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For: **TRANSITIONS**, an artist's Project by Paul Emmanuel

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Angle: **3SAI: A RITE OF PASSAGE** winner of the Africa in Motion Film Festival

South African artist Paul Emmanuel's film selected as the winner of the Africa-In-Motion Short Film Award at the prestigious Edinburgh Africa-in-Motion International Film Festival

Artist Paul Emmanuel's acclaimed non narrative art film, **3SAI: A RITE OF PASSAGE** was selected by unanimous vote by a jury of film experts as the winning entry for the Edinburgh International Film Festival's Africa-in-Motion Film Festival 2009. It was shown on the 26th October at Edinburgh's *Filmhouse* Cinema.

This short film was originally selected as one of 7 short films from over 60 submissions from 22 African countries.

The film will now be seen by a wide audience and will be screened at various international venues as part of Africa-in-Motion. The winner was selected by a jury, consisting of acclaimed Algerian filmmaker Amor Hakkar; filmmaker, presenter and writer Zina Saro-Wiwa; director of the Scottish Documentary Institute, Noe Mendelle; and high profile film critic, writer and producer Mark Cousins.

Says Stefanie Van de Peer Co-director - Africa in Motion Film Festival "congratulations, we hope you're celebrating the wonderful news that you had won the jury prize of 1,000 pounds! We really loved your meditative film. The imagery and the silence, combined with the beautiful photography and the symbolic lyricism truly elevate the mundane action of shaving the head of recruits."

3SAI: A RITE OF PASSAGE was also officially selected for screening at the 12th annual Antimatter Film Festival in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, from October 9 to 17, 2009

3SAI: A RITE OF PASSAGE is a 14 minute artist's film, sold as an artwork in an edition of 10, that forms part of Emmanuel's critically acclaimed touring museum solo exhibition **TRANSITIONS**. This exhibition opens on 1st May 2010 at the National Smithsonian Museum of African Art, Washington.

Says Emmanuel, "I am absolutely thrilled to have my film selected for such a prestigious festival, and winning this competition is a wonderfully affirming experience for me! It is so exciting that an interpretive, and experimental film is being shown beyond the art gallery or museum-going-audience too! I hope that others from my country will be inspired to take this leap of faith and realise their dream!"

Launched in 2008, **TRANSITIONS** is the artist's most significant project to date and has received critical acclaim during its showings in South Africa.

The exhibition and film project explores moments of shifting white male identity and liminal spaces, which has taken the artist over 4 years to research and create.

TRANSITIONS comprises a series of five ostensibly 'photographic' works which, when examined closely, are revealed as sensitively hand-drawn, photo-realist sequences of images. These film-like progressions obsessively capture liminal moments of five transitory stages in life. A sixth work titled **3SAI: A RITE OF PASSAGE** – a 14 minute film produced by the artist – documents the head shaving of new recruits at the Third South African Infantry Battalion (3SAI) in Kimberley. This is one of two South African military training camps that still perform the obligatory hair shaving of army recruits when they join the South African National Defense Force. For the artist, these moments that he observed raised a number of questions. During South Africa's Apartheid era, obligatory head shaving was an enforced rite of passage for thousands of white male conscripts. This film extends the content of the second of the five drawings.

The project was launched in October 2008 at the Apartheid Museum and is currently completing its national tour of South African museums. The show opens on the 26th November at the Spier Gallery on the Spier Estate, Stellenbosch for the summer art season.

The opportunity is the result of a long process of strategic planning and management on the part of Emmanuel and his Project Manager Les Cohn of Art Source South Africa.

Says Cohn, "Our goal from the start of this project, was that this film would stand out as an artwork of exceptional quality. Through the popularisation of 'new media' and the proliferation of technology, the art industry has been flooded with poorly made films where conceptual and technical excellence has been sacrificed in the name of "art".

"It is significant that Emmanuel's work has been recognised by the film industry, as well as the fine art sector. Endorsement by world-renowned institutions such as the Smithsonian Institute and the Edinburgh Africa-in-Motion Film Festival support the quality of both his artistic vision and his technical mastery of his chosen medium. "

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Boiler Plate:

TRANSITIONS is a touring solo museum exhibition of artist Paul Emmanuel which has received critical acclaim throughout South Africa. The exhibition works described in this article are not for sale – having been pre-sold in their entirety prior to their production with the intention to keep the exhibition intact. **TRANSITIONS** is exhibited courtesy of the Spier Contemporary Collection South Africa.

3SAI: A RITE OF PASSAGE, an artist's film, is available as an artwork in a limited edition of 10.

The second component of this project consisting of a suite of editioned hand coloured manière noire lithographs, will be launched at the end of 2010. Reserves and pre-sales of these works have started and are available through a structured deal. Please contact the Project Manager.