale. The photographs in the *Godspeed* series perfectly communicate this feeling, but they do not represent reality: the fragile body of a firefly eludes capturing. With digital cameras, with exposure times up to 45 minutes, Katrien Vermeire succeeds in showing a whole bunch of lighting, dancing yellow stripes underneath the trees. An abstraction, which compresses the sensation and creates the illusion that one can hold onto the miracle. No lucky shot. M Museum shows some of Vermeire's very pure portraits and photographs of light, sky and waves of the sea: *Vibrations*, vibrations which are different depending on whether they are being witnessed in the North Sea, on the Chicago shores or near Shiretoko.