2025

Don’t Stop Dreaming

21 photographs, archival pigment prints
and a video with narration, 1:30
Joshua Tree & Palm Springs

Cover: *Desert Reverie*

Joshua Tree & Palm Springs, 2025

SERIES	*Don't Stop Dreaming*
YEAR	2025
WORKS	21 photographs
MEDIUM	Archival pigment prints, limited editions
FILM	Video with narration, 1:30
PLACE	Joshua Tree & Palm Springs, California

The body as resonance in the desert landscapes of Joshua Tree and Palm Springs.

Set against the stark, elemental landscapes of Joshua Tree and Palm Springs, *Don't Stop Dreaming* explores the body not as subject, but as resonance. This new body of work blends self-portraiture with the desert's monumental stillness — where rock, skin, light, and silence meet in an introspective terrain.

What began as a private confrontation evolved into a visual dialogue between presence and place. These are not portraits in the traditional sense; they are moments of quiet recognition — where the artist's body becomes a trace, a conduit for atmosphere. Vulnerability, solitude, and the possibility of stillness shape the emotional topography of the work.

Several works in the series, such as *Homage Erwin Olaf (Palm Springs)*, reflect van Schalm's engagement with photographic legacy. Created shortly after Olaf's passing — and in the same desert landscape where Olaf once worked — the image offers a poignant tribute: a Hasselblad placed on desert rock, cinematic and still. It is both an homage and a gesture of quiet continuity.

Don't Stop Dreaming includes a short video piece interweaving moving image and narration — extending the work into time and voice. This series is offered as an invitation — to remain open to what we don't yet fully understand.

Homage Erwin Olaf · Parallel Dreams · Bending Not Broken

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ruben van Schalm (b. 1988) is a Dutch visual artist working between New York, Amsterdam and Tel Aviv. His photographs and films record light, water and weather, and the slow time of the natural world.