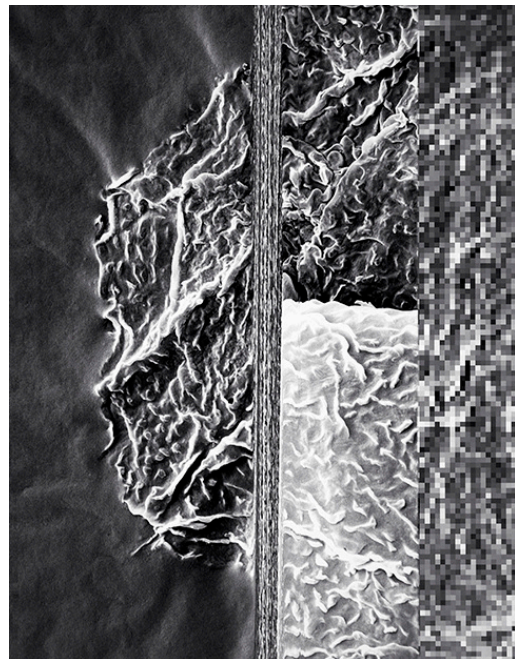


## Digital craft.

My craft is (digital/analog) photography. I work a lot in photoshop with photos that I find or with photos that are from my youth or my family's. Creating photos where you can lose yourself, because this world is neither yours or mine. It is a world that you see what you see or don't see what you see. I think that is the power of my photography, people who see it can relate to it or not. And I like the fact that people say that they can relate to it even the photos aren't personal to them.

The tools that I use are my laptop and photos I found in my parents' house or photos that I found on my laptop that I made a couple of years ago. Also, photos on the internet, mostly from news channels, something that catches my eye and I think that I can manipulate. I want to take it further than only 2D, but that is a work in progress. My first thoughts about that are that I really want something to become something that you can almost feel. That you think you already seen something like that but that is not possible. And to make that possible I really want to discover VR (virtual reality), because I have the feeling that VR is something that is still in developing- and it is really far- but I think that it will be something big in a few years. It will be something that my work will benefits from, easier to understand, because you put on VR glasses and therefore go into a different reality, my reality.

Borderless, I think that is the correct word for this practice. People are making works that are so divergent. So, I think that there are no borders when it becomes to this practice, only the borders that you make yourself -and of course- the teachers/school with the deadline when it needs to be finished. And when you are looking broader you see that this field that we are practicing is so wide and still in developing that there is no end to it. I thought I knew a lot about new technologies, but what I have learned is that is not true. Everyday there are new things to discover. A month ago, I went to an exhibition in Stedelijk Museum Breda, it is about artificial impressions, what the future is of photography and the how we can manipulate it. One of the exhibitors was Sara Naim, her project was about how your body reacts when you have certain emotions. What she did was placing dead skin cells, hairs, nails, etc. under a microscope and run it through photoshop, but the images were getting errors. And those errors are alienating abstractions. This alienating abstraction is what I am trying to use in my own work. It is fascinating that you see a part of the human body -that you think you know very well - but it surprises you still and you are getting very weird out of this world photos. That is also a virtual reality, I think.



To go further on the subject of another reality. There was an exhibition in the Design museum Gent about artificial intelligent, named 'Hello, Robot'. This exhibition was in the beginning of this year, and it was telling about how AI was introduced in to our lives. You had different rooms telling about how this happened. The first room was about when it was introduced. You had the films like the matrix, I robot and Star Wars (R2-D2), but also games. Then the room who were next in line, shown how robots have a special kind of place in our society and that these robots are gaining 'trust'. This exhibition showed me that, we as humans, can make something that is connected to another reality in our reality. That there is

already a long history of new technologies, and I was sort of shocked about that. And we are only going to develop that further. you could already see this in the last room, where the boundaries between people and robots become blurry. We actually become one.

Connected to the 'Hello, Robot', there was a light installation, named 'Level'. It was about a utopia - a 'perfect' balance - in society, and how these systems are sensitive for external and internal influences. When you - as the influencer - walked around in this system, touched or blew at the lamps then the whole system would be out of balance. Like our society can be out of balance when there is something that is not working.



How do I define my position? I think that is a hard one, because it is so wide, what you read above is also things that I am interested in - it is not only for this essay- it is also the direction that I want to go in. It appeals to me, that you can make an alternative reality, while you are sitting at a laptop. You can change people mind how they look at things. And you can say it is true, but maybe it is just a made-up story. There are endless ways to manipulate people. Not only with images, but also with their feeling and emotions.

You can tell them the truth - your truth- or you can mess with their minds.