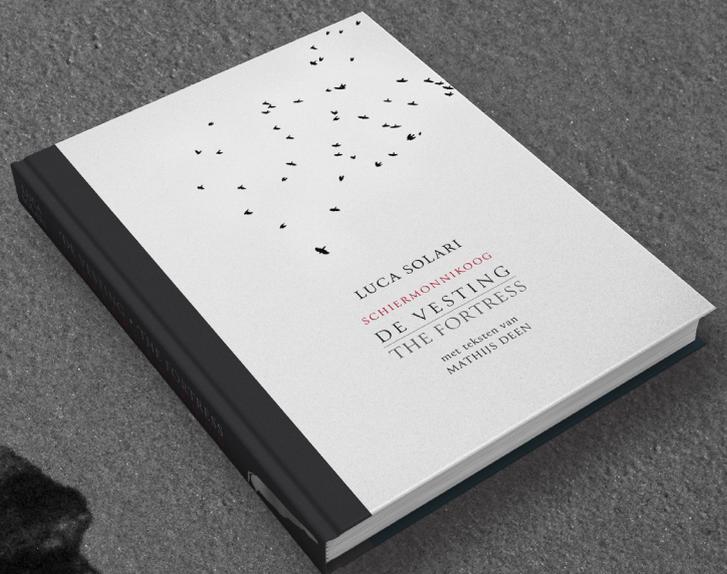


LUCA SOLARI

SCHIERMONNIKOOG  
DE VESTING  
THE FORTRESS

with texts by Mathijs Deen



*[...] The Peruvian/Italian photographer, Luca Solari, first came to Schiermonnikoog in 2009. Every winter after that, he came back, and with a modest persistence he won the trust of the islanders. The result of his visits is a majestic photobook.*

*(Leeuwarder Courant, 24 April 2018)*

# DE VESTING

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# THE FORTRESS

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*« This book tells part of my story, roaming on the island of Schiermonnikoog, most of the time on wintry days. I am often alone, with the sky, the wind, the sea, these giants of nature. Winter is not a blessing, but yes, it is. Its light and slow pace, digging deep down inside, allow me to start building. Men and women set foot on this island to build a fortress, their own, and that of tomorrow. »*

Over the last 9 years photographer Luca Solari has been busy working on a book and exhibition about the Dutch island Schiermonnikoog, part of the Wadden archipelago situated at the extreme northern tip of the Netherlands.

Dutch award winning author Mathijs Deen, an expert of the Wadden region, wrote the literary texts that accompany Solari's photographs. Deen previously published the best seller 'The Wadden, a History' ('De Wadden, een Geschiedenis') that was nominated for the Jan Wolkers Award 2014 (annually honouring the best book on natural history).

Eric Bos, acclaimed art critic of the Dagblad van het Noorden, wrote the Preface.

- ✿ The Fortress' (size A4, 368 pages) has been edited in English, Dutch and French, was published independently and printed at EBS (Editoriale Bertolazzi Stei) in Verona (Italy), printer of photographic greats such as Brassai, Sebastião Salgado, Helmut Newton etc.
- ✿ The 7 themes of the book are : 1. Nature 2. Traces 3. Triptych 4. People 5. Village 6. History 7. Billiard.
- ✿ The Fortress was launched in April 2018 in the northern big cities of the Netherlands and on Schiermonnikoog in presence of the island's mayor, Mrs Ineke van Gent, to whom the first copy was given.
- ✿ The photography exhibition accompanying the book's release was inaugurated in Leeuwarden on 17 April as part of the official programme of the Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018-European Capital of Culture event. Luca Solari's work has been selected to represent the island of Schiermonnikoog.
- ✿ This book has been partly made possible through the kind support of the City of Rolle (Switzerland) and Charlotte Fischer, the Hotel van der Werff (Schiermonnikoog).

# The Wadden Sea

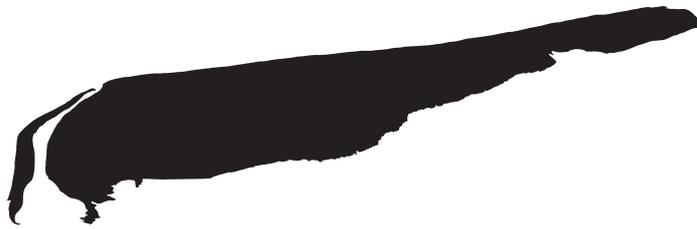
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The Wadden Sea is the largest unbroken system of intertidal sand and mud flats in the world. The site covers the Dutch Wadden Sea Conservation Area, the German Wadden Sea National Parks of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, and most of the Danish Wadden Sea maritime conservation area. It is a large, temperate, relatively flat coastal wetland environment, formed by the intricate interactions between physical and biological factors that have given rise to a multitude of transitional habitats with tidal channels, sandy shoals, sea-grass meadows, mussel beds, sandbars, mudflats, salt marshes, estuaries, beaches and dunes. The area is home to numerous plant and animal species, including marine mammals such as the harbour seal, grey seal and harbour porpoise. Wadden Sea is one of the last remaining large-scale, intertidal ecosystems where natural processes continue to function largely undisturbed.

Source : UNESCO

# Schiermonnikoog



17 km long, 4 km wide, 987 inhabitants, 10 billard clubs

Schiermonnikoog is the smallest inhabited island, 16 km long and 4 km wide. The 987 local residents fiercely protect its natural heritage. Visitors are not allowed to bring their cars onto the island.

Schiermonnikoog is a protected breeding and hibernation ground for up to 12 million birds annually.

The island is inextricably linked to the world of the sea and has a rich maritime history. For centuries Dutch skippers and captains received their training from the island's Maritime Academy.

# Luca Solari

Photographer and musician Luca Solari (1955) grew up in the U.S., Switzerland, Hungary and Peru in an Italian-Peruvian family. He was introduced to photography at a late age after a 30-year musical career. It was thanks to his Dutch wife that he discovered the Wadden archipelago in 2009. He is captivated by the beauty and authenticity of Schiermonnikoog. He regularly returns there, most often in winter, as he loves the light and calmness at this time of year. It is also a chance to meet the locals, who, over the years, have taken him into their hearts and homes. Solari has exhibited his work in galleries in Switzerland, France and the Netherlands. “The Fortress” is his first book.

[www.lucasolari.ch](http://www.lucasolari.ch)

# Mathijs Deen

Mathijs Deen (1962) writes novels, stories, cultural-historical books and produces documentaries for radio. He was nominated for the AKO Literature Award (2011) for his book « Brutus heeft Honger » (« Brutus is Hungry ») and in 2014 for the Jan Wolkers Award for the best seller « De Wadden, een Geschiedenis » (The Wadden Sea, a History). Deen was the first author who delivered a unifying history covering the cultural, geological and historical story of the Wadden archipelago as a whole. The book also inspired a radio documentary broadcasted on Dutch national radio.

[www.mdeen.eu](http://www.mdeen.eu)

# Eric Bos

Eric Bos (1942) is a visual artist, writer, poet, art critic and an art organizer. He is an authority in the north of the Netherlands due to the column ‘Visualia’ that he writes since 1989 for the Dagblad van het Noorden (NortDaily of the North) and ‘Atelier’ Magazine. Bos also writes for the Kunstkrant (The Art Paper). He published three novels as well as several art books and was a teacher of Formalism with the Groningen-based Classical Academy. Bos is also active as a lecturer of art and accompanies cultural trips in the Netherlands and abroad.

[www.visualia.nl](http://www.visualia.nl)





## On sale

### SWITZERLAND

FNAC, Geneva

Librairie-Galerie Bernard Letu, Geneva

Librairie de l'Île, Geneva

Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne

Payot, Lausanne

Librairie du château, Rolle

### NETHERLANDS

Bookstore Kolstein, Schiermonnikoog

Bookstore Van der Velde, Assen

Bookstore Van der Velde, Groningen

Bookstore Van der Velde, Leeuwarden