



In these works, I have photographed children in order to express innocence and beauty. I want to express that the World is rotten and that we have to look back at our childhood when we were still innocent and happy and full of expectations, we must get those feelings back, we should not forget them. It is very important to understand that innocence exists. It is real, and it is an important power in life.

Ruud van Empel

## 30 world

Dutch artist Ruud van Empel creates his photo-works through a time-intensive digital collage process, compiling hundreds of elements from his own individual photographs to achieve results that resemble precisely-rendered, posed narrative paintings. In these images from van Empel's series WORLD, very young black children inhabit landscapes from a tropical fairytale, mysteriously immersed in water adrift with lotus leaves, or standing poised

and still amid lush, sun-lit vegetation in jungle groves. The children gaze directly at the viewer with a mixture of gravitas and purity. The astonishing clarity and intensity of the glossy saturated colour, the radiance of the light, the rich detail, and the arresting compositions create a charged, hypnotic and magical-realist ambience.





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