



Photography Exhibition
Portfolio 08

Exhibition

The Photo Workshop Gallery
Market Photo Workshop
Wednesday 10 Dec 2008, 6pm



© Davina Jogi

Press Release

Portfolio 08 showcases work produced by ten students during their year-long course in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography Programme at the Market Photo Workshop in 2008. The PDP focuses on developing visual and technical skills through practical training (assignments on news, sport and action, portraits, features, etc.). In addition the students work on a series of themes (in 2008, it was *The Spirit of...*, *Fear*, *Xenophobia*, *Elections* etc.), personal projects, as well as collaborative projects with other organisations like the Workers Library/Khanya College, the International Organization for Migration and PlanAct. As part of their course and training, students also participate in three-month internships with various media institutions in South Africa.

Through their eyes, we witness the desperation of township life as looting occurs after a bread truck loses some of its load; the brutal reality of homelessness; the trappings of hostel life through lockers and a pristine kitchen; the markings of territory; the fear for their property, possessions, lives or an unavoidable path; an apartheid like socio-economic existence in the copper mines of Zambia and what was thought to become history: Zimbabwe and its political realm. There is no bling here, but an honest, curious and sometimes personal look at our lives below the equatorial line. Their eyes, at times without humour, force us to ask ourselves uncomfortable questions - Who are we? Where do we belong? And where do we

stand on complex issues like HIV vulnerability, human rights, race, xenophobia, drug abuse, marginalisation, the cost of life, land, borders, playgrounds and train surfing?

Unwittingly, the common themes in the images and frequent words are: **fear, home and the foreigner**. These words developed into photography essays and stories with many nuances within this collective body of work.

Photographers:

Tracy Edser
Tsietsi Kgamanyane
Puxley Makgatho
Doris Nzimande
Nigel Sibanda

Davina Jogi
Taurai Maduna
Sifiso Mashaba
Mpho Seleka
Delwyn Verasamy

About the Market Photo Workshop:

The Photo Workshop has been in existence for nearly 20 years, to support aspiring photographers who were excluded from mainstream/formal education. It has since expanded into a renowned photography training and resource centre, with a variety of courses and services, as well as public programmes, with many of its alumni working in the local media and internationally.

About the Photojournalism and Documentary Programme:

The PDP Programme of the Market Photo Workshop was launched as a year long course to develop aspiring photojournalists and documentary photographers. Formulated with the support of Getty Images and Open Society Foundation for South Africa, the Programme aims at developing a new breed of informed, curious and technically excellent African photojournalists and documentary photographers from South Africa and the region.

This exhibition will run until the 13 February 2009.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any additional material.

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