

# TERRITORIES OF THE SELF

ANJA BOHNHOF



---

*You have to hurry if you want to see something; everything disappears.* (Paul Cezanne)

---

Fort Kochi, India 2014  
Klagenfurt, AUT, 2015 (with Johannes Puch)

Everyone has “their” spots. Places that have a close connection to their own sense of being and self-image, that constitute identity and may also at different times represent home or memory, platforms for expression, tranquil scenes or sources of inspiration, familiar spaces, places of shelter. Children look for secret hiding places, places that offer the possibility of retreating from the world when they want. They may be attics, backyards, caves or burrows, a hideout behind a bush, in the wreck of an old boat, a spot on the beach or a wooden shed.

These are places with their own laws, where intimacy and privacy are allowed, free of rules and other people’s expectations. At some point you take up your place in the world and the hideouts become childhood memories. This goes along with the training of our ability to adapt and with it goes the need to hole up and hide away in secret and familiar places to have some time for yourself. But sometimes we want these shelters back—the more public our lives are, the more we move in worlds that are strange to us, the less space we have for inner retreat caught up as we are in the demands of daily life.

I’m looking for a moment in which something can be shared about this childhood scene by means of the photographic portrait, not just the sharing of an “old” secret and a special place but of inner, concealed, sacred space, which everyone carries within them.