

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Collectors,

I am happy to present my latest newsletter.

As usual. I have been working tirelessly on many old and new projects.

My main current project is a book on global trends in the world of crystal meth. It is a combination of investigative journalism and academic research, but I am very happy I went back as well to good old photojournalism.

“Le poids de mots, le choc des photos,” as the French Magazine Paris Match used to say.

I really do appreciate your interest in and support for my work...

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GLOBAL TRENDS CRYSTAL METH PROJECT

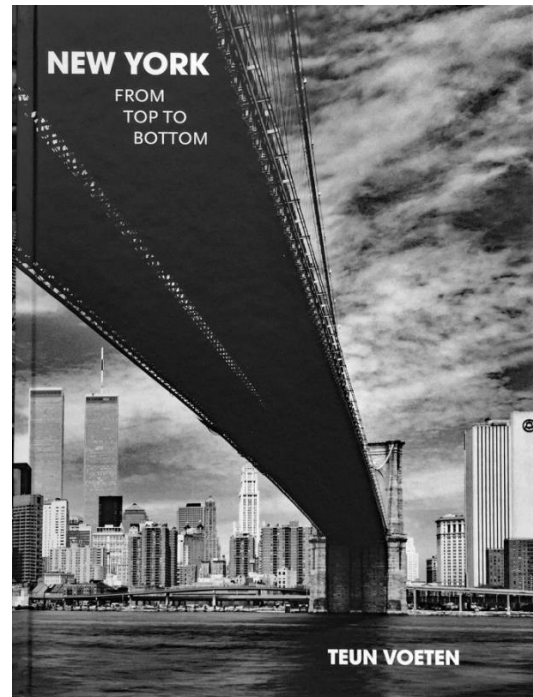
In 2008, the Mexican army in Michoacán invited the media to witness the destruction of two meth labs hidden in the jungle. This was the first time I actually came in close touch with the theme of meth. Over the last few years, the Dutch authorities discovered several dozen crystal meth labs in Holland. In some cases, Mexicans were involved as well. In 2019, I photographed the meth epidemic in Tijuana, which actually had become the deadliest city in the world. Research for a Dutch think tank developed in a book project that will be published spring 2022 by Pelckmans Editions, who also published my book on drug related crime in Antwerp. I was very pleased the Dutch Foundation of Special Journalistic projects gave me a grant that will cover most of my travel expenses. I carried out research in Mexico, Prague/Leipzig and the USA, and prepare later this year to visit the Golden Triangle in Thailand and if the Taliban allow, Afghanistan. That country has become a center of meth production as well. Stay tuned!



<https://radio1.be/crystal-meth-de-drug-van-de-duivel>

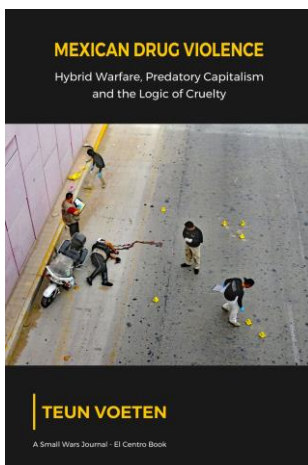
NEW YORK FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Since 1989, I have been photographing the magnificent skyscrapers and amazing cityscapes in New York. I still continue to work on the series, old school, with a 6/9 cm technical camera, on black and white film. After more as three decades, I have quite a collection of images. *VIP's International Art Galleries* in Rotterdam published a photobook with the complete series. It also features my earliest documentary work I shot in [Harlem and Bronx](#) in 1987 / 1988, portraits from Coney Island, shot on Hasselblad and some of my [tunnel people pictures](#). You can order the book online or contact me for a signed copy.



[Order the book online](#)

MORE REVIEWS OF MY MEXICAN DRUG VIOLENCE BOOK



My Mexican Drug Violence book is to be honest a slow seller - not a surprise since it covers difficult, dark and disturbing themes. I am very pleased however that I get very positive reviews.

I was particularly happy with [the long piece](#) the brilliant Mexican political scientist Karina Garcia Reyes wrote. She herself made an amazing study on Mexican narcos. Other reviews and TV interviews appeared in Mexican, Portuguese and English media.

If you want a review copy, feel free to contact me.



<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/binaries/content/assets/customsites/perspectives-on-terrorism/2021/issue-2/kitzen.pdf>



<https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/mundo/carteles-se-parecen-cada-vez-mas-al-estado-islamico>

VISITING LOS VIAGRAS IN MEXICO



For my crystal meth research, I went to the state of Michoacán, which has been ‘meth central’ for nearly two decades. I had intensive interviews with addicts in a clinic in the state capital Morelia and with inmates at the local prison. I also went deep in *La Tierra Caliente* and visited the Los Viagras cartel, an informal armed group that prefers to be called a self-defense militia. The article was published in Holland and Belgium, as well as in *The Independent* in the USA. In a revised version, the article will be part of a chapter in my crystal meth book.



<https://teunvoeten.com/pdf/crystal-meth-the-independent.pdf>

NARCOSTATE HOLLAND AND THE TRAGIC MURDER OF REPORTER PETER R DE VRIES AND THE QUESTION OF LEGALIZATION

In my book on drugs related crime in Antwerp and the link with the Netherlands, I already pointed out how Holland had become a *narcostate lite*. I further explored this thesis in a well read article for *Small Wars Journal*. Some people thought it was exaggerated, but in a very tragic turn of events, Peter R. de Vries, the most prolific crime reporter from the Netherlands was gunned down in July, presumably by the Dutch Mocrumafia. He died a few weeks later. The Netherlands, that had been long in denial on its status as a narcostate, was in shock. In a few interviews by foreign media, I had the chance to explain how my native country had been infiltrated by the Drugs mafia. In an hour long podcast with Dutch historian and journalist Wierd Duk, we discussed these issues and how legalization is not the silver bullet, but will actually pose new challenges.



<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/field-report-netherlands-narcostate-and-emergence-methamphetamine-industry>



<https://www.telegraaf.nl/nieuws/760424903/onbegrijpelijk-dat-drugsgebruik-in-nederland-zo-is-genormaliseerd>



<https://www.stern.de/p/plus/gesellschaft/mordanschlag-auf-peter-de-vries---solche-dinge-passieren-in-einem-narco-staat--30618448.html>

SKID ROW IN LOS ANGELES

As part of my crystal meth research, I went June to the USA. I visited not only upstate Michigan where I spend a few days researching the crystal meth situation in the town of Cadillac, but I went also to the epicenter of the homeless crisis, Skid Row in Downtown Los Angeles. A 50 block area is home to approximately 7000 homeless. Most of the them have mental illness issues, have been in trouble with the law and spend some time behind bars. Nearly all have serious substance abuse issues ... Crystal meth, readily available for 5 USD a hit is readily available and has become the favorite drug of choice. I was able to make [strong photos](#) and remarkable interviews, which will be part of my book project.



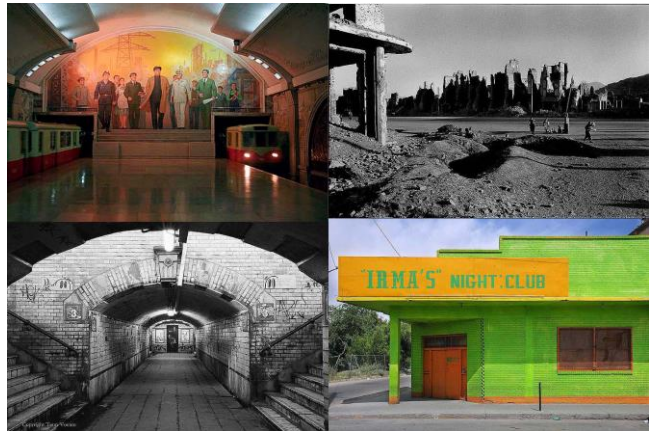
<https://teunvoeten.com/pdf/de-morgen-skid-row.pdf>



<https://teunvoeten.com/pdf/crystal-meth-skid-row-tranlation.pdf>

EXHIBITION WITH MY ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN BREDA, NL

Due to Covid, it was long time ago I had an exhibition. But October 9th, in the town of Breda, I have a exhibition with my architectural photography. Most people know me as a photojournalist, but I still do architectural photography. Even while working in warzones, I have a keen eye on the constructed and often destroyed environment. Place and date: Stima Loods, Tilburgseweg 219, 4817 BL Breda, Netherlands, The opening will be from 1 to 5 pm.



With proceeds from this show, I will finance my ongoing meth project. Hope to see you there! If you can't make it to the show, the complete catalogue is online:



<https://teunvoeten.com/catalogue-teunvoeten-stima-online.pdf>

PRINT SALES TO SUPPORT MY SOCIAL RESEARCH AND PHOTOJOURNALISM

My independence and my freedom are my greatest assets. I have the luxury to focus and investigate themes and issues that I think are relevant. Luckily, I am not held back by bureaucratic institutions. I like to move fast. One of the pillars of my independence is a steady crowd of collectors who buy my work on a regular base. If you are one of them: Thank you so very much. Without you, my work would be impossible. If you are not one of them: No worries, it is never too late to become one ...



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