



**Me We**  
**The Circle of Life**  
**Koos Breukel**

Exhibition, Book





# Me We

## The Circle of Life

'Me, We' was the full text of the improvised poem Muhammad Ali delivered to a crowd of Harvard students in 1975. It was a tribute to life, expressing 'how great it is to be as great as I am'. Koos Breukel chose it as the title for a production bringing together pictures from the first 30 years of his career, focusing on the circle of life. However dark his portraits may feel - Breukel is always looking for signs of trauma in faces - he is as passionate about life as Ed van der Elsken (1925-1990) was. Be born, grow up, develop and express oneself, love, suffer and die. It was the major theme for Van der Elsken, it is a major drive for Breukel as this exhibition and book make clear.

*Me We* brings together portraits of unknown people as well as celebrities. The strong formal approach that characterizes Breukel's portraits plays a secondary role in this surprising insight into his personal agenda and artistic development.

*Me We* is a statement about life as well as a mid career retrospective (in disguise) of one of the greatest portrait photographers of our time.

### Koos Breukel (1962)

is the 'other' Dutch portrait photographer. Just like his colleague and friend Rineke Dijkstra, his portraits are never superficial images glorifying the public persona.

Breukel has had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art (Pori, Finland) and at the Musée Européenne de la Photographie (Paris).

His work can be found in the collections of the San Francisco MoMA, the Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam) and others.

**Publication** Erwin Mortier (text), Sabine Verschuieren (design), Hannibal Publishers\_YdocPublishing, 496 pages (fc & duotone), € 55. Pre-orders: [YdocStore.org](http://YdocStore.org)

**Exhibition** Ca. 120 framed photographic prints (colour, b&w, 30x40-100x120 cm).

**Launch** The Hague Museum of Photography, September 7, 2013.

**Info** [www.paradox.nl/mewe](http://www.paradox.nl/mewe)



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