

**Bieke Depoorter**  
2015 – 2018

Bieke Depoorter (BE, °1986) began her photography studies in 2004. Fourteen years later, she is more aware than ever of the limitations of her chosen medium. Depoorter has reached a turning point. Aesthetic, substantive, ethical and social considerations are now at the forefront of her work, and her search for answers lies at its heart. This insight, and all the accompanying doubts, forms the common thread that runs through this exhibition.

In five recent projects – some ongoing – Depoorter searches for the essence of her work, for her position as a photographer and for the potential role of her subjects. She is not an outsider but instead an artist seeking ways to close the gap between herself and the people she photographs.

The present exhibition takes 2015 as its starting point. Depoorter had already published two monographs, *Ou Menya* and *I Am About to Call It a Day*. She was on the point of becoming a full member of the renowned photography agency Magnum Photos. The media labelled her, ad nauseam, “a naïve girl who travels the world taking photographs of ordinary people in the intimacy of their bedrooms”. But in actual fact, her photographic practice was on shaky ground in that period.

But now it is 2018, and her world and photographs have changed dramatically. A multi-year project in Egypt, *As it May Be*, is taking a surprising turn. In the southern French village of Sète, she projects her own narrative onto someone else’s reality, an approach that she further refines in her first short film, *Dvalemodus*. She is caught up in a complex relationship with one of her protagonists, Agata, and plays detective in her search for Michael, a man she met in Portland, Oregon. A whirlwind of ideas and possibilities has opened up and the end is not yet in sight. The exhibition is an attempt to capture this special moment.

*Curator: Joachim Naudts*