

Inner Self

text: Anne-Françoise Lesuisse, 2016.

translated by: Alexander Strecker, 2016.

In the image of the personalities they are trying to represent, in the image of the indecision and trouble which emanates from them, the portraits of Anne-Sophie Guillet try to achieve—with the greatest possible fidelity—the undefinable which lives within each subject. Subjects who, with all of the intermediary space-time between themselves and the photographer, agreed to pose.

Maybe photography is a particularly appropriate medium to dig into the enigma presented by identity; one which the camera strikes, but with its own genre of indecision. Indeed, a still picture, such as the kind that Guillet produces, combines generous confidence with a mysterious dignity, and thus speaks better to the movement and force that lie at the center of the undecidable.

Perhaps a fixed image allows us to reach more deeply, with a singular loyalty, to what is not similar to the known or already determined. The picture does not refer to anything other than a single feature—common across all images; a characteristic which shares three simple letters: “Who?”

The series, “Inner Self,” continues thanks to the unexpected encounters (necessarily quite rare) that suddenly burst into being from the strict duality that governs most of our relations. In the end, after the moment of shock, what remains is an exchange of frontal glances, from eye to eye, between the spectator and the person in the image.

What then materializes, beyond the strange silence contained in these photos, is a mute dialogue, dense for he who would take the time to face the other. A space filled with the ricochet of unfulfilled expectations and the crumbling of our certitudes. A time that leaves us alone with all but those three letters who resemble ourselves, who—whether we like or not; accept it or not—“Who?”