

# VINCEN BEECKMAN

## *LA DEVINIÈRE*

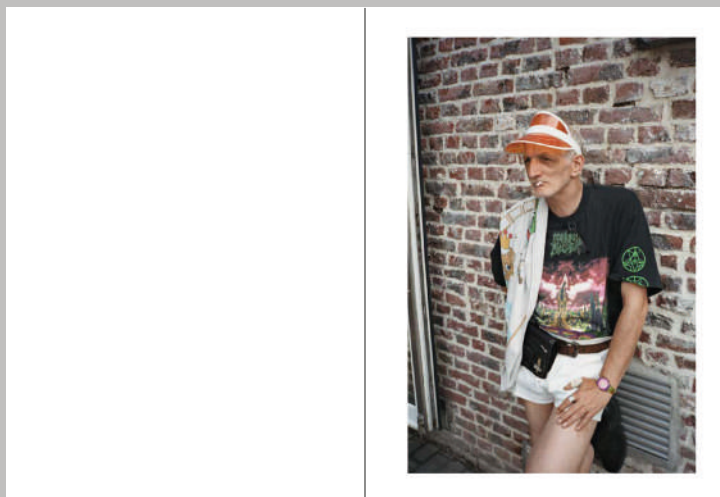
AVAILABLE FROM NOVEMBER 3, 2022



EXHIBITION  
PHOTO I BRUT BXL /  
ART ET MARGES  
24/11 > 15/01

Through his collaborative practice of photography, Vincen Beeckman succeeds in abolishing the distance from his subjects and invites us to meet the residents of La Devinière.

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“Without imposing himself, Vincen Beeckman creates a photographic routine and keeps a diary which attests to the bond he forms with the residents.”

Extract from the presentation text

## LA DEVINIÈRE IF YOU DON'T COME I WILL SCALP YOU

“This little universe greets you or ignores you. You smile. You talk, you play chess. You are cold for him, you suffer with her, you tremble with him. Everything is amazing and everything is natural.”, writes Vincen Beeckman about the project “La Devinière”, started more than eight years ago.

This institutional psychotherapy center, founded in 1976 by Michel Hock as an alternative to the psychiatric hospital, was created to accommodate around twenty children suffering from mental disorders and deemed incurable. They still reside there today. Free to move around, the residents organize their days according to their needs with the supervision of an attentive therapeutic team.

La Devinière delivers an intimate and powerful account of life and the different states of mind of this group who have lived together for many years in this place designed for them. Faithful to his committed practice of photography, Vincen Beeckman takes the time to build sincere and solid relationships. Every week or so, he goes to the center to meet the “kids” as they are familiarly called by the therapeutic team who have been following them since their youngest age. He plays chess or Uno with them, participates in parties and birthdays, shares the dramas and anxieties, brings gifts and receives some. He shows his photographs and keeps a diary that he often writes in their presence.

Launch of the book  
at the delpire & co  
bookstore on  
November 10, 2022

Paris Photo:  
meeting  
“The Eyes Talk”  
on November 12,  
2022

Launch of the book  
at the Peinture  
Fraîche bookstore  
on November 17,  
2022

There he meets "Jean-Claude, "the strongest man in the world", who trains to lift loads that he manufactures with everything he finds; Éric, a construction genius, who designs, plans and builds cabins; Laetitia, AC/DC fan, who always has a new lover; or even Vincent who tears up the photos and gives them to Jean-Luc, a puzzle enthusiast, who glues them back together..."

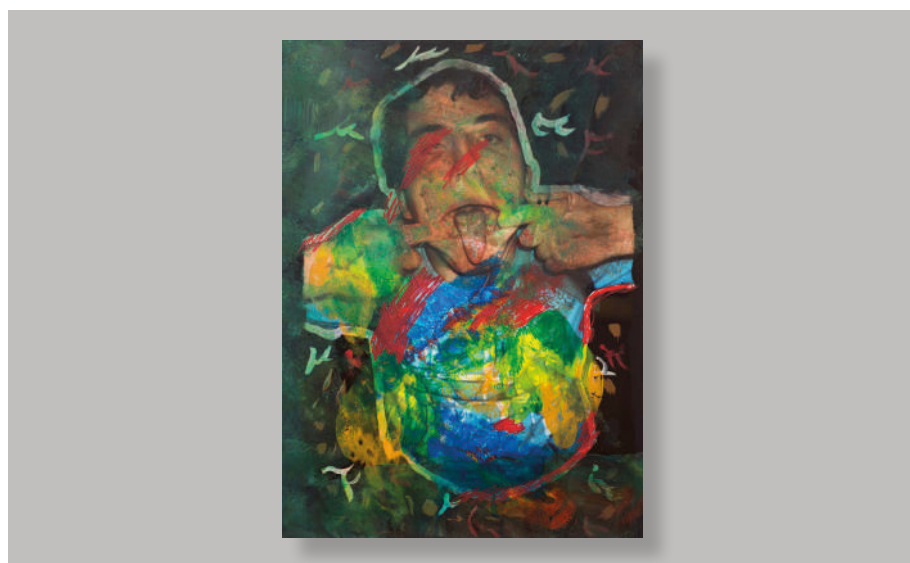
The work alternates photographic sequences and excerpts from Vincen Beeckman's diary, reproduced in facsimile. The texts respond to the photos in a lively and direct style, almost telegraphic, telling the instantaneous, the absurd, the joys, the appeasements, the cries, the tensions, creations, games and loves. Their lives appear throughout the pages with increasing clarity. Brutish, sometimes brutal. But subtly they meet that of ordinary mortals: we talk about hairstyles, shoes, confinement, parties and vaccines.

Vincen Beeckman built this story with them. Jean-Luc, Philippe, Éric created the image for the cover as well as the scenography of the exhibition that will be presented at the Musée Arts et Marges in Brussels. For the photographer, the important moment will be when everyone will discover the work and the exhibition.

**Exhibition at the  
Musée Arts et  
marges in Brussels,  
from November 23,  
2022 to January 15,  
2023**

**Vincen Beeckman  
retrospective at  
FOMU in Antwerp  
in June 2023**

**Nominated for the  
Elysée Photo Prize  
2022**



*La Devinière*  
Vincen Beeckman  
Publication: 03/11/2022  
Price: 42 €  
20 x 24,8 cm  
Pages: 192  
103 photographs in colour  
EAN: 9791095821557

Work made with support from  
the "A Future for Culture"  
program of the Wallonia-  
Brussels Federation  
(direction of culture, visual  
arts) and support from  
La "S" Grand Atelier, Center  
d'Art Brut & Contemporain,  
Vielsalm





Greg has new balls. He has 9 in his collection now.  
There's a new ping-pong table in the farm courtyard. It's concrete.  
Unbreakable. It weighs 2 tonnes 900 kg. It's windy. Jean-Luc and Guillaume are playing.  
JC tried to lift it but didn't succeed. Yannick tried to shove it with his hip like he does with the pool table. He looked surprised that nothing moved.  
Valentin, the new guy is here.  
Philippe has a new, super stylish cowboy hat. He's all handsome. Very dignified.  
Always with his hoop.  
Tommy pees on Eric's cabin.  
Valentin and JC are after each other, tickling each other, weighing each other up...  
laughing really loudly. They have strength contests. JC wins, of course. They are smelling each other.  
Getting to know each other.  
The beer bottle is on the table next to the game but no saucisson.  
Papy has taken his speaker and is going to put on Gille de Binoche music in the dining room even if there's no party.  
JC's not doing well. He's going nuts. He's cutting pine trees. He wants me to find him a job outside the Devinière.  
JC has seen a dead body before. Roberto, in his bed, he didn't wake up. And bang.  
He liked circling the tree for hours, going completely crazy.

GREG A DE NOUVELES BALLEES, IL EN A 9 DANS SA COLLECTION MAINTENANT.  
IL Y A UNE NOUVELLE TABLE DE PING-PONG DANS LA COUR DE LA FERME. EN BÉTON.  
INCLASSABLE. ELLE PÈSE 2 TONNES 900. IL Y A DU VENT. JEAN-LUC ET GUILLAUME  
S'EXERCEMENT.  
JC A ESSAYÉ DE LA SOULEVER MAIS N'A PAS RÉUSSI. YANNICK A ESSAYÉ DE LA BOULGNER  
D'UN COUP DE HANCHER COMME IL FAIT D'HABITUDE AVEC LE BILLARD. IL A EU L'AIR  
SURPRISE QUE RIEN NE BOUGE.  
VALENTIN LE NOUVEAU EST LÀ.  
PHILIPPE A UN NOUVEAU CHAPEAU DE COWBOY HYPER CHIC. IL EST TOUT BEAU. TRÈS  
DIGNÉ. TOUJOURS AVEC SON CERCLEAU.  
TOMMY FAIT PII SUR LA CABANE D'ÉRIC.  
VALENTIN ET JC SE CHERCHENT, SE CAHOUCHEMENT... RIENT TRÈS FORT.  
FONT DES CONTOURS DE PERLE. JC GAGNE BIEN ENTENDU. US SE SENTENT. S'APPRIVOISENT.  
LA BOUTEILLE DE BIÈRE EST SUR LA TABLE À CÔTÉ DU JEU MAIS PAS DE SAUCISSON.  
PAPY A PRIS SON BAFLE ET VA MÊTRE DE LA MUSIQUE DE GILLE DE BINOCHE DANS LA SALLE  
À MANGER MÊME S'IL Y A PAS DE FÊTE.  
JC NE VA PAS BIEN. IL TOURNÉ EN BOURRIQUE. IL VOUDRAIT QUE JE LUI  
TROUVE UN TRAUMA EN DEHORS DE LA DEVINIÈRE.  
JC A DÉJÀ VU UN TURT. ROBERTO. DANS SON LIT IL S'EST PAS RÉVEILLÉ. ET BOUM.  
IL A HAIT BIEN TOURNER AUTOUR DE L'ARBRE PENDANT DES HEURES À DEVENIR  
COMPLÈTEMENT HAREAU.

## THE AUTHOR

For Vincen Beeckman (born in 1973), collaboration is essential. He mainly works with marginalized and vulnerable people, giving visibility to under-recognized communities. For example, during the long-term project "Cracks", he used disposable cameras to establish a link with the homeless people of Brussels Central Station. Vincen Beeckman invited them to photograph themselves, resulting in candid images that testify to the exchanges between the photographer and the community. The work of the photographer is not easily confined to a single photographic genre but unfolds in a large constellation – perhaps it is because Vincen Beeckman is a multi-faceted creator: artist, curator and educator. His work has been exhibited many times: Folkwang Museum, Essen; BPS22, Charleroi; Le Vector, Charleroi among others, and have been selected for the Grand Prix Images Vevey, Photobook of the Month (Photo London), Foto Wien Photobook Award, BUP Book Award, or more recently Prix Photo Elysée 2022.



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## RENDEZ-VOUS

### Launch of the book at the delpire & co bookstore

November 10, 2022 – 18h

delpire & co, 13 rue de l'Abbaye, Paris 6<sup>e</sup>

### Paris Photo — Meeting « The Eyes Talk »

November 12, 2022 – 15h et 17h

Paris Photo, Grand Palais Éphémère, Champs de Mars, Paris 7<sup>e</sup>

### Launch of the book at the Peinture Fraîche bookstore

November 17, 2022

Rue Lesbroussart 9, 1050 Ixelles, Belgique

### Exhibition « Si tu ne viens pas je te scalpe »

— Festival PHOTO I BRUT XL

November 23, 2022 – 15 janvier 2023

Art et Marges Musée, 314 Rue Haute, Bruxelles

### Retrospective Vincen Beeckman

June 2023

FotoMuseum Anvers, Waalsekaai 47, Anvers

### Nominated at Prix Photo Elysée 2022

Photo Elysée

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

*Birds of a Feather*,  
APE, 2022

*Les Éternels*,  
Ciao Press, 2021

*Le Petit Rempart*,  
Macaronibook, 2020

*Cracks*,  
Void Publishing, 2020

*Claude et Lily*,  
Ape Art Paper, 2019

## PRESS IMAGES

Conditions for use of the visuals:

Only three of these photographs (excluding the cover of the book) can be published at the same time by the same medium in the same issue.



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Located at 13, rue de l'Abbaye in Saint-Germain-des-Prés, it is at once a publishing house, bookstore, gallery, and a lively place for encounters and events, delpire & co wishes to initiate demanding photographic projects, singular photographic writings, encounters of text and image, curatorial research, the discovery of new talents as well as forgotten works, political points of view and sensitive expressions.

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