



NEELTJE DE VRIES

HER



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mokumo



A WOMAN WHO IS FREE AND UNFETTERED, COMPLETELY BALANCED WITHIN HERSELF

One essential aspect stands out: Neeltje's women aren't trying to please the viewer. These women are, and they are sufficient unto themselves. With the wilderness by their side, as naked as they are invulnerable, you can't ignore them. Most provocative of all: they don't want anything from you, regardless of what you want.

This is a bold, if not audacious, statement within the masculine context in which they appear. Few things inspire more fear and consequently encounter more resistance than a woman who is free and unfettered, completely balanced within herself, barely aware of her beauty and sensuality, and who even turns her back on the world as happens literally in the intimate yet often anonymous images, whereas the world yearns to connect and be seen (and hence acknowledged) by her, if not to actually capture, control and dominate her. Impossible; delicate, almost ethereal, as they look, the women in Neeltje's work are equally untamed and untamable.

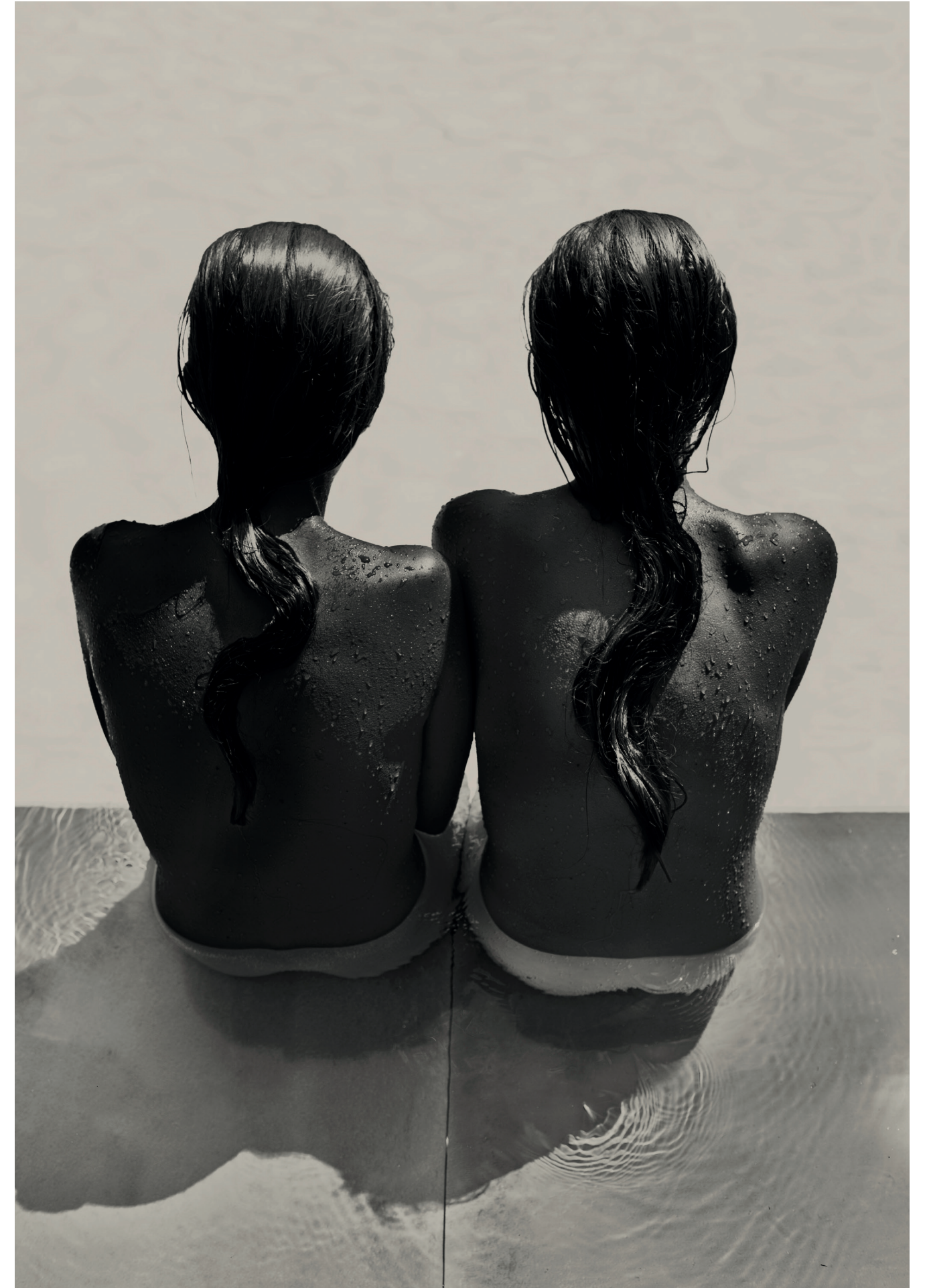
That wildness is reflected in the way pristine nature such as the sea, rocks or wild horses become part - more than props or scenery! - of the whole. In their connection with nature resonates not only the subtle but essential association with purity and innocence but also the primal sense, nature as a primordial force to which women are inextricably linked. Connectedness is therefore another essential theme, particularly that between women.

Between mothers and daughters, between sisters, friends or any women for that matter, even to the point of symbiosis. While one woman on her own is powerful, together, women are invincible.





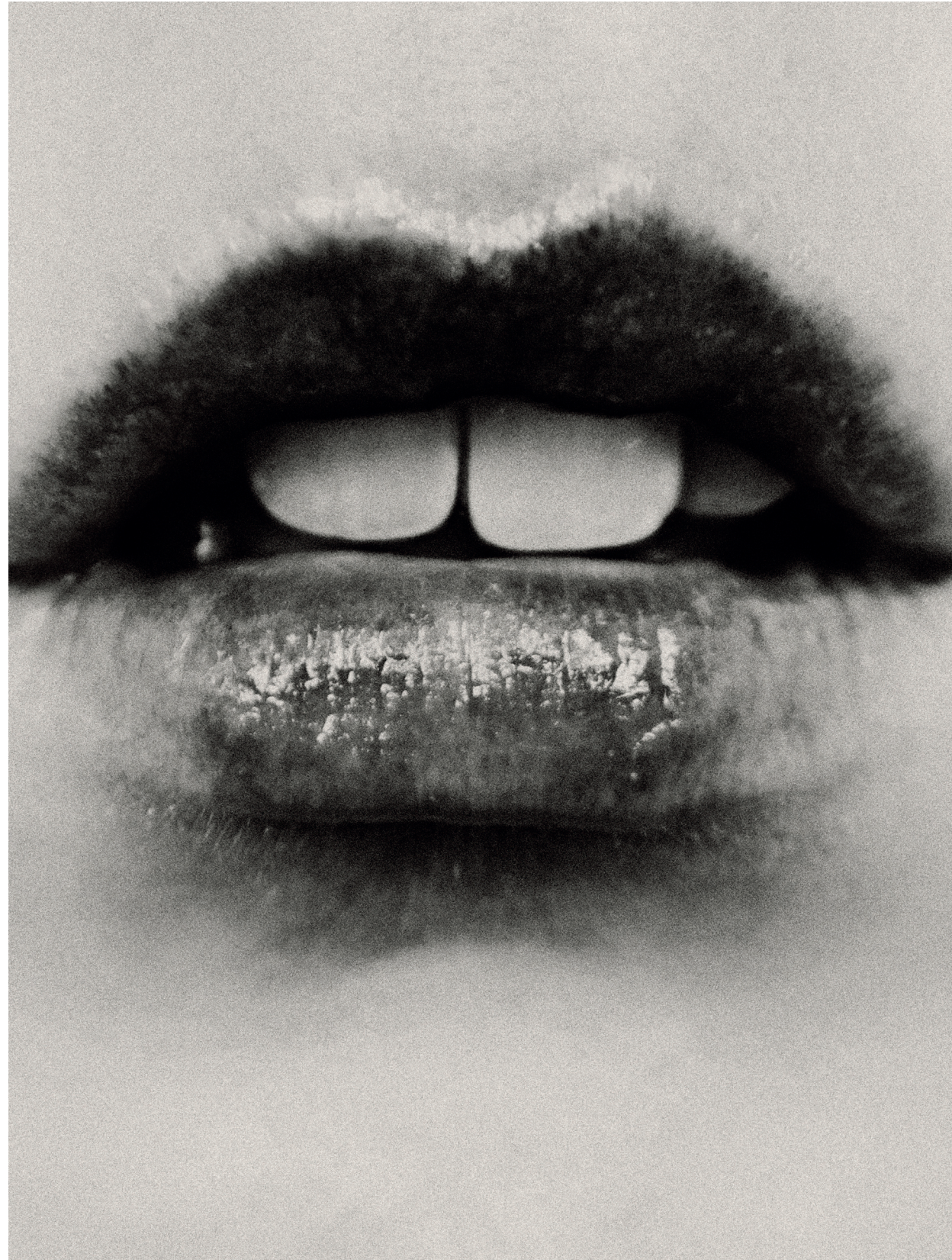






"I TAKE
MOST
PICTURES
WHEN I'M
NOT
PHOTOGRAPHING.
IT'S IN THE
SUBCONSCIOUS."





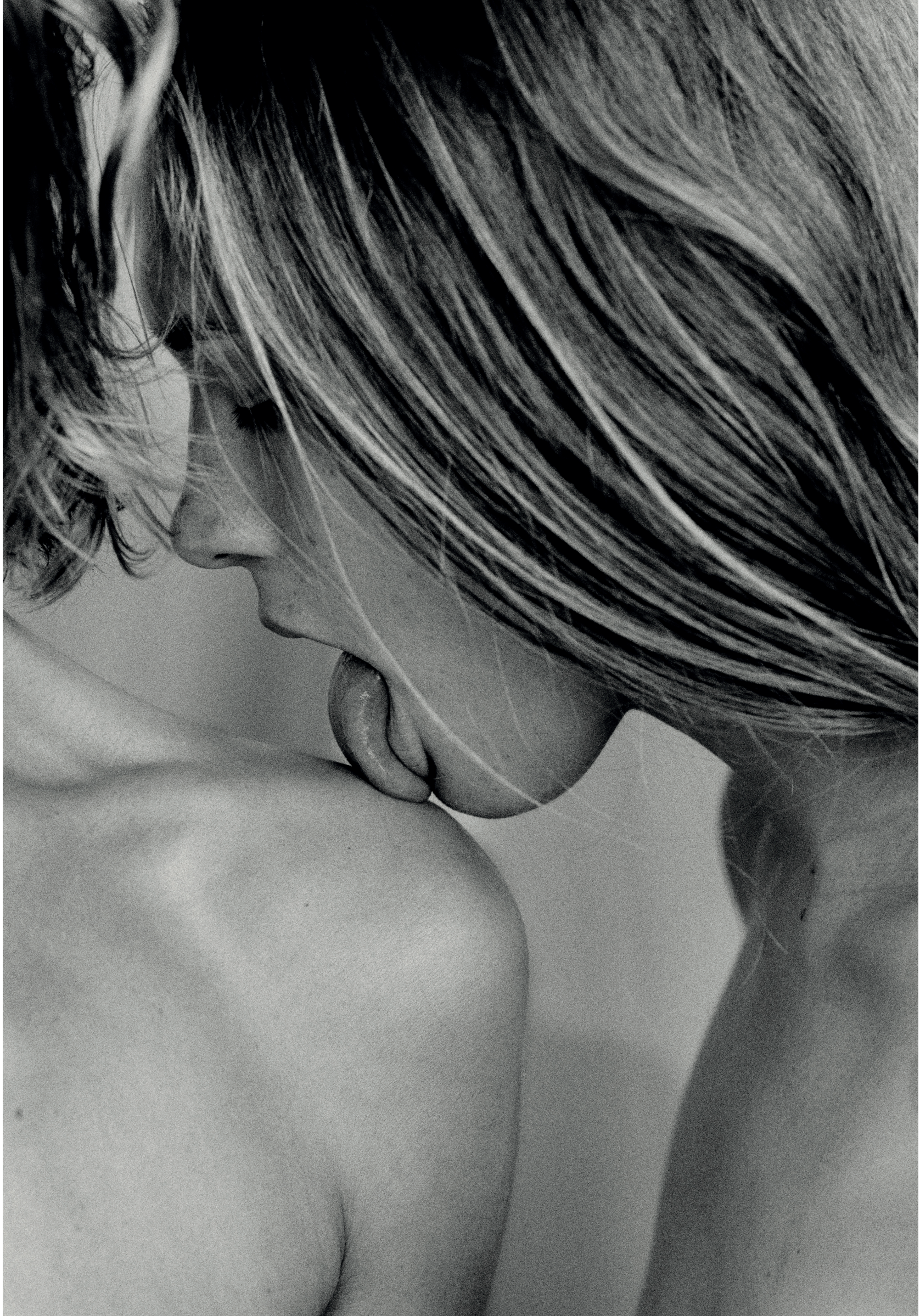




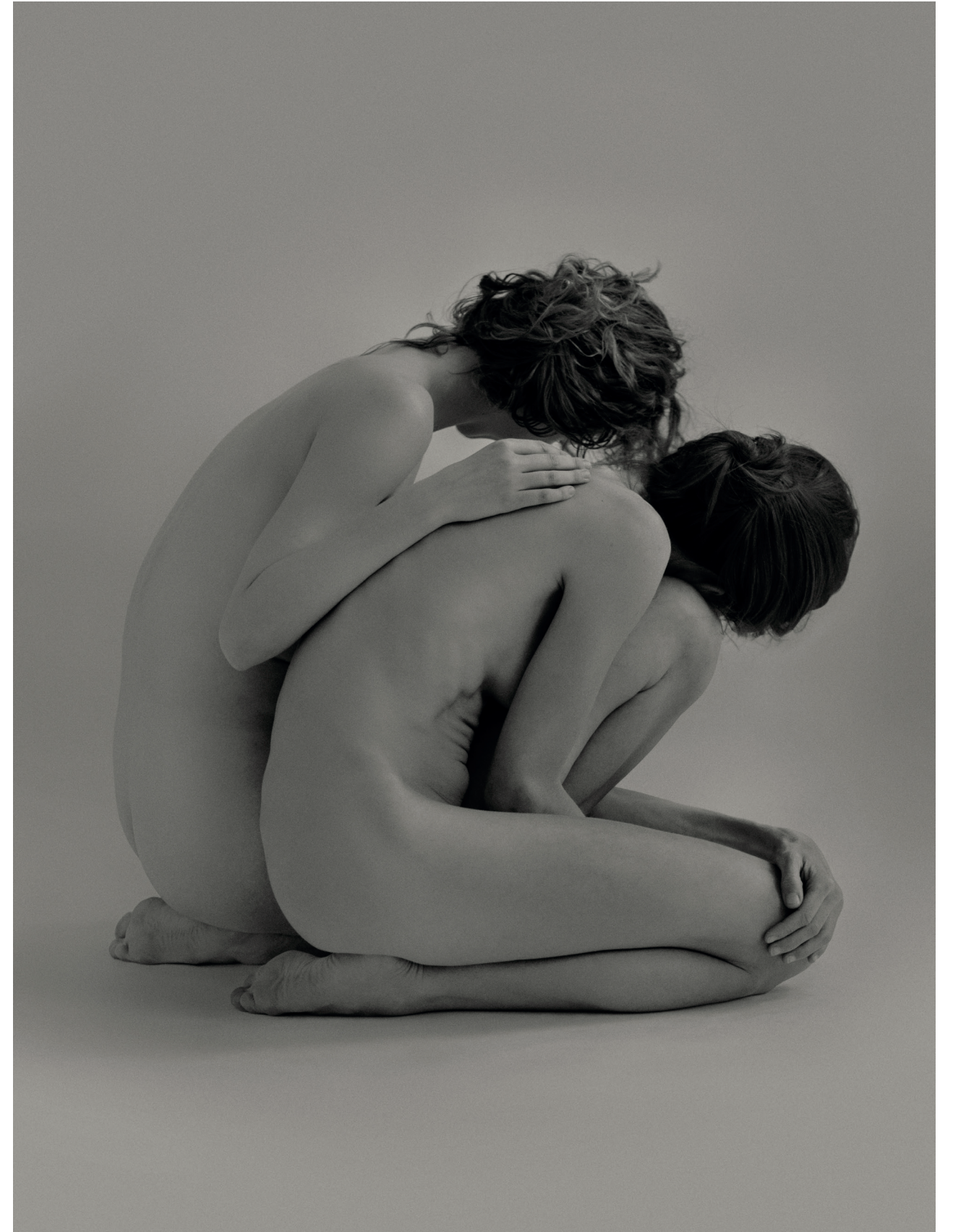




"I AM MY OWN
BIGGEST
CRITIC.
WHEN I
EXPERIENCE
IMBALANCE
IN MY
IMAGE,
I SEEM TO
BECOME
NEUROTIC"





















ABOUT NEELTJE DE VRIES (1976)

Amsterdam based photographer Neeltje de Vries crafts timeless narratives of women from the present, past and future, like film stills, where nudity is a functional artistic choice that accentuates not only purity and a connection with nature but also literally liberates. Neeltje's women aren't trying to please the viewer. These women are, and they are sufficient unto themselves. They don't want anything from you, regardless of what you want, are equally untamed and untamable.

Neeltje not only breaks free from the traditional way women are looked at, she also demonstrates that women are so much more than what they've been reduced to by the dominant male gaze and centuries-old stereotyping in a patriarchal society. Above all, she offers her unique perspective on what it means to be a woman, on what it means to break free from expectations, prejudices, roles, and patterns. Characteristic are the geometric figures and cropping, stemming from her past as a graphic designer. Searching for the right balance, she plays with lines, shapes and frames, often incorporating the models.

