



Artist Bio - Kurt Stallaert
Because Winter Lasts Longer Than Summer
November, 2013

After finishing his studies at the Antwerp School of Photography, Kurt Stallaert's talent and creativity was soon discovered by some of the top advertising agencies in Belgium. Since then he worked for international publicity agencies such as Duval-Guillaume and TBWA, directed major advertising campaigns for Levis, Van Marcke, Humo, Telenet, Renault and many more. As a fashion and advertising photographer, Stallaert developed a personal style of impacting images that inspired many international brands he worked for: Nike, Sisley, Axe, Marie Jo and many more.

Although Kurt Stallaert's imagery is inspired by average social and cultural matters, with a touch of humor and irony, his work is remarkable because it goes above and beyond the everyday. No matter if it's about fashion or advertising, Kurt likes to work with elaborate settings creating his own artistic language and imaginary world. Recently, he also started to work with moving images. Because of his inexhaustible drive and passion, his work (both his photography as well as his recent video projects), is timeless and unique.

Kurt Stallaert's non-stop search for authenticity of images in his professional work brought him automatically into artistic photography. His work explores the borders of reality and surreality and balances between the human and the superhuman. Does reality lie in the authenticity of the image, or in the authenticity of the emotion that it evokes? And how far can we go to reach perfection? Questions that raised in his "Bodybuilders' World", a photographic series of muscled men, women and children. Images that seduce but threaten at the same time. In 2010, some of these Bodybuilders were exhibited at the Museum Dr. Guislain in Ghent. Soon after his work was picked up by Leonhard's gallery in Antwerp en budA art gallery in Brussels. More recently, Kurt Stallaert successfully showed his first video project at the Lineart art fair.

For his recent video work, Kurt uses high-speed photography, a technique developed for industrial and scientific purposes, that allows the artist to combine photography and film. At first sight, when we look at these images, we have the impression they are photos or stills. Only when we look closer and longer, we discover slowly moving images. By splitting an image into a thousand images, high-speed photography allows Kurt Stallaert to show more than one reality at the same time. He calls these images *moving stills*.