

Ives Maes (°1976, Hasselt, Belgium) is a multidisciplinary visual artist who lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium. He studied sculpture at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent, Belgium and a post-graduate program at HISK, Antwerp. In 2008 he was a resident at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin. From 2012 to 2018 he was working on a Ph.D. in the arts at KASK School of Arts, University of Ghent.

In 2004 he started working on the RECYCLABLE REFUGEE CAMP project, which is an ironic proposal for a biodegradable living unit. It consists of biodegradable structures such as shelters, latrines and fountains that are built in conformity with the regulations of the U.N.H.C.R. But rather than being a worthy solution for grave matters it tackles the ethical imperative that encourages art to intervene in the world. This investigation has led to several specific projects and exhibitions in contemporary art centers such as the SMAK in Ghent, Yerba Buena Center in San Francisco, Ludwig Forum in Aachen, MuHKA Museum in Antwerp, Museum Angewandte Kunst Frankfurt, BOZAR Brussels, and the Museo de Arte Carillo y Gil in Mexico City. In 2008 the project came to an end with a publication by Mer Paper Kunsthalles:

<http://www.merpaperkunsthalles.org/projects/view/324?q=ives+maes>

From 2008 to 2012 he worked on a photographic series about World's Fairs: THE FUTURE OF YESTERDAY. For this project Ives Maes travelled throughout the world to photograph remnants of World's Fair pavilions and monuments. The utopian visions of the future that were projected during these fairs, are often in strong contrast with the heritage of poorly conserved architecture and neglected monuments. It is this fringe between utopia and dystopia that the artist captured in his series. Since 2008 these photographs have been exhibited among others in the 6<sup>th</sup> Moscow Biennial, Z33 Art Center Hasselt, the Photo Museum in Antwerp, KIT Düsseldorf, Void+ in Tokyo, the National Museum in Beijing, STAM City Museum in Ghent and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. In 2013 an extensive book was made by LUDION:

<https://www.ludion.be/nl/books/detail/the-future-of-yesterday>

From 2013 to 2018 Ives Maes was working on a third large-scale project named SUNVILLE. Sunville is the English translation of his native village Zonhoven in Belgium. The photographic series was a personal quest into his memories around specific locations in his hometown. These recordings were symbolically ended in March 2015 after a partial solar eclipse over the area. Since then, he has been editing the images into photographic installations. These works have been shown at the Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens in Deurle, Palazzo De' Toschi in Bologna, Sofie Van De Velde Gallery Antwerp, Johannesburg University Art Gallery, and the Prada Foundation Milan. On another level this series was part of his Ph.D. in the arts research at KASK School of Arts / UGent concerning the physical, sculptural and architectural aspects of photography. In 2018, the book SUNVILLE was published by LUDION:

<https://www.ludion.be/nl/books/detail/sunville>

Website: [www.ivesmaes.com](http://www.ivesmaes.com)