The black and white travel pictures from the photographer and film director Alphons Hustinx (1900-1972) give us an impression of his many travels through Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Middle East in the 1930s and 50s. Hustinx left his negatives, letters, diaries and films, however, remain an impressive witness of the world he witnessed and the landscapes, exotic beauty of the Indonesian archipelago... His travel pictures and films were produced for the purpose of promoting tourism.

The exhibition held in the Dutch Cultural Centre Erasmushuis, Amsterdam, in the early 1960s, when television became more and more available, he stopped definitively with his lectures. His photos and film images, however, remain an impressive witness of the world he witnessed and the landscapes, exotic beauty of the Indonesian archipelago.

The Limburg photographer and film maker Alphons Hustinx started travelling through the Middle East, South East Asia and Africa in 1938. He didn’t work for press agencies or press photo distribution but went to those countries as an assignment for big companies. The government photographer stayed at diplomatic hotels or with friends who were businessmen or diplomats. In remote areas Hustinx, a devout catholic, also stayed at missionary posts. He captured images of foreign cultures and people with an aesthetic and almost ethnographic eye. His photos are not just a reflection of the exotic foreign world, they also create a longing towards it.

Photographs of the former Dutch East Indies