

# TERRITORIES OF THE SELF

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Kochi, IND

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Klagenfurt, AUT

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

There are places that have a special meaning for everyone. Places that are closely connected to one's own being and self-image, that are identity, home or memory, stages, places of peace or sources of inspiration, familiar spaces where one feels at home.

Children look for hiding places and have favorite places. Places that allow voluntary retreats from the world. Be it attics, caves, backyards or a hidden place behind a bush, in a boat wreck, or in built wooden sheds. They are places with their own rules that allow intimacy and privacy, free from the norms and expectations of others.

At some point everyone takes their place in the world and favorite places and secret hiding places become memories of childhood. Nevertheless, we sometimes wish we could go back to these places: the more public our own life is, the more we move around in foreign countries, the less space the demands of everyday life allow for inner retreat.

In this work, people who are often the focus of public interest because of their profession were portrayed in their favorite places or secret hiding places from their childhood. Each portrait is accompanied by a short text in which the people portrayed reveal something about this place and its former special significance for them. The photographs thus tell of an 'old secret' and also of the inner, sacred space that everyone carries within themselves.

I have implemented the project concept twice so far: in Kochi, India, in 2014 and in collaboration with Johannes Puch in Klagenfurt, Austria, in 2015.