

De Panne, Belgium



Tiergarten, Berlin, Germany,
July 4, 1999



De Panne, Belgium, 1992–08–07

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Girl Interrupted

Rineke Dijkstra (b. 1959) selects a site to photograph before choosing her sitter. She visits public places, such as beaches or parks, and gauges their spirit and energy. She then invites passersby to serve as her models amid the local surroundings.

Take a closer look

Dijkstra often chooses subjects facing life's transitions, such as teenagers, pregnant women, new mothers, and recently enlisted soldiers. Rather than directing her subjects, she lets them find a natural pose. The models' awareness of their bodies and direct gazes create intimate and intense images.

In her own words

"I try and look for an uninhibited moment, where people forget about trying to control the image of themselves."

Who knew?

The artist often visits the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam for inspiration. She is particularly drawn to Old Masters, like Johannes Vermeer and Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, because of their use of light and psychological exploration of the figure.

Rineke Dijkstra, *De Panne, Belgium, 1992–08–07*; Chromogenic color print, 15½ x 12½ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Heather and Tony Podesta Collection

Rineke Dijkstra, *Tiergarten, Berlin, Germany, July 4, 1999, 1999*; Chromogenic color print, 19½ x 17 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Heather and Tony Podesta Collection

