Poppy

Trails of Afghan Heroin

Robert Knoth and Antoinette de Jong

Exhibition, Book, YdocBookApp
Robert Knoth (1963) is an internationally renowned documentary photographer. His work has been published in newspapers and magazines worldwide. His clients include The Guardian, NRC Handelsblad, New York Times and Greenpeace.

Antoinette de Jong (1964) is a writer and broadcaster. Her work includes in depth reporting for the VPRO, BBC World Service and others. She has worked in conflict areas and covered developments in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Exhibition
Audio visual installation on four screens with soundscape, ca. 2.5x12 metres. Printed world map and timeline, 200-400m2.

Book
Paradox_YdocPublishing and Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2012, 492p, 170x240mm, hardcover, €55. Order online via www.ydocstore.org

YdocBookApp
Available for iOS: www.ydocstore.org.

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From the bright flower fields in Afghanistan, to the concrete jungle of London, Poppy traces the international path of heroin production and distribution across 12 countries. Picturing the dark and complex side of globalisation, Poppy exposes the contexts and consequences of heroin’s journey from East to West, along with the addictions, conflicts, disease, crime and poverty it leaves in its wake. The book and multimedia exhibition embody two decades worth of reporting from Antoinette de Jong and Robert Knoth.

What began in the early 1990s as a series of news assignments, evolved into a personal project and close collaboration between Knoth and De Jong. Poppy uses texts and images produced by the artists, as well as found materials. Together with sound and moving images they build up a narration as complex as the layered story itself - connecting the poppy fields in Afghanistan to the towers of Dubai.

Poppy was shown at the Nederlands Fotomuseum (Rotterdam), MUDAM (Luxembourg), the Australian Centre for Photography, C/O Berlin and other venues.