



SOUTH AFRICA

Art Source cc. Reg. No. 2001/082684/23
Members: Les Cohn, Taryn Cohn
Tel/fax + 27 (0)11 447 2855 • Mobile + 27 (0)82 395 7417
P.O. Box 569 • Rivonia • 2128 • Gauteng • South Africa
lescohn@artsourcesouthafrica.co.za

Issued by Art Source South Africa
For: *Transitions*, an artist's project by Paul Emmanuel.
Date: 8th May 2009
Angle: *Transitions* opens at the KZNSA Gallery.

***Transitions* – an artist's project by Paul Emmanuel opens at the KZNSA Gallery, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.**

The fourth exhibition of the *Transitions* project opens at the KZNSA Gallery, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa on the 2 June 2009 at 18h00.

Transitions is an exhibition and film project that explores liminality and moments of shifting white male identity which has taken the artist four years to create.

It is Emmanuel's second major project and his ninth solo show. In previous and concurrent works, namely *The Lost Men Project* and *after-image*, the artist produced installations and a major drawing engaged with public and private loss, memory and constructions of male identity. His interest in the 'documentary' nature of photography and the printmaking concept of leaving impressions, have informed new works over the past five years.

The artist cites a quote by Susan Sontag as the point of departure that defined the major tool of exploration for the works on exhibition: "A photograph is only a fragment, and with the passage of time its moorings become unstuck. It drifts away into a soft abstract past-ness, open to any kind of reading."

Transitions comprises a series of five ostensibly 'photographic' works which, when examined closely, are revealed as sensitively hand-drawn, photo-realist sequences of images.

According to Emmanuel "These film-like progressions obsessively capture liminal moments of five transitory stages in life."

A sixth work titled *3SAI: A Rite of Passage* – a twelve minute film produced by the artist – documents the head shaving of new recruits at the Third South African Infantry Battalion (3SAI). Kimberley is one of two remaining South African military training camps, which still performs the obligatory hair shaving of new army recruits when they join the South African National Defense Force.

Film is a new medium for the artist and this project posed some interesting opportunities. Shot and presented as a high-definition, cinematic quality work, this film will also exist outside the context of the exhibition, and is being considered for various international film festivals as a stand-alone work.

Transitions piqued interest during its incubation due to an innovative financing model that was developed as a means to resource the project.

"In light of the challenging arts funding environment, we had to get smart about finding the money to realize the artist's vision for *Transitions*," Says Les Cohn of Art Source South Africa, Project

Manager for **Transitions**, “We developed a plan which allowed investors to purchase future works from this project priced at the artist’s current market value.”

The **Transitions** is currently on its South African tour; the artist is presently working on phase two - a series of lithographs which will be completed by the end of 2010.

“Through this project, and his burgeoning career as a highly regarded artist, the artist’s provenance grows. By the time the investors receive their work, they will have increased in value, based on the artist’s projected market value at that time.” States Cohn. “These works are the *stock certificates* if you will and options to these works are what current investors are buying. “

“To our knowledge, this is a first in the South African arts industry.” Says Cohn

A significant South African patron and past supporter of Emmanuel’s work, responded to this proposal by not only participating in the investment option, but by purchasing the entire exhibition and the first edition of the film prior to the production of either, and thus Emmanuel secured the finance required to cover the production costs of the film.

The comprehensive project has a pool of investors but there is still scope for more interested parties to come on board as the exhibition increases in provenance.

Transitions will run at the KZNSA Gallery, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal from 2 June 2009 – 21 June 2009.

Please join us at 18h00 on the 2nd June 2009 for the opening.

For further information and images:

Taryn Cohn

P R for Transitions

+27 (0)83 671 5139

taryncohn@artsourcesouthafrica.co.za



KZNSA Gallery

166 Bulwer Road

Glenwood

Durban

Gallery Hours

Tuesday to Friday 09h00 to 17h00

Saturday & Sunday 10h00 to 16h00

Tel: +27 (0)31 202 - 3686

Fax: +27 (0)31 201 – 8051

www.kznsagallery.co.za