

Press release

Museum Folkwang

Les Cracks & Vincen Beeckman: Museum Folkwang presents photographs of and with homeless people as part of the 6 ½ Weeks series

Essen, 11.02.2022 – With the show *Les Cracks & Vincen Beeckman*, Museum Folkwang presents a photography project by Belgian photographer and art mediator Vincen Beeckman in close collaboration with homeless people in Brussels (17 February – 6 April, 2022) in the series *6 ½ Weeks*. It is the first institutional exhibition of photographs by René, Frank, Jackie, Patti and other homeless people who used disposable cameras to document their everyday lives, their relationships, encounters, parties and friendships over several years. The exhibition is curated in close collaboration with Vincen Beeckman and four of the protagonists. The opening will take place on February 18 at 6:30 pm in their presence.

Between 2015 and 2020, Belgian photographer and art mediator Vincen Beeckman gave disposable cameras to a group of homeless people who live in and around Brussel's main railway station. The approximately 750 resulting photographs are formally characterized by flash, drastic close-ups, unusual cropping, and show spontaneous scenes, selfies, moments of intoxication and immediate emotion. They are shots of moments "among themselves" and the roles of photographing and posing are taken without hierarchy and in interplay. The exhibition conveys a different, unbiased view of life under precarious living. The title *Les Cracks*, coined by Beeckman, refers to the colloquial expression "crack", which means "champion".

Together with René, Franck, Jackie, Patti and Vincen, the team of the Museum Folkwang's Photographic Collection has selected around 30 photographs and staged them in the exhibition space. A four-page article documenting and reflecting on this process will be published in the art and homeless people's newspaper *Arts of the Working Class* at the end of February to accompany the show. Framing the exhibition conception and production as a collective, multi-voiced act requires the search for and negotiation of possibilities of collaboration between the individual, the group, the institution and the public. The project was first published as a photo book in 2020 by Void Verlag.

The *6 ½ Weeks* exhibition format is based on short-term planning and offers young creatives an opportunity to present their work at Museum Folkwang. The format offers scope for artistic and curatorial experiments and enables visitors to discover as yet unknown artists from different countries. *6 ½ Weeks* is supported by Stiftung Kunst, Kultur und Soziales of Sparda-Bank West.

Museum Folkwang

Information

6 1/2 WEEKS

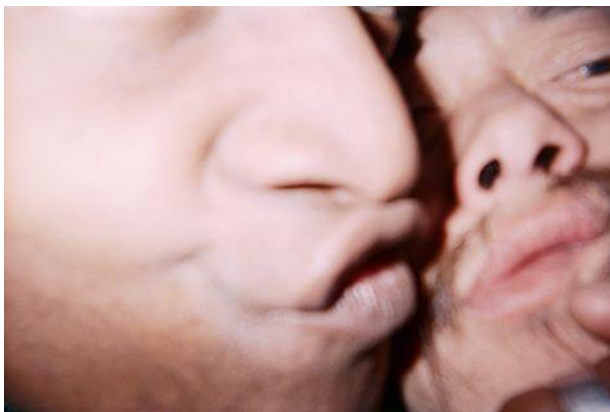
LES CRACKS & VINCEN BEECKMAN

17 February – 3 April, 2022

Free admission.

Opening: 18 February 2022, 6:30 pm

In the presence of Vincen Beeckman, René, Franck, Jackie and Patti



Les Cracks & Vincen Beeckman

o.T. (Cracks), 2015–2020

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