



BASA Supporting Grant Helps Fund Edward Ruiz Mentorship



© Musa Nxumalo, Untitled, 2008

Business and Arts South Africa has awarded the Market Photo Workshop a supporting grant to be utilised towards funding its Edward Ruiz Mentorship. The programme, now in its fourth year, is a mentorship established to commemorate the life of renowned photojournalist Edward Ruiz. It awards the recipient with the financial and infrastructural support needed to develop a substantial body of social documentary work, culminating in a solo exhibition hosted at the Market Photo Workshop. The recipient also has the opportunity to work closely with a suitable mentor, who provides guidance and direction on the intended project.

Musa Nxumalo, the recipient for 2008, is working on a project to document black youth who choose to identify themselves with rock music and alternative culture. The project, *Alternative Kidz*, investigates how counter-culture can function as a site of complex self-fashioning and socio-cultural opposition. Questions are raised over the nature of intentioned cultural alterity, and the status of contemporary post-colonial subjectivities, especially in relation to the emergence of new urban cultures and dynamics. Nxumalo says that he hopes this project will 'encourage cultural exploration among young South Africans'. Photographers Michelle Loudikis and Liam Lynch are the mentors chosen to help guide Nxumalo through his project.

AngloGold Ashanti, the main sponsor of the Edward Ruiz Mentorship, has generously funded the programme since its inception. The supporting grant from BASA, according to John Fleetwood, the head of the Market Photo Workshop, 'will supplement the generous funding received from AngloGold Ashanti, and provide us with the support needed to not only host a successful exhibition, but to also help establish the career of a promising and highly talented photographer'.

More about Edward Ruiz

New York 27 July 1966 – Cape Town 24 December 2003

Edward Ruiz, a native New Yorker and freelance photojournalist, fell in love with South Africa, its people and its stories, and moved here in 1999. He had practiced as a photographer in Cambodia, Nepal and Mexico, before South Africa proved to be the country he cherished most. Edward freelanced for local and foreign publications including The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune, Time, Newsweek, the Guardian, Leadership Magazine, and The Independent. He was an energetic photographer, and his ideas were always accompanied by great investigative skills and a commitment to do justice to the stories and people he worked with. Edward's warmth and empathy turned many of his subjects into friends.

Alternative Kidz will open at the Photo Workshop Gallery on 24 June 2009.

For additional queries contact the Media Coordinator at the Market Photo Workshop on 011 834 1444, or alternatively complete a press enquiry form [here](#)

For more information on the Market Photo Workshop please [click here](#)

