

The young artist Katrien Vermeire (1979, Ostend) is one of the most promising Belgian photographers of the moment. Museum M presents her first Belgian solo exhibition at the right time.

Isabelle De BAETS

Over the past ten years Katrien Vermeire built up a strong photographic oeuvre in relative silence. A couple of times her work came into the picture during group exhibitions such as 'Blend' (2002) in the Caermersklooster in Ghent, 'Contour' (2003) in Mechelen and 'Freestate' in Ostend. She harvested success with incisive portraits of girls that also flourished as poster images.

Apart from portraits of youngsters Katrien Vermeire also makes photos of pristine natural landscapes and natural phenomena. Both types of images originate organically next to and through each other. Usually she also displays the different types of images next to each other. This is also the case in Museum M. You can currently view a mix of new and existing work there. It offers the opportunity to get acquainted with the layeredness and diversity of her work. (...)

The magical character of her images is also evident in the large central exhibition space where we find the recent series 'Godspeed', which she made especially for this exhibition. Katrien Vermeire travelled to the United States in the spring of 2010 to capture an extraordinary natural phenomenon. She looked for a place where fireflies emerge in overwhelming numbers. Like a scientist she hid herself in such a magical place in order to see and capture this phenomenon. This results in a series of beautiful images. Tom Janssens writes in the accompanying essay 'The dancing present' about the elusiveness of the emerging fireflies and the impossibility to portray this phenomenon. "The fireflies move at a speed which has withdrawn itself from all human measurement ... the speed of God." Katrien Vermeire approaches her subject with naive wonder and depicts pure magic.

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