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LUMIERE.GALLERY
Second online exhibition CAMBODIAN STILLS
14 November 2020 – 30 April 2021



After the success of the first exhibition *LIVING ON WATER*, we will once again showcase the work of Zurich-based photographer Steff Gruber.

LIVING ON WATER has led to numerous nominations and awards. It has also received an invitation from the city of Vienna to be shown at the 2021 FOTO WIEN festival.

The selection of pictures for the new exhibition will not be monothematic, but will include different photo reports and studies, all of them taken in Cambodia in 2019.

CAMBODIAN STILLS

In 2009, I visited Cambodia for the first time to carry out research for my docudrama *Fire, Fire, Desire*. Between 2010 and 2016 I then spent one month each year filming in Southeast Asia. But I have never managed to switch between film and photo camera. It wasn't until 2017 and 2018, when I stopped working in film to set up a short-wave radio station, that I took my photo camera with me.

Cambodia already played an important role in my life back in the 1970s, mainly through the newspapers that reported almost daily on the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia. Later, I was captivated by the novels of Graham Greene and Marguerite Duras.

It was this Cambodia that I wanted to capture with my photo camera in 2019. But with the exception perhaps of the floating villages on Tonle Sap River, I no longer managed to achieve this. Too extreme are the changes that are currently taking place in Cambodia. In some regions, Chinese people who have recently moved to the country now make up a third of the population; Chinese construction sites are omnipresent, not just in major cities but also in rural regions. What was once the world's longest bamboo bridge has now been replaced by a concrete Chinese structure and on the legendary Mount Boko, a Chinese casino city is being built. Lake Boeung-Kak, once a Phnom Penh landmark, was drained to make way for a hotel complex: around 10,000 people were evicted from their lakeside homes and driven away. The repercussions of this new colonialism are vast. It is my view and that of most Cambodians that it will neither lift people out of poverty nor contribute in any other way to the positive development of Cambodia.

My photo stories are not objective. I mourn a bygone Cambodia and endeavor to document this with my camera as poetically as possible.

The LUMIERE.GALLERY was set up during the worldwide coronavirus crisis in April 2020. In the spirit of social distancing and bans on public events, LUMIERE.GALLERY is a purely online gallery and was founded by Swiss cultural entrepreneur, filmmaker and photographer Steff Gruber initially to present a planned exhibition of his own work.

Beyond this, Gruber wants LUMIERE.GALLERY to offer other photographers a platform. Both well-known names and young, still undiscovered or little-known artists can present their work here to a wider audience.

Steff Gruber (1953) is a Swiss photographer and filmmaker. He started taking photos for local newspapers and on behalf of the agency Keystone at the age of just 17. Photography has always been an important part of his life. Steff Gruber is a member of the Swiss Association of Journalists and Photographers IMPRESSUM.

Links:

www.lumiere.gallery

www.steffgruber.com

www.kino.net

Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steff_Gruber

Contact:

ALIVE Media AG

Diana Bärmann

Hafnerstrasse 60

CH 8005 Zurich

+41 44 270 80 90

photo@alive.ch

Picture material can be made available on request.