

Gardiens  
Rip Hopkins

Adrien Bossard



In an approach that is both anthropological, documentary and artistic, Rip Hopkins has produced this unprecedented photographic series dedicated to the caretaker (s). The photographer plays with the subject and takes us on a journey through the Alpes-Maritimes department, from goalkeeper. The images created each bear the strength of a magnified individuality and, combined, offer us an overall vision on guarding, a somewhat unknown function despite its importance in our society.

RIP Hopkins explore the multiple variations of guardians, presenting us successively guarding, shepherds, police, childcare assistants, monks, or even reception agents. In doing so, the photographer highlights the plurality as much as what makes its singularity of guarding. To be a guardian is to protect, to define the limits and regulate, as the shepherd does with his animals. It is also observing on the fringes, while being an essential cog in social mechanics by exercising a certain authority.

Finally, the role of the guard is not limited to authoritarian constraint: it often involves a form of care, like the role of animal healing, or even transmission, in the case of cultural mediators.

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