

Picture « Green Ball », 17 march 2024

The Reveal

This week's image comes from the "[Pictures of the Day](#)" collection published on June 24, 2011, on the Lens blog. The original caption reads:

A model wears a creation by the fashion designer Walter Van Beirendonck of Belgium as part of his Spring/Summer 2012 collection presented in Paris.

The 2019 T Magazine article "[The Strange and Beautiful Universe of Walter Van Beirendonck](#)" describes how the Belgian designer has been offering gleefully irreverent alternatives to the staid men's wear of old for more than three decades.

[Thibault Camus](#) is the photographer.

Picture « orange river on the glacier », 26 february 2024

The Reveal

This week's image comes from the article "[As Switzerland's Glaciers Shrink, a Way of Life May Melt Away](#)," published on Jan. 21, 2024. The original caption reads:

Graduate students from ETH Zurich using orange dye to track and measure surface melt at the Rhône Glacier, which has retreated about half a kilometer since 2007.

The article explains how rising temperatures and retreating glaciers threaten Europe's water tower, forcing local farmers to adapt and presaging larger troubles downstream:

Switzerland has long been considered Europe's water tower, the place where deep winter snows would accumulate and gently melt through the warmer months, augmenting the trickling runoff from thick glaciers that helped sustain many of Europe's rivers and its ways of life for centuries.

Today, the Alps are warming about twice as fast as the global average, according to the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#). In the past two years alone, Swiss glaciers [have lost 10 percent of their water volume](#) — as much as melted in the three decades from 1960 to 1990.

[George Steinmetz](#) is the photographer

Picture « workers in the dark », 12 february 2024

The Reveal

This week's image comes from [the July section of the "2023 Year in Pictures."](#) The original caption reads:

Amid a record-breaking heatwave, farmworkers harvested onions in the dark, hours before sunrise, when the labor of picking them would become too intense.

A related article, "[Why Summers May Never Be the Same](#)," explains more:

This summer, the night emerged as a preferred time to work and play.

Construction crews and air-conditioning repairmen learned to continue their work in the late evenings, hoping for a tiny respite from the searing heat of the daytime. In New Mexico, farmworkers harvested onions by night, after the sun had dipped down into the horizon. Any earlier and the onions would bruise too easily in the hot temperatures, and the labor of picking them in the heat would become too intense.

Jose Carmelo Chairez and his wife, Clementina Chairez, remember the years when they would begin their work in the fields at 5 a.m.

“Now, some people work at night and some start at midnight. And that’s how it’s going, some at 1, at 2,” Mr. Chairez said. “Now it feels hotter. Every year it’s feeling hotter.”

Climate change turning up nighttime temperatures has endangered livestock, especially cattle, who depend on the overnight hours to cool down. Some farmers have changed their routines, feeding their cattle later at night because the animals heat up as they digest their food.

Even water parks shifted their hours. In the Phoenix suburb of Mesa, the Sunsplash Waterpark offered “Nightsplash,” when people could water-slide under the stars.

[Paul Ratje](#) is the photographer.

Picture « A strange diver », 25 March 2024

The Reveal

This week’s image comes from the article “[A Desperate Push to Save Florida’s Coral: Get It Out of the Sea](#),” published on July 31, 2023. The original caption reads: “Ropes with small coral cuttings from a nursery off Tavernier Key.”

The article begins:

When Bailey Thomasson first spotted the coral, she felt a jolt of relief. She was diving for samples off the Florida Keys, and the thicket of elkhorn coral below looked brown, not the stark white that would indicate bleaching from the record-breaking sea temperatures in the area. But as she swam closer, she realized the situation was far worse than she’d considered possible.

“The coral didn’t even have a chance to bleach, it just died,” said Ms. Thomasson, who works for the Coral Restoration Foundation, a nonprofit group based in the Keys. The brown color was not healthy coral but dead tissue sloughing off the skeleton, almost as if it had melted.

“It just felt like, ‘Oh my God, we’re in the apocalypse,’” she said. “What’s happening?”

With climate change ravaging Florida’s beloved reef, people who’ve devoted their careers to restoring coral in the sea are now racing to get it out of the water, to tanks on land. They’re pushing through feelings of grief and fear over the future to save what genetic material and young corals they can. But in the background, an existential question looms: How can they restore reefs if the ocean is getting too hot for coral to live there?

While marine heat waves occur naturally, the eye-popping sea temperatures recorded off the Keys this month (one reading hit [101 degrees Fahrenheit](#), or just over 38 Celsius) have been made worse by global warming, [according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#). The world's oceans have absorbed 90 percent of the additional heat unleashed by people burning fossil fuels and razing forests. Currently, about 44 percent of the global ocean is in a heat wave.

The mass coral bleaching happening throughout the Keys is the most severe in the state's history, Derek Manzello, the coordinator of NOAA's Coral Reef Watch program, said. Surveys over the next few months are needed to understand how much coral has died.

"I fear for the worst," he said.

[Jason Gulley](#) is the photographer.