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Misha de Ridder
Inside
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A contemplative refuge in the most saturated area of Amsterdam, the Old Church (Oude Kerk) was consecrated in 1306 in what is now called the red light district. In 1566 iconoclasm raged the building resulting in a serene and sober appearance. The many architectural changes over centuries led to the Old Church' current characteristic hybrid form, with its most prominent feature being the gothic emphasis on light. It is this diversity of shapes and tactility of the robustly plastered interior walls Misha de Ridder explores with his camera. He photographed from up close the vaults and the once statue-filled alcoves, either bathing in soft daylight or covered in shade. De Ridder used a digital high resolution technical camera to capture the existing colours of light striking the walls. Normally camera software and our brain adjust the colour of light to the colour of the surface it touches (orange light on a white wall appears white).



Inside 1, Giclée print 51,2 x 64 cm / 2018

The exceptionally sharp photographs printed on ultra matte paper intensify the painterly quality of the work. At the same time they contain abstractions and compositions reminiscent of modernist painting. De Ridder depicts the Old Church' gothic architecture in a modernist idiom, thereby questioning the modernness of this idiom. The series presents a natural phenomenon (daylight) and a cultural phenomenon (a church) not as separate realities, but as hybrid.



Exhibition view, *Inside*, Misha de Ridder, 2018

Consequently the interior architecture of the church becomes a hardly comprehensible constructed image, resulting in a higher rendition of reality.

Inside entails a timeless visualisation of the city's oldest building, a transhistorical materialisation of the invisible.



Exhibition view, *Inside*, Misha de Ridder, 2018

Misha de Ridder (NL, 1971) is based in Amsterdam. His work has been exhibited amongst others at Coda Museum, Foam Photography Museum, FoMu Photo Museum Antwerp, Museum of the City of New York and Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. De Ridder published several monographs: *Sightseeing* (2000), *Wilderness* (2003), *Dune* (2011), *Abendsonne* (2011), *Solstice* (2012) and *Falaise* (2016).

To develop this series De Ridder was granted the yearly Amsterdam Photography Commission by the Amsterdam City Archives (Stadsarchief Amsterdam). For developing his printing technique he was supported by Amsterdam Fund for the Arts (AFK) and the Mondriaan Fund.