

European Fields

The Landscape of Lower League Football





In September 1995 Hans van der Meer (b. 1955) started taking photographs of lower division amateur football games in The Netherlands. He went out looking for football in its original form, as it had started more than hundred years ago: a plot of ground, 22 players, hardly any spectators around the pitch, just a horse in the next meadow. His results were published in *Hollandse Velden* (Dutch Fields), for which former Dutch soccer international Jan Mulder wrote the accompanying texts.

The work is as much about landscape as it is about culture at large. Amateur football turns out to be the perfect metaphor for life in general. With a mild irony, Van der Meer shows us the mismatch between human ambition and the effective result, between an individual's 'inside' perception and a more objective, distanced view of our behaviour. Partly acting on commissions by parties such as Rencontres d'Arles, the National Museum for Photography, Film and

Television in the UK and the Dutch football magazine JOHAN, and for the rest self-assigned, Hans van der Meer has been covering most of Europe between 1999 and 2005. The dry, almost conceptual photographs will be combined with his more narrative video works in an exhibition that Paradox will start touring as of April 2006. Around the same time SteidIMACK will publish a carefully designed, large format book containing some 80 of his subtle pictures.

Hans van der Meer - European Fields - The Landscape of Lower League Football PUBLICATION: SteidIMACK / De Verbeelding, 36 x 24 cm, 176 pages, clothbound hardback with dust jacket, ISBN 3-86521-191-7, € 45 (subject to change) / EXHIBITION: ca. 100 photographs, sizes varying from 35 x 50 cm - 95 x 140 cm, 4 videos (ca. 30 mins. each) on DVD | Exhibition fee: € 8.250 (provisionally, not including equipment)



PARADOX creates projects in photography, video and media related arts. The interaction between social, economic and technological change is central to most thematic and monographic projects developed. PARADOX' activities include travelling exhibitions, film production, book and electronic publishing and organising workshops and symposiums. For further info: www.paradox.nl

PO Box 113 - 1135 ZK Edam - The Netherlands - T +31(0)299 315083 - F +31(0)299 315082 - E server@paradox.nl - www.paradox.nl



PHOTOGRAPHY / VIDEO / NEW MEDIA