

205DPI

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SLEEPY PEOPLE

HENK DOCUMENTS THE SLEEPY PEOPLE FOUND
ON HIS TRAVELS.



I find this strange thing everywhere I go – whether it's Mexico France, Abu Dhabi, Spain, Botswana, Italy or New York - sleeping people are presented to me.

Take the little village Pernes in France for example. I see a man riding on a bicycle. Under a gate he steps down, puts his bike neatly against one wall, spread a rug out and lies on it. In the middle of the day!



For over 10 years I've collected images of sleeping people in public areas. The first photo was in 2003 in New York where a florist in Manhattan was sleeping next to his trading stand. The last picture I made was last year at the airport of Abu Dhabi. Two men were there so intimately intertwined in a way that would only be found if they accidentally fell asleep.

Usually sleeping people are endearing. But sometimes the situation is downright laughable. In the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, dozens of elderly Priests in their confessional were waiting for the faithful to come to confess their sins. In passing, I saw one of them nodding. I only had to wait until he really fell asleep.



And in Marbella, Spain, I noticed at eleven o'clock in the morning two women on a terrace behind a cup of coffee had fallen



asleep. Had they had such a wild night that they are already tired? Or are they just bad company? I can only guess. With others, you can draw your own conclusion why sleep strikes.

A whole day in a hot country easily makes you drowsy. As you will see with the Textil vendor in San Cristobal, Mexico, or the butcher in Beijing, China. And the gardener in Bali in the back of a pickup truck taking a nap, I expect she worked hard that day. If your wife goes to the market in Funchal, Madeira, then you as a man on a red bench finally enjoy a moment of rest.

I catch all these people, or do they catch me? I have no answer to that question. I think they've handed me an opportunity and I decide to take it. It is not my intention to ridicule them or perceive them a fool. I think human behaviour is fascinating. This is just my starting point. I understand that a tired man closes his eyes. But I do not understand how people do that in public. It surprises me; so every time, I document it. But I cannot and should not disturb their peace of mind to ask what why they do this.

So I am left with questions. And that's a good thing. So I remain curious. Every time again as a sleepy man presents himself to me.





