

Fig.113 Head-shot I have taken of a Dutch woman during a carnival. In western countries people are more concerned with their privacy and festivities seems to be the only time in which they are keened to be photographed. Anyway in these occasions their identity is more or less camouflaged with a suite.

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In the course of the project I have noticed an increasing unwillingness to be photographed particularly by the western people. All the public debates on on privacy certainly influenced this unwillingness. It is interesting however to see how Asians are generally more willing to be portrayed but people of other cultures are simply against it. Beside the cultural factor there can be more personal reasons for people not wanting to be photographed. Some for instance may be hiding something and don't want to expose themselves. They might be out with their lover or might have issues with the law. Generally however I try to be respectful of other people decisions and the photograph is taken at the time of departure after investing quite some time in getting to know each other. After explaining people my project, they can be very honoured to be part of it especially. For example I am very willing to show them my project. Some of them may go as far as making it up the mountains to see the ark I have created to deposit all of my works. I take my time to explain them and answer all of their questions and only at the end I ask them if the y wish to be part of it. Since I do not earn a penny from my project and for showing it to them I find a fair exchange. As I no longer go to people, they come to me in my ark.