











[Jessica Backhaus](#) was born in **Cuxhaven, Germany**, in 1970 and grew up in an artistic family. At the age

of sixteen, she moved to **Paris**, where she later studied photography and visual communications, and where she met **Gisèle Freund** in 1992, who became her mentor. In 1995 her passion for photography drew her to **New York**, where she assisted photographers, pursued her own projects and lived until 2009.

Regarded as one of the most distinguished voices in contemporary photography in Germany today, **Jessica Backhaus** has shown her work in numerous solo and group exhibitions, published different books and is featured in numerous prominent art collections. Presented here is a series of images from her project “**Jesus and the Cherries**”, published in 2005, documenting everyday life in the **Polish** province of **Pomorskie**, where the artists has spent a total of three and a half years portraying the residents of **Netno** town.

She shows people in their apartments, at work, and in the untouched **Polish** landscape. With a sure eye and an unusual colour language, she points out important but easily overlooked details: plastic flowers and crocheted pillowcases, images of saints and lace doilies, and cherries preserved in mason jars. The pictures are neither intrusive nor tactless; she encounters people with dignity and full of admiration for the way of life of **Poland’s** rural population. The intimate character of the photos suggests a special relationship to the subject: we feel the warmth, cordiality, and authenticity with which **Backhaus** was received in **Poland**. **Jessica Backhaus** thus tells a tale of traditional ways of life that may already belong to the past.











Images courtesy of Jessica Backhaus

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