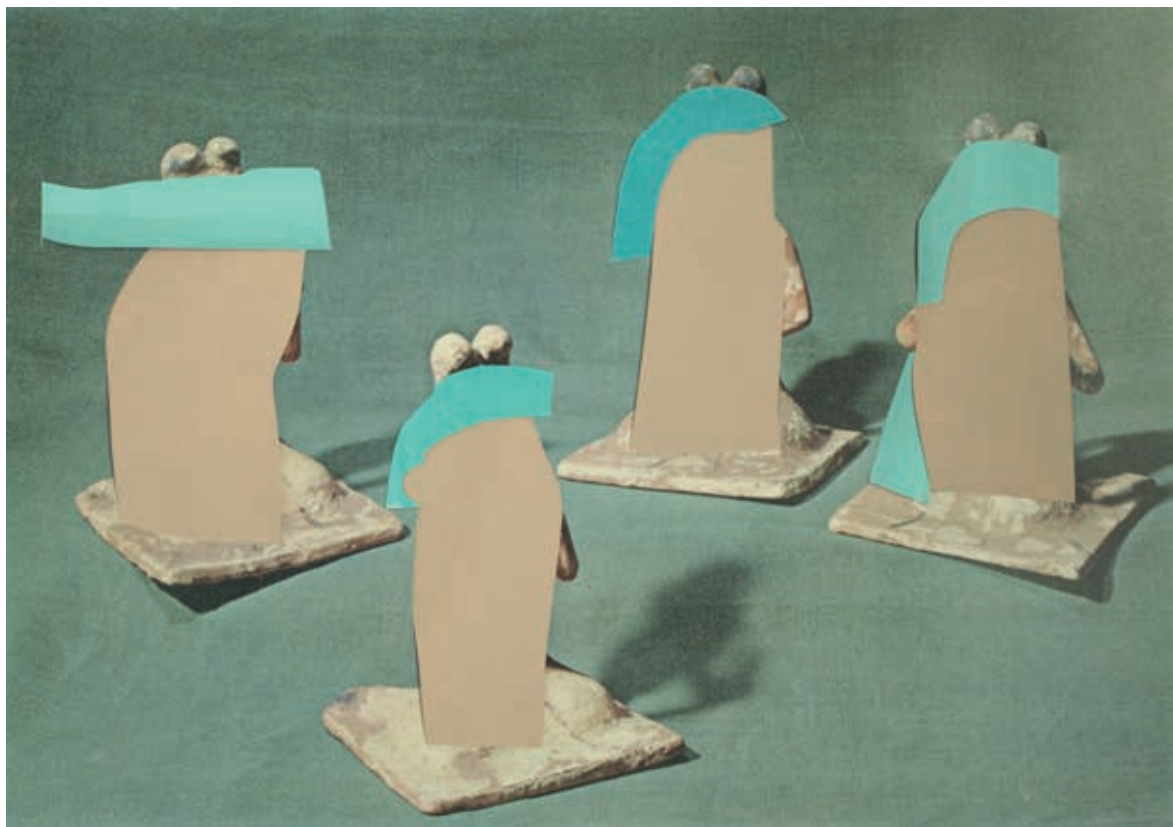




The constructed surrealism of **Ruth van Beek**

Ruth van Beek (b. 1977, The Netherlands) makes physical modifications to images drawn from a growing photographic archive to create surrealistic, layered images that, in spite of their constructed composition, feel both organic and uncanny.

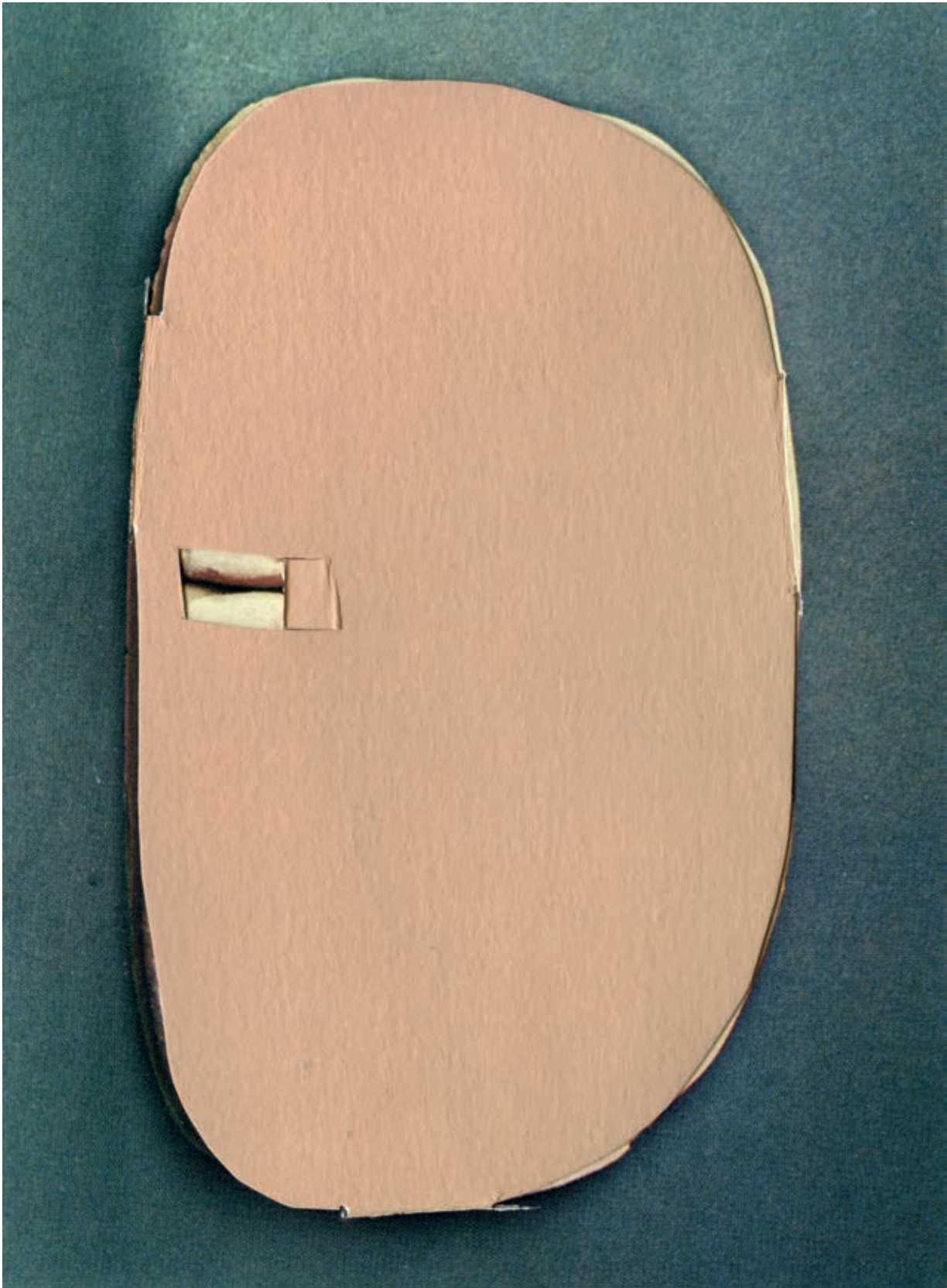
The photographic source material is turned into objects by means of cutting, folding, and adding shapes that are often - but not always - made out of painted cardboard. The visibility of these physical interventions plays a crucial role in the image; it is precisely because of their observable construction methods, the shadows cast by the different elements, the loss of natural dimensions and the addition of painted surfaces, that the new images acquire their alienating, theatrical quality. Full of tension between the familiar photographic image and undefinable fantasies.



LEFT: Ruth van Beek - The Situation Room (Four figures with blue hair), 2016
60 x 80 cm
Collage with archival inkjet and painted paper

RIGHT: Ruth van Beek - Untitled (figure 1), 2017
Collage with archival inkjet print and painted paper







LEFT: Ruth van Beek - Untitled (Mask), 2016
Collage with photo and painted paper

RIGHT: Ruth van Beek - Garden Scene, 2016
Print size: 118 x 137 cm
Collage with archival inkjet and painted paper