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The situative portrait

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Judith van IJken (b. 1977) is a visual artist and researcher based in the Netherlands. Her work centers on photographic portraiture. Through an iterative, practice-led process of making and reflecting, she explores its role in contemporary society.

Van IJken graduated cum laude from the Department of Photography at HKU University of the Arts Utrecht in 2001, followed by a two-year residency at the Rijksakademie (Amsterdam) in 2003-2004. Her work has been widely exhibited in the Netherlands and abroad, including at Wereldmuseum (Rotterdam), Tropenmuseum (Amsterdam), the Benaki Museum (Athens), and Institut pour la Photographie (Lille). In addition to exhibitions, Van IJken has self-published several photobooks.

More recently, her practice has expanded to include writing and performative presentations. She has contributed to the Art of Research Conference 2023 (Helsinki), Helsinki Photomedia Conference 2024 (Helsinki), the International Conference of Photography and Theory (Cyprus), and Absence as Artistic Strategy in Contemporary Art 2025 (LUCAS, Leiden) as well as the journal Research in Art & Education.

Van IJken has taught workshops and lectured at international art institutions, among them the Chinese European Art Center (Xiamen), Parsons School of Design, The New School (New York), HKU University of the Arts Utrecht, and Aalto University (Helsinki). Since 2010, she has been a senior lecturer at the Royal Academy of Art, The Hague (KABK), where she teaches in the Bachelor's program Photography and the Master's program Photography & Society.

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