

## Marieken Verheyen

### *Elsewhere*

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Upon initial inspection, *Elsewhere* is an elusive volume, containing relatively few photographs and numerous accounts of migrants from Africa, South Asia and Eastern Europe, recounting the reasons for leaving their native countries and their experiences of living as immigrants within the Netherlands. These absorbing and at times moving tales contextualise Marieken Verheyen's images that mainly consist of views looking out from colder, darkened rooms, illustrating the sense of isolation that pervades from the migrants' narratives.

*Elsewhere* anthologises a commission from the Netherlands Government Building Agency to make a work for the offices of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) in Zwolle. Verheyen chose to install transparencies within the windows of the building – views from the migrants' landscapes to adorn the offices of the employees of the IND, and views from Dutch living rooms on the windows in the asylum seekers' waiting room. In addition to this commission, parts of the project have been incorporated into other site-specific works around Amsterdam, which have included the stories of the migrants that are collected here.

Frustratingly, the monochrome installation shots do not provide an adequate record of Verheyen's cibachrome transparencies and how they might have affected the spaces in which they were installed. However, the book manages to communicate a valuable body of public work that ambitiously sought to promote an empathetic perception of migration.