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the power of passion and imagination

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# Limitless life

Jan van der Greef

Selected key images related to the stories.



## Chapter 1: The Tao of imagination, the virus infection in 1956

The image with my dear cuddly 'Ted' is taken by mother after several months in hospital, when my smile returned.



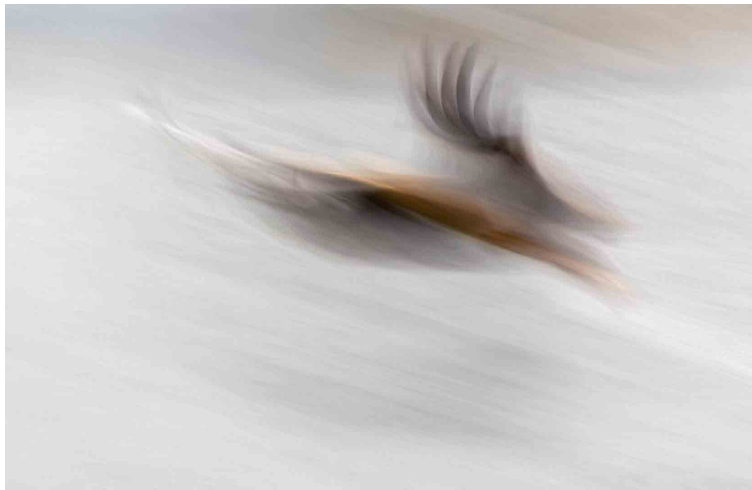
## Chapter 2: Mystical merriment, golden oriole in flight

Suddenly a golden oriole appeared out of nowhere, while I was visiting a hide for observing golden eagles in Spain. The insert shows one of three stamps, from my collection that I regularly gazed at in my youth, hoping to see this beautiful bird one day.



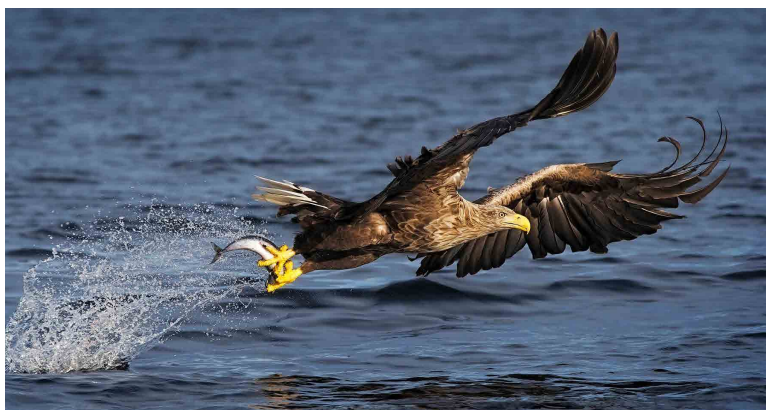
### Chapter 3: Flow follows focus, the catch

A moment of flow occurred, when an osprey flew over me after catching a fish in front of me. I could capture the fish held firmly by the sharp claws, that looked as if they had been made of sandpaper.



### Chapter 3: Ghost of the fjord

A swift skimming white-tailed eagle catching prey. An experience of being fully connected with the world around me, a sense of movement and silence.



### Chapter 3: White-tailed eagle in action

This is a sharp equivalent of the 'ghost of the fjord' image.



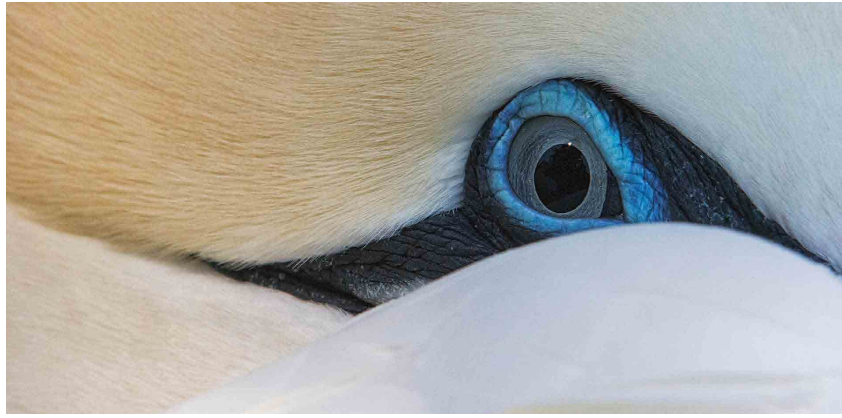
### Chapter 3: The Transformation

The image of a herring gull taking-off from the water named 'The Transformation', reflects the transformative process that was induced in myself. By choosing slower shutter speeds I was able to create impressionistic images that exceeded all my expectations. It became my first awarded image in the prestigious 'Wildlife Photography of the Year' contest (2011).

Two short audiovisual presentations about the herring gulls of that period can be found on Vimeo:

Emotions of the soul: <https://vimeo.com/9473042>

Nocturne: <https://vimeo.com/60933809>



#### Chapter 4: Less is more, close encounter

I could spend 5 whole days with the colony of gannets on Bonaventura island and had many close encounters as illustrated by this image when eye-eye contact was made.



#### Chapter 4: The gathering

This was a gannet galore experience of quiet interaction, just before an intense disagreement was born. I made an audiovisual of the visit to Bonaventura island :

Gannets Galore: <https://vimeo.com/69094531>



#### Chapter 4: Dance of freedom

A lonely gannet showed up and came suddenly down diving with an elegant twist. A dance of freedom, a symbol of the freedom you experience when you let go of obstructive thoughts in acceptance of what is and all that life has to offer right here and now.





#### Chapter 5: Being heard and being seen, foggy backlight

A proud male great bustard inspecting the display area in the early morning, when the fog is slowly clearing and backlight emphasizes its beautiful tail.



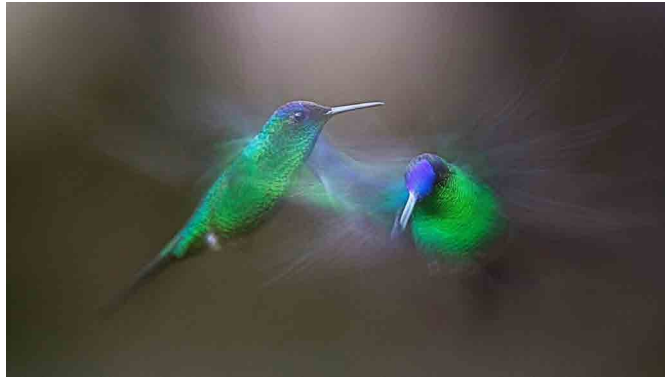
#### Chapter 5: Happy jump

A little bustard in display. Here he makes a very joyful 'happy jump' in the midst of a poppy field.



#### Chapter 5: Legendary lynx

The legendary lynx evokes a mystical sense in me. Its ear plumes and prominent whiskers emphasize this feeling. In the image the shyness and strength of camouflage colours is prominent.



## Chapter 6: The ultimate freedom, superfast

Within a shutter speed of 0.3 seconds a violet nymph can quickly change its position, as can be seen on the resulting image. Only a blue-purple dash shows the super-fast movement, as well as the various wing beats.



## Chapter 6: Brazilian ruby, marvelous spatuletail and rufous-crested coquette

Hummingbirds are the only birds that can also fly backwards. That makes them par excellence the representatives of the ultimate freedom! This feeling fills me while watching them, a gateway to the infinite experience of freedom.



## Chapter 6: Touché

The sword-billed hummingbird is settling a disagreement with a collared Inca hummingbird. The image 'Touché' was awarded in 2014 in the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year contest.



## Chapter 6: The Vision

The image of the bearded mountaineer hummingbird foraging behind a torch lily, making a perfect cross, was made in the sacred valley of the Incas in Peru. The Vision was the winner in the 'Black and White' category in 2018 in the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year contest.



## Chapter 7: Feminine mysteries of evolution, black grouse display

A male black grouse taking off from the lek in beautiful early morning light.



## Chapter 7: The final choice

After male interactions based on power, dominance and dancing, the essence of the display is revealed. A female evaluates a multitude of aspects related to the male performances and makes a choice.





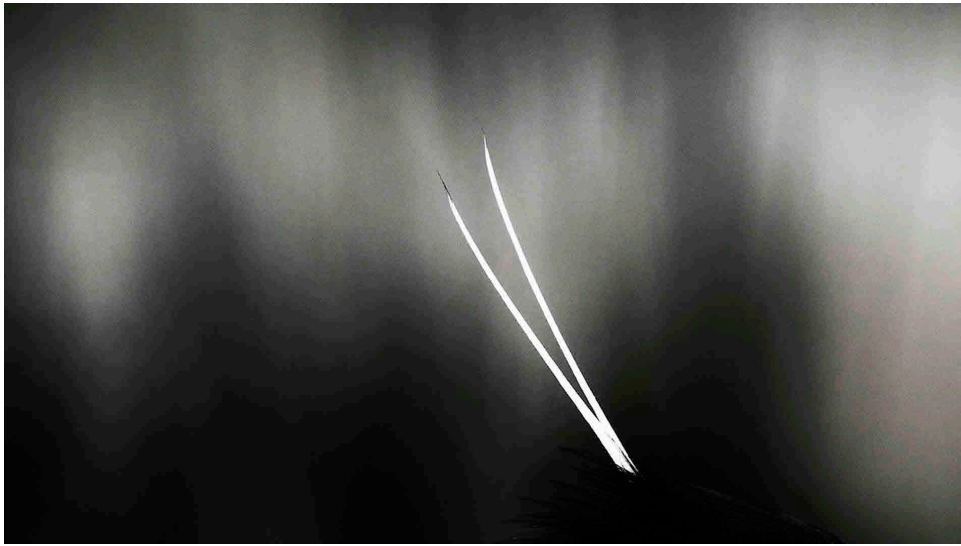
Chapter 8: On tall legs, harpoon action

I observed grey herons from a water level perspective and could experience the harpoon-like action just in front of me.



Chapter 8: Squacco and black-crowned night heron

The squacco heron and black-crowned night heron could be observed from the hides with special glass, making me invisible to the outside world. I became intrigued by the exquisite long neck feathers of the squacco heron.



#### Chapter 8: Two needles

The erect posture of the head plumes of a black-crowned night heron were formed like two needles when a hooded crow intended to land nearby.



#### Chapter 8: Towards the unseen

Great egret, captured in flight along the river.



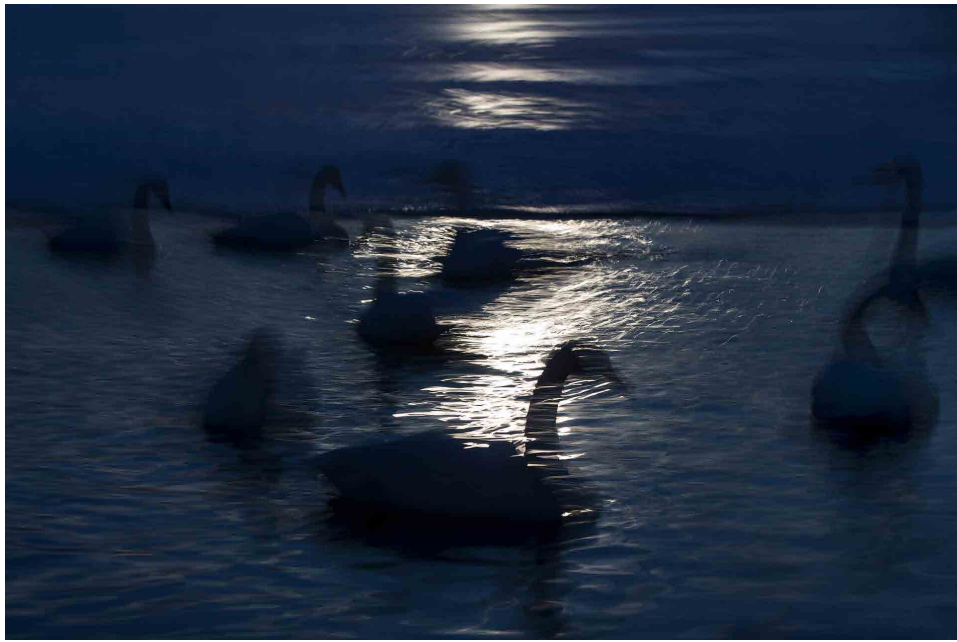
Chapter 9: Dynamic stillness, elegance

Elegant red-crowned crane in the snow.



Chapter 9: Solitude

Simplicity, silence and stillness are reflected in this whooper swan in the mist.



#### Chapter 9: Swan lake

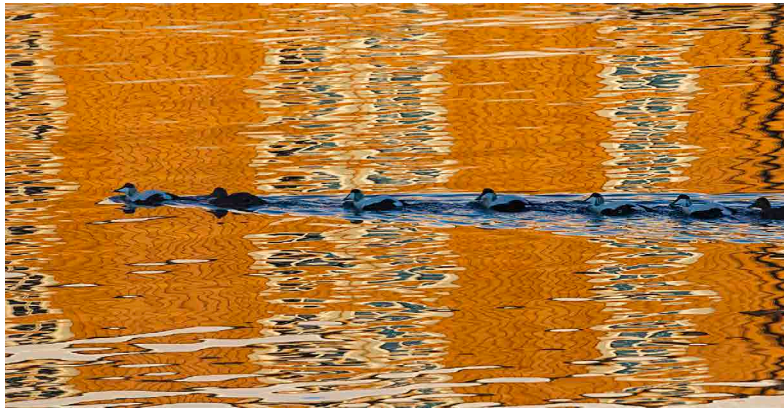
Whooper swans wintering in Hokkaido in a beautiful setting in back light.



#### Chapter 9: Dynamic stillness

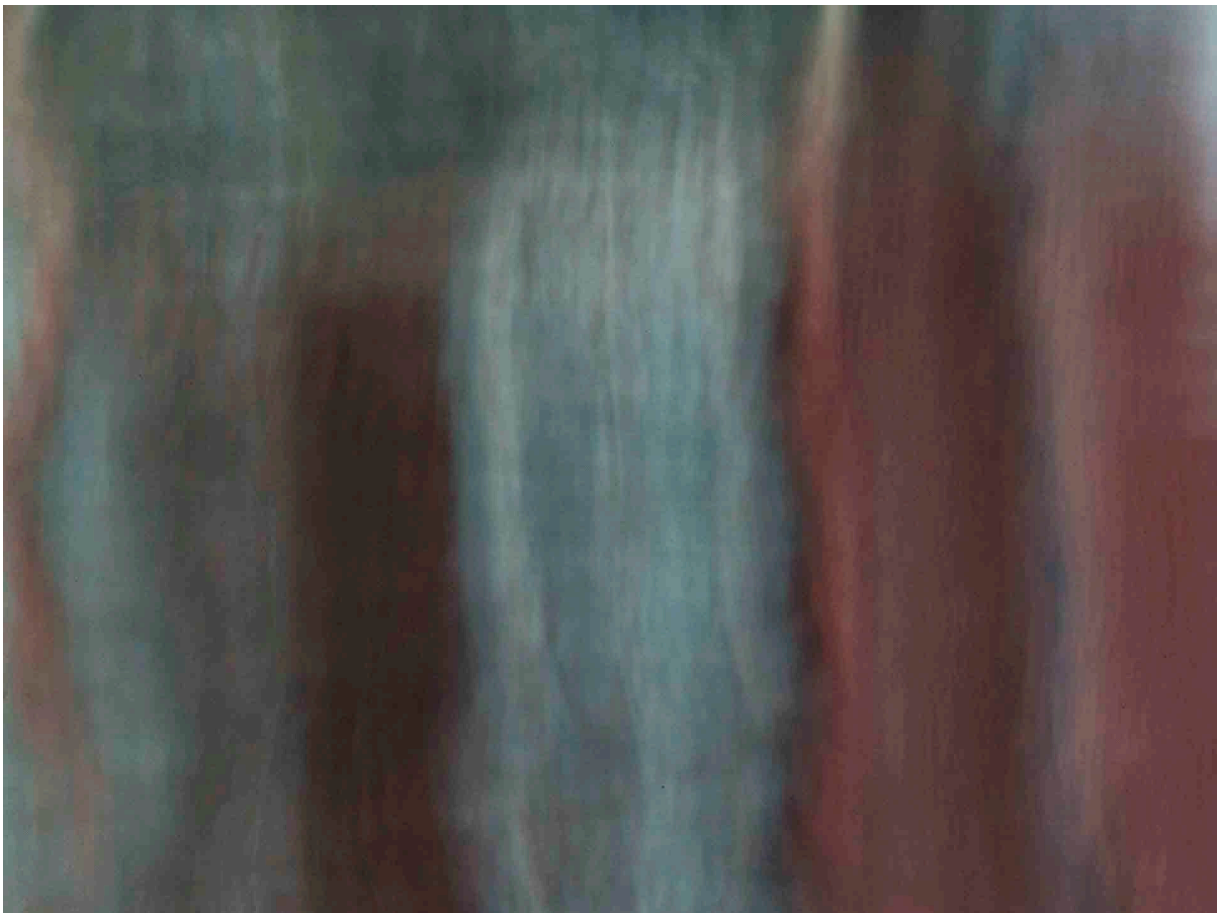
The splendor of a sea eagle interaction over the Pacific Ocean feels as elegance, stillness and dynamics all integrated.





Chapter 10: Downy Abstraction, harbor reflections

When a boat sailed through a harbor in the Lofoten, dynamic reflections created attractive conditions to photograph these common eiders.



Chapter 10: Serenity of the Soul

This abstract image expresses a feeling of tenderness and compassion.



Chapter 11: Essence of life, flying secretary bird

A wonderful moment when a secretary bird flew up and passed me in South Africa.



Chapter 11: Knysna turaco

A Knysna turaco flying out of the tree in backlight, displaying its beautiful reddish wing feathers.



Chapter 11: African paradise flycatcher

Some wind was blowing the graceful tail upwards, when the male African paradise flycatcher was feeding an insect.



## Chapter 11: Mammals of Africa, King of the Kalahari

I experimented capturing the unique energy of animals, trying to let the details of the surroundings disappear in a harmonious composition of colours; a search for emotion and essence in its purest form.



## Chapter 11: Long Legs

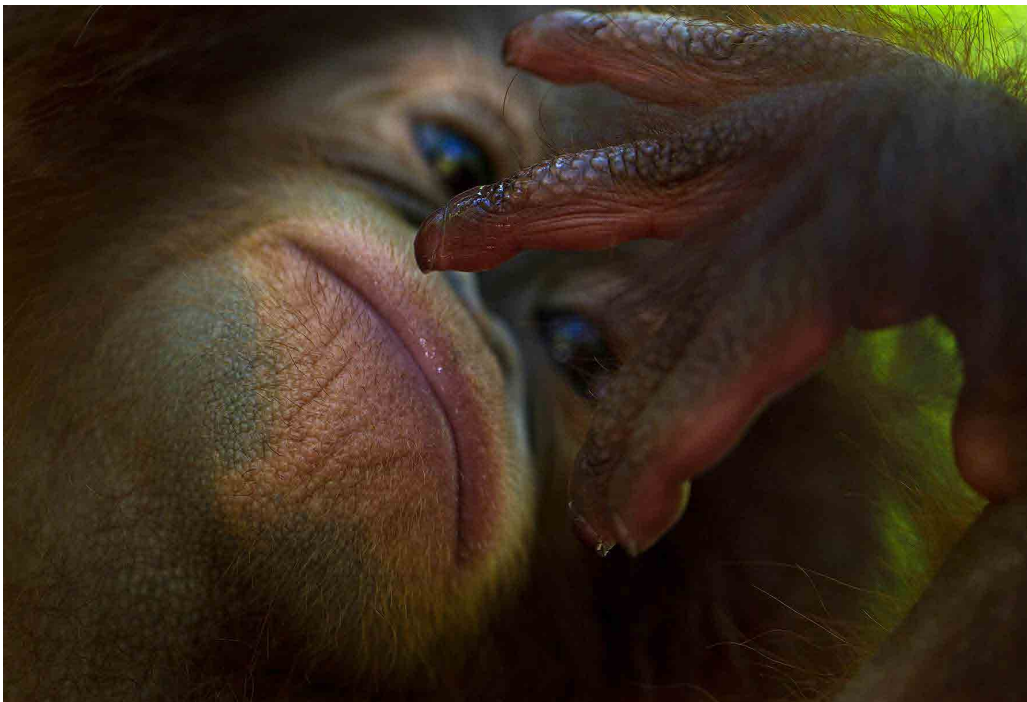
Thanks to their towering legs and long necks giraffes are the tallest mammals in the world and surprisingly they can run up to 56 kilometers per hour. Interestingly they move both right legs forward and then both the left legs while walking, when they gallop, this changes and they simultaneously swing the hind legs ahead of and outside the front legs





Chapter 11: Into the future

A cheetah walks away into the dry Kalahari desert.



Chapter 12: There is enough and even more, orangutan

I met a recently rescued orphan Orangutan and saw him looking and playing with his own fingers.





## Chapter 12: Great hornbill

A male Great hornbill flying to the nest with a berry in its bill to present it to the female.



## Chapter 12: Red jungle fowl

This red jungle fowl (ancestor of our 'chicken') showed up in perfect light in the ideal posture, when he raised his head after stretching himself and picking up something from the forest floor.



## Chapter 12: Tigers

Exciting tiger encounter in Ranthambore in Rajasthan.





Chapter 13: Absence of time, The hoatzin

The desire to see a hoatzin lured me into the jungle of the Amazon in Ecuador



Chapter 13: Cassowary

When standing eye to eye with this prehistoric bird, present, past and future coincide and a feeling of the essence of life emerges.



#### Chapter 14: Equal and unequal, skimmer

Black skimmers have an excellent but very characteristic fishing technique.



#### Chapter 14: Helmeted manakin

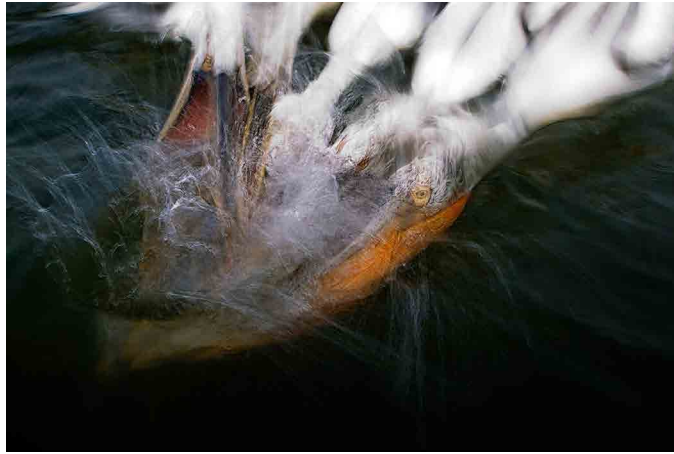
To my utter amazement I made a nice shot of the helmeted manakin, with its mostly glossy black body, bright red crest, neck and back.



#### Chapter 15: Boundaries, desire and freedom, Dalmatian pelicans

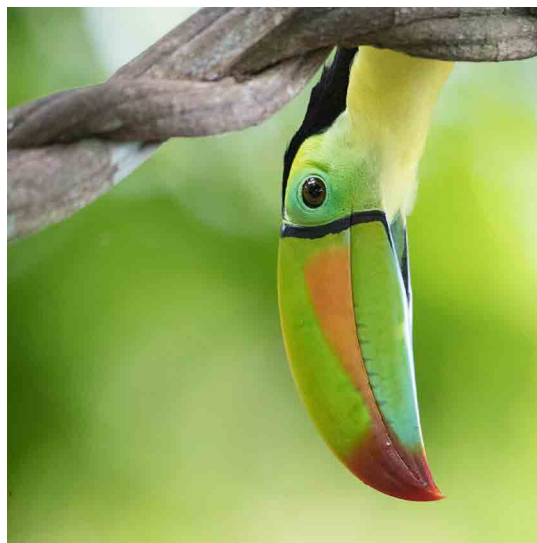
In a wild storm, fighting pelicans were approaching me and a wave of water washed my camera and I tried to pull out quickly from between all the big, closing jaws.





## Chapter 15: Dalmatian pelicans

One of the many fantastic photographic moments I experienced with the Dalmatian pelicans.



## Chapter 16: The purity of that which is, Keel-billed Toucan

The Keel-billed Toucan has an incredible bill, that serves for heat regulation, by increasing or decreasing the blood flow through the bill.



## Chapter 16: Monarch butterfly

When I was amidst the Monarch migration in Mexico, I merged with all those wonderful butterfly movements and an intense feeling of freedom filled me.



### Chapter 17: Connected through freedom, Resplendent quetzal

The mystical resplendent quetzal beautifully sitting in the midst of the jungle in Costa Rica.



### Chapter 18: Feathers of seduction, Raggiana birds-of-paradise

My dream came true, when I could see the Raggiana bird of paradise display in the rainforests of Papua New Guinea.



### Chapter 18: Huli wigmens

How culture and birds-of-paradise are intertwined can be seen from the tradition and rituals of in this case the Huli Wigmen, when you study the beautiful wigs.





Love is based on trust, and trust on  
acceptance  
to love is to accept

Julian



My recent book 'Beyond Oneness, bridging the seen and the unseen' is based on experiences as described in 'Limitless Life, the power of passion and imagination' .

Beyond Oneness, an art book, reflects my quest for the mystical, sensing the otherworldliness via my fine art photography. A blend of enchantingly beautiful figurative, impressionistic and abstract images, embedded in a flow of themes, provide a glimpse into 'timeless and spaceless', the indescribable. It is a dream into eternity resonating with deep feelings of purpose and existence. The interconnectedness of all there is and ever will be is sensed through visual poetry in this unrivaled book.

"This is photography written in capital letters, an artistic transition from the ordinary to the otherworldliness"

Jury of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2018 describing his winning image The Vision.

BEYOND ONENESS is a fine art masterpiece of Jan van der Greef, a high end coffee table book produced on the finest paper and the best materials available.

Fine art cloth covered hardback coffee table book with image inlay, using the best paper and materials available.

Language: English and an insert with translations in Dutch / German / Spanish / Italian / French / Swedish / Chinese  
Format: 300x320 mm \_ Content: 148 pages including 68 images

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