

ROOKY

Appalachian Diaries 2104
Martin Buschmann

Photo series
2022

MASTER

Pigment print, dimensions including frame 100x70cm (12 pcs).

Fallout 76, documentary photography, portrait photography, virtual photography, business trip, photographer's work, gaming is work, behind the scenes, artist at work.

NIGHTMARE

Excerpts from business trip diary, Appalachia 2104.

Day 3 of the assignment.

I haven't had time to write. Hands full at work. When I arrived in Appalachia, I first had to deal with getting a camera for half a day, because of course I couldn't take my camera with me from Tallinn. Extremely annoying. Yes, there is some kind of "photo mode", but I want to hold something in my hand. First, for others to see that I am taking pictures, and secondly, I somehow feel more at home with it. I'm still not used to taking photos with just my eyes, besides, it's kind of awkward to stand in front of someone and just stare at them. As a test, I took a picture of a girl playing drums, she played quite well. I'm already getting used to the time difference. The transition from 2022 to 2104 was relatively painless, some things seem strange, but I'm getting there.

8th day of assignment.

I wandered around the roofs of the Foundation with my camera in the morning and watched the sunrise, now I sip coffee on a bench. I'm not the only one, one of the local Foundation NPC does the same, others are just fussing around. The usual morning buzz. Yesterday I happened to see some kind of scuffle between other players and some cultists. I quietly tried to take pictures over the edge of the roof. Yes, I could have shouted LEEEEEEEROYYYY JEEEEENKINSSSS and jumped in, but for what. Besides, it seemed safer behind the edge of the roof. Slowly starting to feel homesick, don't have many to talk to. Yes, occasionally you see other people, but most of the communication is done in sign language. Fortunately, Marco and Reimo should arrive soon.

11th day of assignment.

Finally, Reimo arrived. Of course, he first wanted to wander around. As slowly as possible. Because for some reason he felt the need to pick up all the stuff that was laying around. And so we walked, Reimo in his yellow fish can armor, completely overweight, and me jiggling in my leopard print suit before him, waiting for the rattling and clattering figure to catch up. I don't know what he found at the Capitol, but he needed to take lots of photos there, so I took the opportunity to get some shots of him as well. Let's be honest, I wasn't mad at him at all, because usually things are quite the opposite - it doesn't matter if it's in Tallinn or Berlin or somewhere else... I'm the one who moves slowly, murmuring and complaining constantly, and Reimo dutifully waits for the whining me to finally catch up with him. Not that Reimo whined in Fallout, he didn't, he was just rattling. We also tried to take some pictures in my photo studio, but it soon became clear that I was more interested in what other people were doing in Appalachia than in bringing them to my Appalachia studio. So, the studio photos went to the trash. And as always, on walks, you could talk. Finally! I'm sick of all the mute communication forms, so I took the opportunity to talk Reimo half to death.

21 days of assignment.

Now Marco has arrived, for God's sake, what he was doing in Night City for so long remains incomprehensible to me, but well, finally he is here and has also built a little house for himself. Since the task was still to get portraits and my own heart is drawn to life behind the scenes, I obviously wanted to get footage of Marco in his place. Specifically, his garage or work shed, which the audiences could see in his exhibition "MOTOR" (2017). So, I wanted to show virtual version of it. It wasn't disappointing at all, although it is difficult to call it a "work shed", because it took up the entirety of Marco's home's first floor. Convenience above all, considering that you must constantly spend your time at all kinds of workbenches in Fallout.

26th day of assignment.

Marco's place has already become our main meeting place. We generally stroll in and out as we please. At this point, it must be stated that even a virtual meeting is much more comfortable than lounging on a couch somewhere. Or at the workbench. Or in the garden. I also stuck the sign "Photography of this area is prohibited" on his wall. Just like that, it seemed appropriate. It's not necessary to photograph everything, or is it? Ahh, Reimo has picked up a leather jacket and a motorcycle helmet from somewhere - a well welcomed decision - and the clatter is finally gone.

29th day of assignment

Ran out of film. Marco gave some rolls. Need to make more.

Probably the 32nd day of the assignment.

Do not drink Nukashine!