



GERCO DE RUIJTER

YELLOW GALLERY November 2024 Leiden

GERCO DE RUIJTER

“Alone in these strange streets, I think that I've walked them enough,
Poetry and Aeroplanes, I am tired of waiting for love” - Teitur

Gerco de Ruijter is an artist who masterfully pushes the boundaries of photography. As a pioneer in aerial photography, he began capturing stunning images of landscapes, river deltas, forests, and meadows long before the advent of Google Earth. His work is characterized by a unique approach, capturing the landscape from a bird's-eye view, initially using a kite-mounted camera. This perspective reveals precise geometric patterns often disrupted by the irregular lines of nature, creating a fascinating interplay between order and chaos.

What sets De Ruijter apart is his ability to evolve with new technologies. Where some artists might shy away from the rise of Google Earth, he embraced and integrated this technology into his work. With a keen eye for detail, he scours the digital world for new forms and patterns, resulting in images that are both aesthetically captivating and conceptually profound.

In his series *Footprint* and *On Time*, De Ruijter delves into the complex relationship between humans and air travel. *Footprint* presents us with images of runways and taxiways, marked by the traces of where airplanes once stood. These imprints, fossilized in time, evoke a sense of transience. The power of this series lies in what is absent: the airplanes themselves. This subtly underscores the element of time and impermanence, as if we are looking at the shadows of something once vibrant. Much like Herbie¹, the character who, on a deserted airfield, found a perfect pattern in the sand—a flight path seemingly etched by an invisible hand—De Ruijter reveals to us what is no longer present, but what once was.

In contrast, *On Time* depicts planes speeding across the earth's surface, en route to their next destination. These images exude urgency, suggesting a world where stillness is not an option. The combination of these two series invites the viewer to reflect on the role of mobility in modern society and how we perceive air travel in an era of climate change.

De Ruijter refrains from taking an explicit stance on these issues, but by focusing on the airplane that must always move forward, he raises important questions. His work reflects the constant motion of the modern world and the impossibility of pausing, except in the frozen moment of a photograph. In this way, much like Herbie who hoped the angels would wake him if necessary, De Ruijter leaves the viewer with a subtle yet powerful invitation to introspect and discuss our relationship with time and the impact of our choices on the landscape and the world around us.

1. the full text about Herbie; Mapping Will Rogers World Airport by Peter Delpeut can be found in the publication FOOTPRINT by Gerco de Ruijter and Peter Delpeut



Gerco de Ruijter at work

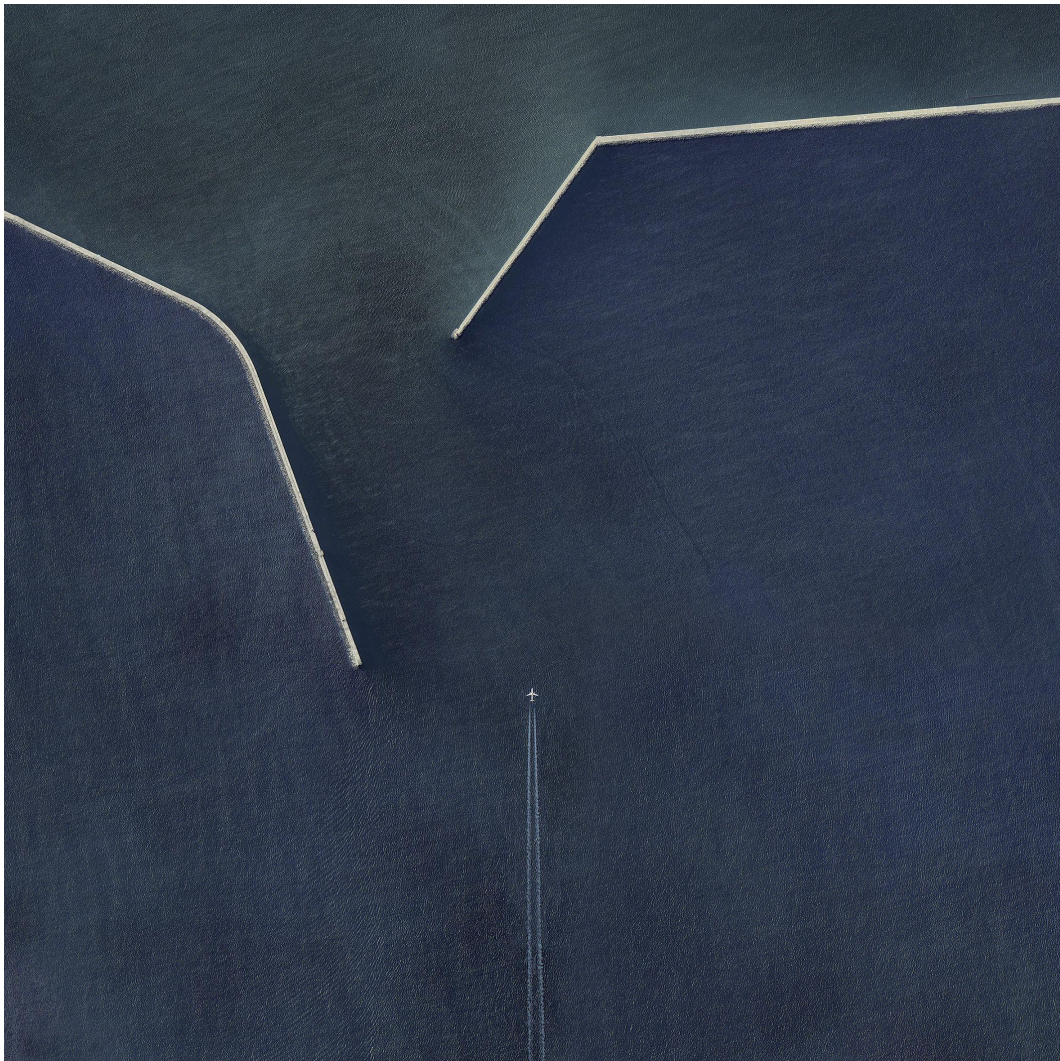
GERCO DE RUIJTER

Dam plane

ON TIME

145 x 145 cm | 57,09 x 57,09 in.

Edition 3 + 2 AP





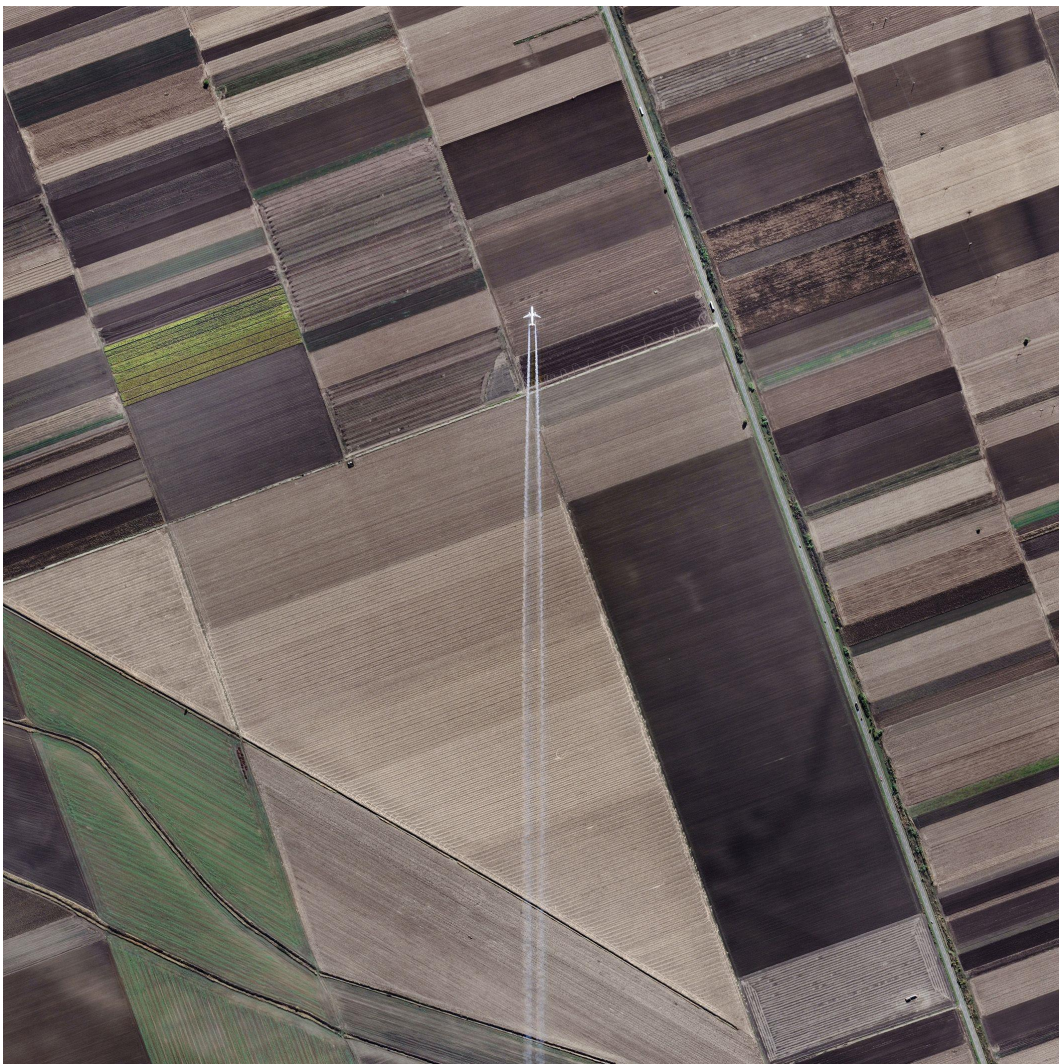
GERCO DE RUIJTER

Plot plane

ON TIME

145 x 145 cm | 57,09 x 57,09 in.

Edition 3 + 2 AP





GERCO DE RUIJTER

Garland plane

ON TIME

50 x 50 cm | 19,69 x 19,69 in.

Edition 5 + 2 AP





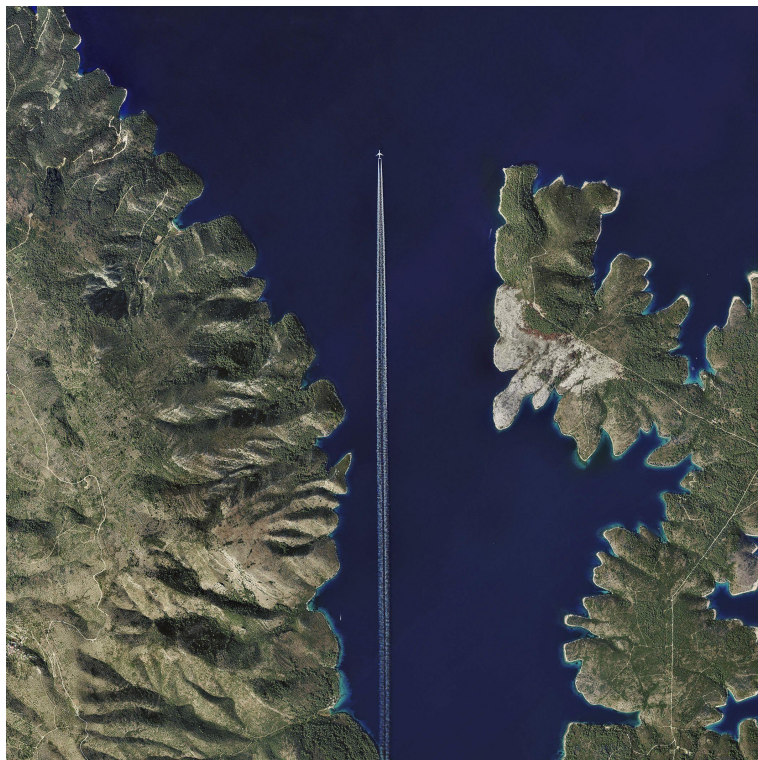
GERCO DE RUIJTER

Holiday plane

ON TIME

50 x 50 cm | 19,69 x 19,69 in.

Edition 5 + 2 AP





GERCO DE RUIJTER

Lighthouse

ON TIME

145 x 145 cm | 57,09 x 57,09 in.

Edition 3 + 2 AP





GERCO DE RUIJTER

Polder plane

ON TIME

145 x 145 cm | 57,09 x 57,09 in.

Edition 3 + 2 AP





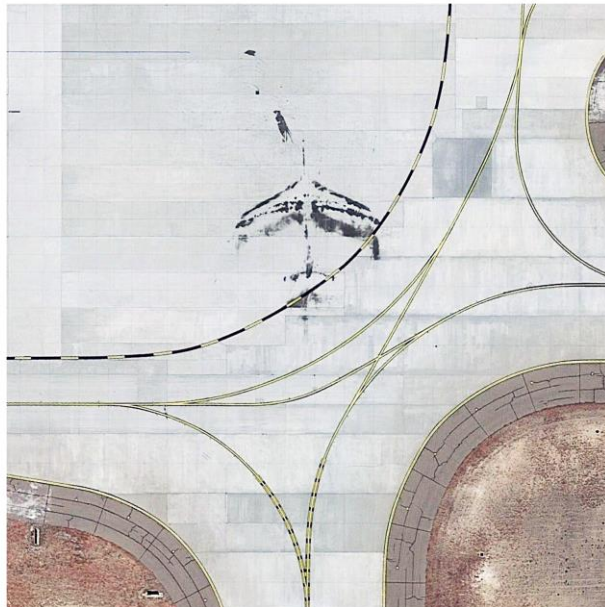
GERCO DE RUIJTER

Albuquerque NM

FOOTPRINT

15 x 15 cm | 5,91 x 5,91 in.

Framed 20,5 x 20,5 x 3,5 | 8,07 x 8,07 x 1,38



GERCO DE RUIJTER

Minneapolis MN

FOOTPRINT

15 x 15 cm | 5,91 x 5,91 in.

Framed 20,5 x 20,5 x 3,5 | 8,07 x 8,07 x 1,38



GERCO DE RUIJTER

Salt Lake UT

FOOTPRINT

15 x 15 cm | 5,91 x 5,91 in.

Framed 20,5 x 20,5 x 3,5 | 8,07 x 8,07 x 1,38

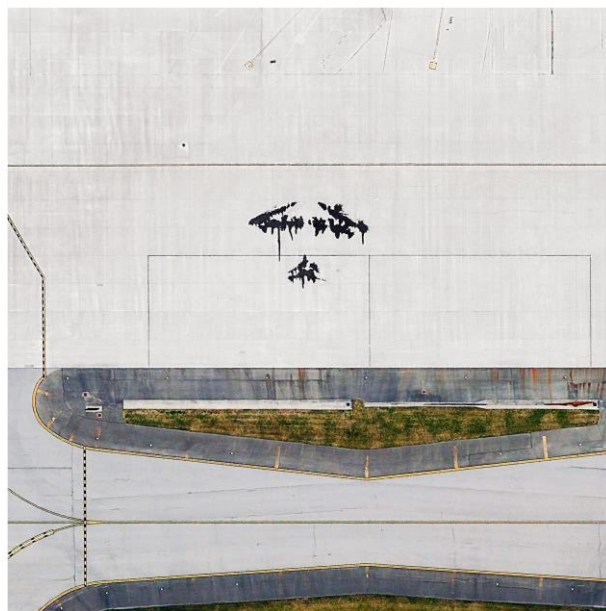
GERCO DE RUIJTER

Ranoake VA

FOOTPRINT

15 x 15 cm | 5,91 x 5,91 in.

Framed 20,5 x 20,5 x 3,5 | 8,07 x 8,07 x 1,38



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BIOGRAPHY

Gerco de Ruijter is a Rotterdam-based visual artist working in the field of photography and film. In the late 1980s he started using kites, balloons and fishing poles to create images of situations far removed from our own vantage point. Since 2012 he had been mining Google Earth as a source, resulting in films like CROPS (2012) and playground (2014). His art explores how far presentation of the landscape can be reduced and yet still remain recognizable.

De Ruijter studied at the Academy for Visual Arts in Rotterdam, graduating with honours in 1993. Since then he has had numerous solo and group exhibits both in the Netherlands and elsewhere, including at the Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, Museum Boijmans van Beuning, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington DC, and The Harnett Museum of Art in Richmond. His work features in several important private and public collections.



GALLERY INFORMATION

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Opening times:

By appointment

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