



I've lost my friend, my trusted friend, my mother,  
Whom I loved, adored and understood.  
She passed away last July 12 - and it somehow  
left a hole in my routine daily lives - she always  
supported me in my prayer group. I was her student  
longtime ago, because her profession was a Teacher in  
Language. I used to learn Dutch Language from her.  
After a last year of living she became my  
student in our former Bible Study Group.  
That was why I was missing her and feeling her  
loss.

Masha 12.8.2015



**BISMA EIGHT**  
Ubud, Bali

**BISMA EIGHT PRESENTS - VANESSA VAN HOUTEN - "RAW EXHIBIT"**

*An Exquisite and Provocative Portrayal of RAW Emotion*

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**Exhibiting**

Sat, Dec 24, 2016 - Tue, Feb 28, 2017

**Artist Book Signing**

Fri, Jan 13, 2017

**Bisma Eight, Jalan Bisma Bali, 80571 Indonesia**

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Bali offers something to the spiritual palate of the modern day traveller which they often can't find at home; peace and reconciliation toward the celebration of life. The spirituality of the local community is infectious and has meant that Bali has been dubbed as one of the most zen travel destinations in the world.

The spiritual and cultural hub of Bali is Ubud, the host town of the Bali International Meditators Festival and film location for popular blockbuster *Eat Pray Love*, so naturally is the ideal destination for Vanessa Van Houten to exhibit her latest photography series, *RAW*.

*RAW*, is a series of 71 portraits photographed as people revisit a moment of loss from their past, which is presented alongside their written thoughts on the personal loss.

Speaking on her work the Californian photographer said, "RAW is a collection of images and writings that articulate a delicate metaphor, they convey significant imprints that were etched in the depths of the living spirit. They awaken the core of our senses and bring us closer to the world of unspoken words and unshed tears. They are mute, yet in their silence, they produce an echo that screams through the eyes of the subjects."

Bisma Eight is proud to be the acting gallery space for this contemporary art exhibition. The hotel, a spiritual oasis in itself, is open to support this type of creativity and creative freedom, as it heightens the spiritual awakening of guests and locals alike. The exhibition will run from December 24<sup>th</sup> up to the end of February 2017 and will be open to the public.

Vanessa Van Houten has also released a photo book of the wildly popular exhibition, also entitled *RAW*. The photographer will host a book signing in The Library Café, Bisma Eight on Friday January 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 for a small crowd of 75 invitees.

Complimentary canapés and wine will be served to all invitees, allowing them to relax and engage with the exhibition while also having the chance to speak with Vanessa. Don't fret if you can't make the book signing, as spirituality is about living a stress-free life, so Bisma Eight and Vanessa plan to host a second meet-and-greet day at the hotel in January by invite only.

### **Editors Notes:**

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Bisma Eight is a boutique hotel experience set within the natural and cultural heart of Ubud. Rooted in the artisan heritage of central Bali, Bisma Eight is something entirely different from what people have to come to think of as staying in Ubud.

**Visit:** [bisma-eight.com](http://bisma-eight.com)

Vanessa Van Houten was born in San Rafael, California in 1971 to an American Pan Am pilot and a free-thinking German and spent her early childhood in the Bahamas and Berlin. After the divorce of her parents, she gained a beloved Japanese stepmom and her youth was divided between the small town Augsburg, in Germany and San Francisco. Currently Vanessa lives with her husband Daniel and three children Peppa, Ziggy and Sonny in Jakarta, Indonesia.

*RAW* is her first Photography book. Her other photography series, which were shown at exhibitions include *Paperfold* (2012), *Taboo* (2010), *Remembering what's lost* (2009). As a director she realised various award-winning movies, which are *Paper Bird* (2007), *Karma Cowboy* (2001), *Mona* (1998), *New York Images* (1996), *Alps* (1995) and *Growing Silently* (1994) shown on German TV and screened at international film festivals.

**Visit:** <http://www.vanessavanhouten.com/>

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