



PRESS RELEASE MAY 2004
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For: The Lost Men Project

Award winning artist Paul Emmanuel will launch his most ambitious project to date at the 2004 Grahamstown National Arts Festival.

A site specific installation that marks ten years of democracy, **The Lost Men** extends the traditional medium of printmaking in a challenging new direction.

Emmanuel, first recipient of the prestigious *Ampersand Foundation Fellowship* and winner of the first *Sasol Wax In Art* competition is known best for his printmaking and intaglio works rendered with obsessive and intricate marks. This project marks a break from his trademark style. Consisting of twenty one, 1 x 2 metre voile and silk panels, – photographs of the artists body, into which detailed inscriptions have been painfully impressed, **The Lost Men Project** evokes the fragility and vulnerability of life, the impermanence of memory, the politics of power and patriarchy and their relationship to personal identity. It is an impressive and sobering visual display.

Engaging with concepts of memorial and public grief, **The Lost Men** is exhibited as a site specific installation in a public space that brings its own history and relevance to the content of the images. The audience is invited into the landscape to explore the personal expression of the artist in the most public of arenas.

In contemporary societies worldwide, men are re-evaluating their traditional roles and functions as well as exploring the nature of intimacy, emotion and sexuality. Says Emmanuel; "The war, in Iraq, with its destruction, loss and pain, evoked memories of my own personal loss. The **Lost Men** memorial installation is an expression of my personal experience. It's a mourning of personal memory and broken relationships. In war the erection of memorials creates a space where the personal becomes public and this is what I am trying to achieve".

The project will be situated in the veld near the 1820 Settlers Monument, an area which resonates with the memories of the 1819 battle of Grahamstown, a significant point in our history.

This is Phase 1 in a series of installation venues. **The Lost Men Project** has plans to travel to Mozambique, Northern Ireland and the USA over the next three years. With each venue, the artist will change the content of the images to retain their relevance to the landscape in which they are displayed, and to engage the audience who will view them.

Says project manager Les Cohn of Art Source cc, "we are very excited by the opportunities this installation has opened up and are working on developing the outreach and educational programmes that will accompany the various phases of the project. With the international media saturated with images of recent war and public destruction, this project is timed to have a tangible influence on its viewers"

The Lost Men will be exhibited at the Grahamstown Festival from 1– 10th July 2004 at a site on Monument Hill, as a main event on the Festival visual arts programme. The installation is open to the public from 10 – 4.30pm daily.

Walkabouts on site will be conducted by the artist daily from 10.00 – 11.30am.

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