

Carloway Broch · 3 years ago · edited

Excellent photography and a very interesting accompanying article. It's fascinating to get an inside look at operations that have been so thoughtfully configured, are so hygienically immaculate, and are made transparent – by design – to the consumer. Though I hunt for most of the meat I consume, bacon – one of the most delicious culinary experiences available to us – is an exception. Thanks!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Liege Copstein · 5 years ago · edited

Go vegan.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Alastair Philip Wiper · 6 years ago · edited

Dear all, this is Alastair, the photographer and author of the article. Since this post has gone out into the big wide world, it has stirred up a lot of debate and some sensitive feelings. If I had been more critical in my tone, and had more negative points to make about the slaughterhouse, it might have been a lot easier for some people to take - but my approach was to be as neutral as possible and say what I saw from a layman's perspective - and that is what I have done. However, I would like to clarify a couple of points:

- I am working from the perspective of my personal decision that I think eating meat is OK. I know that not everybody agrees with that, but we are all welcome to our own point of view. Furthermore, I am not espousing a moral ideology about understanding how an animal dies in order to be able to eat it - I am just giving my opinion - other opinions are available. Everyone is entitled to their own relationship to the food they eat, and the world of culinary delights is a beautiful, fun, disturbing, controversial melting pot of a place. I just think it's a good thing if people think about where their food comes from - and this series is intended to give just a tiny glimpse into one very small part of the origins of some of our food. Of course, the treatment of the animals during their lifetime is as important if not more important than the way it dies, and I would encourage anyone to find out more about this process - but this is not what the piece is about. It seems strange to some people to talk about "respecting" an animal if you are going to kill, or are killing it. As I have made a conscious decision to eat meat, something I spent some time thinking about, I believe that there are good and bad ways to treat an animal during its lifetime and death. Using as much of the animal as possible, from the nose to the tail, as they do in the plant at Horsens, is also an important part of that respect.



about 99% of the time. I would like to say that I only eat the best meat all the time, but I'm sure that now and then something slips by - I like a hot dog every once in a while, and if you ever eat out you can rarely be sure where that meat has come from. I have to live with that to a certain extent. However, food should be something we enjoy and something that don't get too bogged down with. Food can be taken too seriously sometimes, and then (at least for me) it stops being fun - but it is important that there is balance and awareness out there as well, and a consumer push towards doing things the right way.

- This series does not show the whole process at the plant. The really bloody parts - the death and the disembowelling - I was not allowed to photograph, because Danish Crown was concerned about the anonymity of the workers in those sections. However, I did see them, and they are part of any normal public tour of the plant. While being hard to stomach (excuse the pun), the process looked like I imagined it to look - a bloodbath. How can you kill 100,000 pigs a week without that?

- I'm sorry, Morrissey.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

James → Alastair Philip Wiper · 6 years ago

I have to congratulate you on this photo essay. You have triggered a healthy discussion. People should be aware of where their food comes from and all of the industrial logistics that enables meat to be so widely available.

I think by capturing part of the process in a neutral way, you've allowed people to react against your work and discuss what they feel is the reality. Perfect trigger to debate.

I would love to see a photo essay by you that explores the welfare of animals before they end up in the slaughterhouse. It would be interesting to see an uncompromising but neutral perspective on this.

Again, congratulations.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Ursula2007 · 6 years ago

All I can see when I look at the photos of pink pigs hanging in a line is the similarity of their form to that of the human body, and I am saddened and repulsed.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



somebodystolemenefatboy · 6 years ago

Humans are omnivorous creatures.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Miss Piggy · 6 years ago

Looks very clean.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Joe · 6 years ago · edited

Great pictures. Sorry to disappoint you though regarding your guess on the pigs' welfare before they reach the slaughterhouse. Several intensive farming practices are common in Denmark that are banned in other countries like the UK, as well as several states in the US.

Sow stalls keep pregnant pigs in extremely confined spaces barely bigger than their bodies, where they can only stand or lie down, not move around. Once born, piglets are kept separate from the mother, where they can still suckle through bars but cannot be mothered in any other way. This is to stop the sows crushing the young - something that would not happen if they had more space in the first place. Tails are routinely docked to avoid pigs biting each other in their state of confinement induced irritation.

All in all pretty horrific way. Denmark's reputation as a progressive nation obviously doesn't stretch as far as animal welfare. All this can be found out in five minutes of googling, and is pretty well known and accepted. I can't believe the writer spent the time visiting and photographing the abattoir, and writing the text, but didn't even bother looking this up before making ignorant assumptions. Especially when the article starts with a diatribe against those who are ignorant of where their food comes from! I'm always surprised that free range chicken/eggs (as opposed to battery farmed) are so popular now, but free range/organic pork is almost impossible to find in British supermarkets, I suppose it's just to do with awareness.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Bea Elliott · 6 years ago · edited

What I find blatantly missing from this piece is any connection to the pigs at all! In 16 photos we have only one of the living beings all amassed as one unit of product. It's a pathetic attempt to avoid the fact that these are all unique individuals. Each loves their lives as much as any of us do. This is a violation of innocent life in the name



Jorge → Bea Elliott · 6 years ago · edited

If you were in the wild and were pray for any animal it wouldn't even think twice about slaughtering you to consume you.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

ichbinkunst · 6 years ago · edited

"I find it difficult to tolerate those who love eating meat, but cannot bear to think about, or look at, the slaughter and death of that animal. It seems disrespectful towards the animal, and if I wanted to get really eggy about it, I'm not sure if such people should be allowed to eat meat at all."

This whole argument is completely dubious and a cheap shortcut to wash his consciousness clean of any moral second thoughts. How can he mention "respect" of the animal when the whole process is to kill it? Secondly, if he were to push his "moral" logic about being consequent with ones actions, he should have to "bear to think about and look at the slaughter and death" of EVERY animal he eats (if not slaughter it himself).

I am not a vegetarian myself, but these kind of half-baked morals piss me off.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Animal Lover · 6 years ago · edited

As a vegetarian and a designer I feel offended that beautifying such an atrocious process is presented here. You are showing a minimal part of the entire process. The reality is far worse.

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Chris → Animal Lover · 3 years ago · edited

It's okay to be offended. Nothing actually happens.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Ben · 6 years ago · edited

Can someone explain this to me? He starts off the article by saying:

"I am not a squeamish person. I love food, I love meat, and I particularly love pork."

But a few paragraphs later, he writes;

"I find it difficult to tolerate those who love eating meat, but cannot bear to think about, or look at, the slaughter and death of that

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Simon → Ben · 6 years ago · edited

The phrasing of the second para that you quote is the problem.

The writer means that he can't tolerate the people who a) love eating meat, and b) cannot consider the origin of that meat.

But he writes it as if he a) can't tolerate the people who love eating meat and b) can't bear to think about etc.

I had to read it three times before I understood.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

ichbinkunst → Ben · 6 years ago · edited

His argument is completely dubious. If he is going to eat meat and be consequent with his actions, then he should have to "bear to think about or look at" the killing of EVERY animal he eats (if not slaughter it himself).

Such a half-baked moral statement as an excuse to look down upon other meat eaters, in order to somehow come across as a "moral" meat eater. It just annoys me.

Meat eating is moral only if you carry through the killing yourself.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Chris → Ben · 6 years ago · edited

"I find it difficult to tolerate those who love eating meat, but [who also] cannot bear to think about, or look at, the slaughter and death of that animal." i.e. The author isn't the one who cannot bear to think about the slaughter.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

k → Ben · 6 years ago · edited

You're missing something. He's saying he cannot tolerate people who love eating meat and cannot bear to think about or look at slaughter.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Ben → Ben · 6 years ago · edited

Sorry, I understand it now, the comma threw me off.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



porky · 6 years ago · edited

Looks delicious. Can't wait to get home and throw some chops on the grill.

2 ^ | v 2 · Reply · Share ›

Michael Wigle · 6 years ago

These photos make the process look clean, efficient, and strangely beautiful.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

trebuh · 6 years ago

From a designers point of view my first reaction was "not again". At the two universities where I have studied I have seen three projects that were about going to a slaughterhouse and making photos there. And these photos were so much better than the ones shown here. They look kind of random. Not much thought put into them. They capture the absolute obvious scenes and fail to capture the mood.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Penelope · 6 years ago · edited

Lior you're science is twisted. Thanks to the miracles of evolution, we humans can survive just fine on a meat-free diet. As far back as 2003 scientists had established our ancestors were eating meat up to 2.5 million years ago. So that juicy slab of barbecue you hate so much isn't some icon of modern decadence, it's part of our traditional diet and there are plenty of other clues too. First, our bodies lack most of the equipment you'd associate with herbivores. For instance, we don't have four stomachs, any ability to break down cellulose, or the sort of complex intestinal tracts most leaf-eaters possess. Second, our teeth are obviously designed to handle both meat and non-meat diets. Get your scientific facts right please.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

lior → **Penelope** · 6 years ago · edited

Darling, my facts aren't twisted but just updated. Back then the cave men didn't have much choice, but today you have. You can go to the supermarket and buy anything from any country and every season.

The twisted view is that we need to kill in order to live. We don't. So many sports men / women are Vegan to get the most of their body and speedy recovery time. If we do need animal products why do we have so many supplements and



others. We all know that killing is bad. We were taught from very early age to eat these things so today we don't question that.

All we see on TV is commercials on meat, milk, cheese, pizza? They put it on commercials to convince us it is good for us. Did you ever see a commercial for broccoli? How about mushrooms? Tomatoes? Cucumber? Maybe the obvious thing doesn't need advertising :-)

My very best.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

JORGE DIAZVILLEGAS · 6 years ago · edited

Excellent and important project. I would like to contact with you to share experiences on the development of these projects. I am an architect and my country with my company designed and construct these projects. For pigs and cows.

My email: dvillegasarquitectos@cable.net.co

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

RUNforYOURLives · 6 years ago · edited

All those who enter beware! Someone let the looneys out!

3 ^ | v 1 · Reply · Share ›

Theo · 6 years ago · edited

In our obsession with all things modern, it's taken as read that eating meat is a bigger planet killer than eating tofu. I'm sure that most of you posting would agree. But that's not true. For example, compare organically reared animals with industrially produced tofu. The quantities of land needed are greater, the treatment and harvesting of the soya involves more fossil fuels and the end product often has to be shipped great distances if you live somewhere like Britain where the climate is really, really bad for growing meat substitutes. Simply put, that tasteless tofu burger you're forcing down to preserve our planet's future may actually be more atmosphere-frying than the delicious chunk of beef being eaten by that smug person across the table from you.

1 ^ | v 1 · Reply · Share ›

Yader · 6 years ago · edited

Jane Goodall, an amazing scientist, observed chimps hunting and eating other animals in the wild. It's been shown that certain chimp communities eat as much as one ton of meat annually. In other



our evolutionary cousins love a good steak so much they'll literally whore themselves out to get it. This is a fact. It happens in the natural world so why do we conveniently choose to ignore it when part of having an open mind means to evaluate and differentiate fact from fiction in both both sides of the argument?

9 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

keith → Yader · 6 years ago · edited

The key issue is population increase and 'western' values about food production. How to feed everyone? Too much emphasis perhaps given to meat production, as has been pointed out - most crops grown to feed animals for slaughter.

A genuine debate needs to happen to solve this issue, but big business has a powerful lobby that politicians are too scared to confront. Consumers, better informed and educated to understand that what we eat is building up trouble for the future. We could all eat 50% less meat and in one stroke what we produce could change for the better, both in health terms and for the environment.

KB

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

fringe → keith · 6 years ago · edited

Many of these big businesses are heavily subsidised by the government. Farmers (in the US) have a huge influence on government and politicians.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

lior → fringe · 6 years ago · edited

Exactly, they influence the government to educate us that milk and meat are good for us and necessary for our diet which it is the exact opposite. We grow with that knowledge and only a few question that.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

somebodystolemenamenamefatboy → keith
· 6 years ago

Birth control.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

lior → Yader · 6 years ago · edited

I am aware about this and also saw it on TV. They also eat

