

Ruud de Korte

"Dutch fantasy photographer Ruud De Korte is responsible for some of the most iconic European steampunk and fantasy photographs around."

-Matt Greyson

Brass, leather, wood, crisp shirts, copper green rust and gears; the combination of colors and shapes hit Ruud de Korte so hard in 2010 that he afterwards went on the Internet looking for the name of that style. And so he discovered Steampunk.

Stemming from his graphic background, he has a perfect eye for colors and shapes. This accuracy is essential in his field of work, reproducing reality in his photography. His interpretations and images of Steampunk were an instant hit, and Ruud has now developed as a premier Steampunk and Fantasy photographer from the Netherlands. At every event he attends, Steamers ask him to photograph them. And his pervasive images are further reinforced by his unique techniques in post-processing.

Over the years he has gathered a solid group of models around him, an unprecedented luxury which this photographer was unused to, but which gave him the tools to create his images in numerous colourful settings and situations.

In the past years Ruud has increased his insights into the scene. Who are these somewhat mysterious groups of people? What moves them? He has discovered not only the tough, masculine side, but also the graceful Victorian femininity of the Steamers.

His books "Steampunk Empire", 2014 and "Space Machine Imagery III", 2019 are the culmination of that work. It shows what's going on in this world of fantasy, reality and where steam and gears rule. And, as Ruud de Korte goes on this adventure, he shares this world with you, through the eyes of a photographer.

There is much to see...

Although he has an awesome reputation as a Steampunk photographer in his home country, this Dutch artist's work and renown is steadily growing throughout Europe and the UK. Ruud started his international career in the UK at the Steampunk Doncaster Event in 2013. Ruud's network stretches almost worldwide from fashion designers to fetish models and anything obscure in between like Father Sebastian, a US based professional dentist who makes original fang dental prosthesis on Noir Dance (vampire) festivals.

In the years after Ruud became, in his daily life, a professional photographer and image artist. One of his mottos is: You don't shoot a good photo, you make one.

As a photographer he can shape the light the way he wants and makes professional portraits for social media, documentaries, corporate branding and festival photography. Besides this, Ruud has a keen eye in capturing the atmosphere. From straight pure business portraits to city- and landscapes to ethereal cinematic stills as a director of photography.

Ruud has build a good name in the branch and can talk very enthusiastically about his photography for groups, as he organizes workshops with models for photographers. His area of work stretches from Germany to the UK and from Denmark to Italy. For this reason Ruud prefers to call himself a European. He is an observer and is always curious in what moves a person, bringing out the personality and capturing it's portrait.

Being back for the fourth year at the Phoenix Alternative Festival, Ruud can be often found hanging around near the Collodian Wet plate booth. They capture the magic live while Ruud needs a computer for his image processing.

When you see Ruud walking around on the premisses with his camera, feel free to ask him anything. If you want to know one of his secrets, here's a free hint to all photographers when shooting a steampunk model:

Don't aim for the portrait but shoot for the outfit.

From the Editor:

This years Special Edition of The Phoenix Alternative Festival Illustrated Collodion News features the latest in new full colour technological printed reproduction. This is a questionable update and improvement. We are keen to hear from our readers on wether this new editorial direction should continue and therefore be encouraged?

Please direct all comments to us in person at the Wet Plate Photography tent, or you may choose to correspond by telegram, pigeon, smoke signal, morse code, fax, text, email or social media.

Thank you,

The Editor

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