

Masterclass Geert Goiris
Centre for Contemporary Photography Melbourne

***Please note all times listed are in CET (Central European Time/Antwerp) and are subject to change.**

What will I do/learn:

The masterclass goes through the various steps required to complete an autonomous photographic project. Participants will gain skills, experience and insight to bring a creative process to fruition.

Each student will get one-to-one guidance. Benefitting from small group discussion and the sharing of ideas and processes, the course mixes group sessions with individual sessions. All participants have a personal folder on Google Docs where they will keep an online archive. This folder can be accessed by Geert Goiris and your peers of the class group to share relevant references and exchange constructive critique.

The aim is to find coherence in your output and to define what you want to communicate. This understanding will culminate into a palpable outcome, either in the form of a book dummy, an exhibition design, or a professional digital portfolio.

12 places available.

Details:

Three fundamental questions are used to examine your creative process

WHAT / WHY / HOW

We start with identifying your subject (*WHAT*).

Every participant prepares a document outlining your ideas, the visual execution and intended outcome. The proposal should include visual material from different sources and authors (please add some of your own images). Every proposal will receive feedback from the group and tutor. Together we familiarize ourselves with all the projects and in the process adopt a language and a set of criteria to talk about photographic strategies, artistic concepts and visual ideas.

Once your subject has been clearly defined and articulated, you will receive a short list of references (photographers, directors, visual artists). You are expected to study these authors and their works. How does it relate to yours? Are there affinities? Where would you do things differently? Building a frame of reference helps to determine what you want to photograph and why this is relevant to you. Arriving at a more in-depth understanding of your pre-occupation and angle towards your subject will greatly help to make decisions about the execution of the project. (*WHY*)

Through continuous photographic practice, research and analysis of your work-in-progress in a series of feedback sessions you will deepen your personal aesthetic and conceptual stance. You will receive tips to refine your technique, to master the (pre) production and the postproduction of your images, the selection and sequencing of photographic series and the spatial or narrative presentation of your images. These skills will make your project more mature and personal (*HOW*).

The masterclass is designed for photographers either:

- at the start of a project seeking guidance to get it underway and identify their goals, direction and outcomes. You will get feedback on your images and assistance with how to approach the making of your series. We will first focus on your motives for embarking on this project, what is at stake? How does it relate to you? How does it compare or contrast with similar projects in the field?
- Your experience with the photographic medium will be assessed. If necessary, individual short-term exercises will be given to hone and master certain aspects of a photographic project (e.g. shooting technique, light setting, print preparation, archiving and retrieving your images, presenting images in a sequence or on the pages of a book, etc.)

- in the middle of a project seeking to draw their work together, to clarify and hone in on their objective/s. You will work towards the production of a (digital/physical) book or exhibition and will finish the masterclass with a completed and resolved project. Together in group and in individual sessions we will spend time on image selection, sequencing and finding the most adequate form of presentation (e.g. projection, exhibition of framed prints, zine, poster,...). Students are invited to regularly upload reworked versions of their PDF's with the proposal, so the group and GG can keep track of the evolution of the project.

- at the end of a project, wishing to bring everything together, to conceptualise what you have created, and to conclude with the (digital/physical) production of a book, exhibition or another tangible outcome. This masterclass will function as a last and thorough edit of your project. Every image in the series will be carefully considered to see which role it fulfills. Once this is in place and the work feels balanced and well sequenced, the production of the final form takes place. Alongside fine-tuning the presentation of your images, we will also discuss the distribution of the project. Where do you want it to be seen? How can you influence the distribution and contextualisation of the work? Does the project need text? If so, in what form? By whom, what is the status of the text relative to the images? Paratext, interview, art-historical text, captions, index,...? The contextualisation of your work as the final step before sending it out into the world. What are the outlets to send this work to?

Schedule*:

Meeting 1 (February 2023)

Group meeting February 9

09:00 – 12:00

Introduction Geert Goiris: Presenting my artistic practice. Clarifying some of my preoccupations and interests in the photographic image, sequencing and bookmaking. Overview of publications and projects.

Introduction participants : Every participant introduces her/himself and outlines the goals and reasons for undertaking this masterclass.

GG explains the structure, themes and goals of the masterclass. Setting a timeline for the entire masterclass. Setting goals / tasks for each individual for Meeting 2 (March 2023). Setting up and activation of a google drive. Each participant has a folder to upload recent work, GG and participants can upload reference material and suggested reading/looking.

Meeting 2 (March 2023)

Individual meetings

March 8 09:00 – 13:00* (4 slots of 45 minutes each)

March 9 09:00 – 13:00* (4 slots of 45 minutes each)

March 10 09:00 – 13:00* (4 slots of 45 minutes each)

Review tasks, feedback on work or steps taken, provide further references to research, discuss end-goal of the masterclass, set mini-project to present in the next meeting.

Meeting 3 (April 2023)

Group Meeting April 5

09:00 – 12:00 and 13:00 – 14:00

In this group session each participant recaps on their goals and projects. Each participant to present their mini-project to the group. Feedback and discussion. Each participant to set their own goals/tasks for the next meeting.

Meeting 4 (May 2023)

Individual meetings

May 3 09:00 – 13:00 (4 slots of 45 minutes each)

May 4 09:00 – 13:00 (4 slots of 45 minutes each)

May 5 09:00 – 13:00 (4 slots of 45 minutes each)

Review tasks, feedback on work or steps taken. Provide references to research. Check how timeline is tracking, review targets, review end goal, set milestone for next meeting.

Meeting 5 (June 2023)

Individual meetings

June 7 09:00 – 13:00 (4 slots of 45 minutes each)

June 8 09:00 – 13:00 (4 slots of 45 minutes each)

June 9 09:00 – 13:00 (4 slots of 45 minutes each)

Review tasks, feedback on work or steps taken. Review how timeline is tracking, review end goal. Discuss format of presentation for final meeting.

Meeting 6 (July 2023)

Group Meeting

July 5

09:00 – 12:00 and 13:00 – 14:00

With additional Guest Reviewer - final presentations and verbal feedback.

Group review of program and verbal feedback on mentor.

About Geert Goiris:

Geert teaches practice-based research at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp. He taught as visiting lecturer at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam, LUCA Brussels, CEPV in Vevey (CH), ISDAT in Toulouse (F), FH Bielefeld (D), and ENSP Arles (F) and MentorMentor in Gent (B)

In his enigmatic images, Geert Goiris (b. 1971) confronts us with perplexity and alienation. In his work of recent years, Geert Goiris puts the predictive potential of images first. Photographic images are often understood as documents, traces of a past. In his series *Prophet*, *World Without Us* and *Flash Forward*, the photographer attempts to reverse this and present images as omens, foreshadowing something yet to occur.

His images are regularly exhibited at renowned art institutions such as Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam (2007), Wiels Contemporary Art Center in Brussels (2010), Palais de Tokyo in Paris (2010), Hamburger Kunsthalle in Hamburg (2011), Le Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (NMNM) (2012), Museum M in Leuven (2013), the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago (US) and Centre Pompidou- Metz (2016).

His works are held in international institutional collections such as the Fonds national d'art contemporain (F), the Musée d'art moderne de la Ville de Paris, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Caja de Burgos (ES), Fotomuseum, Antwerp (B), the Seattle Art Museum (USA) and MUDAM (L).

Geert Goiris has published seven monographic books with Roma publications Amsterdam: *Czar Bomba*, *Lying Awake*, *Prolifération*, *Prophet*, *Peak Oil, 2020* and *World without Us*.

The artist is represented by Galerie Art: Concept in Paris (France).

About Geert's work:

His photographs challenge our sense of reality, showing a strangely familiar world that seems convincingly real and yet unfathomably fantastic. In this sense, the

photographic image is never merely a conduit through which we can visually connect with the world beyond, but a means of addressing the essential difference between "experiencing" and "seeing."

Inspired by the ambiguous notion of high fidelity (technology that makes itself invisible or inaudible, as it were, to get closer to the "original") underlies his consistent use of large-format analog cameras and scientific films that are more sensitive than the human eye. Despite the abundant detail in his prints or projections, the feeling that something is missing often prevails. This information deficit appeals to the viewer to fabulate, to put their own imagination to work.

Geert Goiris deliberately disconnects his photographs from a specific era so that it seems we are looking at both the past and the future.