Ad van Denderen - GoNoGo

The reason Ad van Denderen's images are so disturbing is that they do not permit themselves to be reduced to a political statement, and indeed suggest no† 'solutions' at all... We are looking at something that refuses to become an opinion. (Vrij Nederland, September 8, 2001)

Immigration was a leitmotif in the work of photographer Ad van Denderen long before European politics and media began to concentrate on the subject. For thirteen years Van Denderen travelled along what later came to be called the Schengen borders. His goal: to give anonymous people a face. Van Denderen's photographs are not the familiar images of destitute refugees leaving behind house and home after catastrophes, but documents of modern nomads: refugees armed with mobile telephones, legal or illegal, in the remote corners of Europe and at its heart. Ad van Denderen had previously demonstrated the same social engagement in Welkom in South Africa (1987, about Apartheid) and Peace in the Holy Land (1997, about the conflict in Palestine). He received a number of prestigious prizes for the Schengen series among which the Visa d'Or of the yearly photo festival in Perpignan, France in 2001. Go No Go is a three-dimensional installation in which Ad van Denderen's photographs are projected on eight to ten screens. Sound and image alternate with texts and filmed portraits of migrants made by photographer and filmmaker Marjoleine Boonstra. The public can find background information about the photographs of Ad van Denderen on computers, but can also leave their on-line responses to them on the website.

Ad van Denderen is a member of VU Agency (Paris).
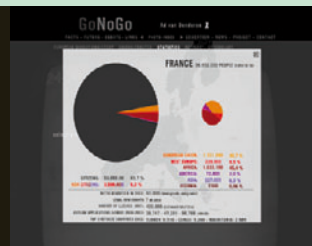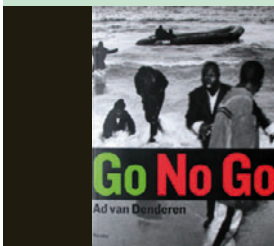
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