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BEHIND THE PROJECTION: REINOUT ZEEGER ON PRESENCE, ABSENCE, AND 'MARFA LIGHTS — 25 UNEXPECTED VISITORS'

MARFA, TX – August 30, 2026

At midnight in central Marfa, the silence is not merely an absence of sound, but a tangible weight—a "thin place" where the membrane between the visible and the transcendent is at its most permeable. Beneath the stark, solitary glow of a streetlamp, a pair of empty boots stands on the pavement. They belonged to Aero(nwen), the child of Belgian multidisciplinary artist Reinout Zeeger (Xavier Van Eeckhoutte). A top philosophy student, Aero(nwen) had purchased the boots specifically for a celebratory journey to this high-desert sanctuary. When she/he took her/his own life just twenty-four hours before their scheduled departure, the journey seemed over. Yet, Zeeger and his wife, Leen, refused the finality of fate. A year later, they brought the boots to Texas, ensuring that Aero(nwen) would go to Marfa after all. This image of presence blooming within absence serves as the emotional "mind accelerator" for Zeeger's latest work.

The transition from personal grief to public exhibition is bridged by a childhood metaphysical haunting. As a boy, Zeeger cut open a drum to find the source of its sound, only to be met with emptiness. That early consternation remains his primary research method: he views material reality as a drum to be deconstructed—a projection through which he searches for the hidden projector. For Zeeger, Marfa is the ultimate landscape for this investigation, a threshold where the hard light and distant horizon disturb the ordinary sense of scale. His work interrogates the veil of the visible, asking how something can be truly present when it cannot be found as a separate, physical thing.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

- Dates: October 9–11, 2026 (Tentative extension to October 26)
- Location: The Palace Marfa, TX
- Context: Special Guest Artist, MarfaMUST Group Exhibition V3 during Chinati Weekend

The exhibition, *MARFA LIGHTS — 25 Unexpected Visitors*, features twenty-five photographic works that defy the labels of documentary or street photography. Zeeger operates within the realm of magical realism, though he is not interested in inventing new worlds; rather, he seeks to reveal the strangeness already pulsing within this one. These "unexpected visitors" are moments when ordinary reality shifts out of alignment—a road vanishing into mist or a window reflecting an unexplained light. Zeeger's ability to capture these high-frequency disturbances has earned him international acclaim, with three works from this universe currently held in the permanent collection of The Hotel Chelsea in New York.

At the core of Zeeger's practice is Transformism, a philosophical rejection of the ancient mechanism that uses suffering as an engine for human evolution. Zeeger introduces The Lydian Balance—an ethical metric asking whether an action increases or reduces the world's collective pain. In honor of his child, he founded The Reincarnation Factory, a foundation built on the life-affirming principle that "you can always begin again." Through mentoring young artists and Body & Mind initiatives, the foundation converts the energy of catastrophe into generative action, proving that even after an irreversible loss, a forward movement remains possible.

This "Artist's Universe" is a multidisciplinary energetic field where photography, music, and text collide. The exhibition is conceptually tethered to the vinyl album *Marfa Lights* by The Wittgenstein Dope Surfers (TWDS), an experimental neo-psychedelic art rock collective led by Zeeger (known as X - The Wizard). The photograph of Aero(nwen)'s boots serves as the album's cover, linking the visual and the sonic into a single manifestation of the mystery behind things.

Looking beyond the current exhibition, Marfa serves as the launch platform for The Daedalus Project 2027. This three-year international art pilgrimage will see Zeeger and five other established Belgian artists travel westward toward San Francisco. The project bears the mythological weight of its namesake: the father who continued the flight after his child fell. It is a resonance found in the name Aero(nwen) itself, derived from the Greek *aḗr* (air), evoking the sky and the transcendence of earthly boundaries. The journey will culminate in the construction of the Tower of Transformation, an installation that marks a radical shift from representation to intervention. Though its measurable effect may be only 0.0000000000001 percent, the Tower is designed to physically contribute to the reduction of global warming—a concrete application of Transformism that redesigns the architecture of the world.

About the Artist
Reinout Zeeger (Xavier Van Eeckhoutte) is a Belgian multidisciplinary artist whose practice investigates the intersections of metaphysical experience and social transformation. Formerly a journalist, he utilizes art as a rigorous research method to investigate existential questions. His work, which spans photography, music, and philosophy, is characterized by a search for the magical within the real. He is the founder of The Reincarnation Factory and the conceptual lead of the musical collective The Wittgenstein Dope Surfers. Learn more about the artist on Instagram: @wolfhexenphotos

About The Reincarnation Factory
Founded by Reinout Zeeger and Leen Defoer, The Reincarnation Factory is a foundation dedicated to the practice of Transformism. Through the mentorship of young creators and the facilitation of "Body & Mind" initiatives, the foundation seeks to prove that transformation is possible without death and that humanity can participate in repairing the world. Learn more about The Reincarnation Factory, visit: www.thereincarnationfactory.org.

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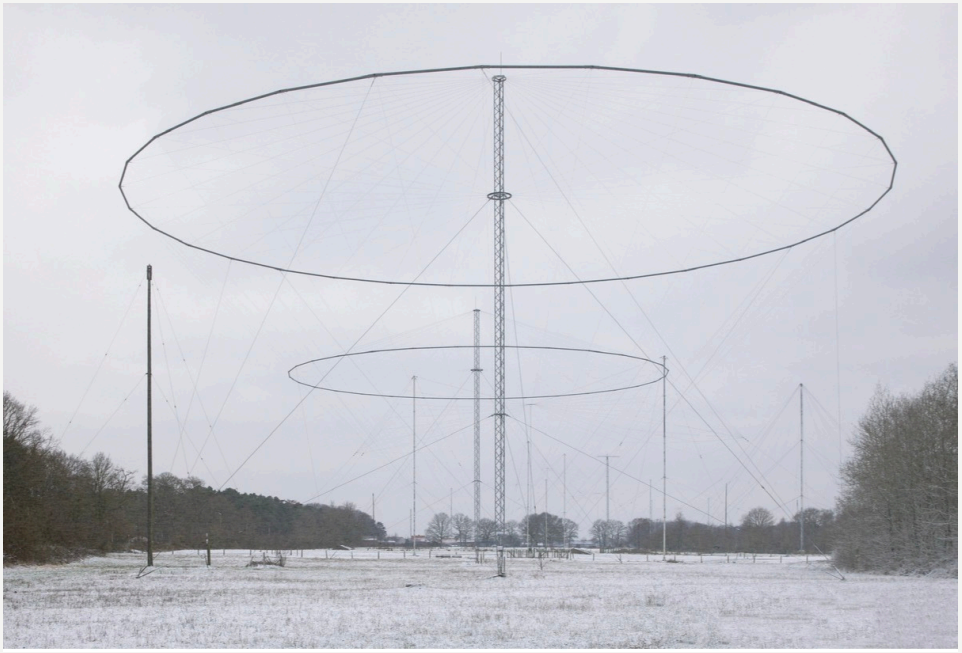
Marfa Lights

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I Forgot What Day It Is and No One Wants to Tell Me

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Calling Occupants of Interplanetary Craft

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Suddenly the Birds

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