

Where the heart is  
(and where it definitely isn't)



Susannah Stracer  
Where the heart is  
(and where it definitely isn't)  
*Photographs*

2025  
Het Huis  
TERPSICHORE

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## Where the heart is...

There may be something appealing about the traditional concept of the poor artist starving in a gloomy little garrett from a Spitzweg painting, but in modern times artists are more likely to live, work and struggle in a 4 room apartment, ten storeys high, somewhere in the outskirts of the city. A space like that doesn't necessarily have to be any worse of less romantic than the 19th century setting of Puccini's *La Bohème* - less smelly perhaps, equipped with running hot and cold water, central heating and electricity. From the outside it may seem like the ugliest, least suitable place for an artist to live in, but in the end it's still the inside that matters - *where the heart is*.

To Susannah *home* basically comes down to a place where she can work. Home is where her tools are: the photo studio, the sound studio, the painting studio, the study, the library... Even a tiny apartment is able to store all these facilities when arranged with spatial efficiency.

*Where the heart is* isn't an attempt to present a detailed biographical narrative; it simply is a broad spray of photographic insights into a woman's personal and professional life. Susannah's life has some variety to offer in the respect that she's a painter, a writer, a musician and a photographer, but a similar project could just as well have been created around the life of a police officer, a monarch or a bus conductor.

The fact that Susannah is the model as well as the photographer has its own advantages and disadvantages. It's rather hard for a photographer of course to take her subject by surprise when she herself is the subject - but in the end photography doesn't necessarily have to be about a *subject*. All photography is a matter of light and contrast, lines and surfaces. The subject, although significant, is an extra. *Where the Heart Is (and where it definitely isn't)* is the expression of a woman's life, work and aesthetics by means of light and dark

Julia Wagner



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- 1: Pre-exile 8
- 2: Exile 50
- 3: Post-exile 92

# 1: Pre-exile



At the little book room (2016)



The library (2016)



The study (2016)



The study (2016)



The music room (2016)



The music room (2016)



The library (2016)