

Goya Contemporary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 2011

Paul Emmanuel: *TRANSITIONS MULTIPLES*

September 8 - November 5, 2011

Reception: Thursday Sept 8, 2011, 6-8pm

Goya Contemporary & Goya-Girl Press
3000 Chestnut Avenue, Mill #214
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Goya Contemporary is free and open to the public.
Hrs: Tue – Fri, 10 – 5:30 and Saturdays by appointment.

Goya Contemporary, along with Art Source South Africa, is pleased to announce the international debut of the exhibition **TRANSITIONS MULTIPLES**, the second body of work from the *Transitions Project* by the critically acclaimed South African artist Paul Emmanuel. This exhibition is Emmanuel's first solo show since *TRANSITIONS*, which has toured the South African and international museum circuit since August 2009. *TRANSITIONS MULTIPLES* opens at Goya Contemporary Gallery in Baltimore, USA on the 8th September 2011 with an artist attended reception from 6-8pm.

The *TRANSITIONS MULTIPLES* exhibition consists of a suite of hand drawn, hand printed lithographs, and includes the award winning artist's film, *3SAI: A RITE OF PASSAGE*. The project explores how the military has influenced and perpetuated notions of masculinity in Emmanuel's native country, and invites viewers to meditate on thoughts of transitory life stages, patriarchy, perceptions of masculinity, the passage of time, and the state of the human condition.

During 2009, Emmanuel began the production of lithographs as phase 2 of the *TRANSITIONS* project, completing them only one month before the exhibition's opening—thus, the total production time on this project has been 6 years to date.

Due to the time-consuming nature of the process, each triptych takes the artist about four months to complete. Each work has been hand printed and hand colored by the artist. The technique applied to produce the lithographic images is a *manière noire*, or "black method". In a working process reminiscent of the old masters, the artist works on a large flat limestone, slowly scratching the image into a layer of black ink with a blade, methodically working from dark to light. The completed image is inked up by hand and printed from the stone onto Fabriano archive-quality paper.

Goya's Executive Director and Curator, Amy Eva Raehse, explains that the exhibition is: "Consistent with Goya Contemporary's early origins as a print atelier. I am particularly excited to exhibit Emmanuel's print oeuvre which is at once intimately vulnerable and masterfully monumental, paralleling the complexity and precision of the work's content with the artist's formal dexterity."

When examined closely, the works are revealed to be sensitively created, photo-realist sequences of images. These film-like progressions obsessively capture moments of transitory stages in life. They depict unidentifiable male subjects of various ages, in traditional institutions like the military, which have shaped the way in which the male identity has been defined.

The film, *3SAI: A Rite of Passage* is an award winning, 14-minute experimental film by Emmanuel. It documents the head shaving of new recruits at the Third South African Infantry Battalion (3SAI) in Kimberley. This is one of only two South African military training camps that still perform the obligatory head 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.

Emmanuel will be accompanied to Baltimore by his Project Manager Les Cohn of Art Source South Africa to attend the opening event of *TRANSITIONS MULTIPLES*. "We've collaborated closely to realize his objectives over the past 6 years to arrive at this exciting juncture in his career. We are extremely honored that a prestigious gallery such as Goya Contemporary will launch Paul's new body of [Lithographic] work," says Cohn.

"Six years, seven months and two days of scratching for the TRANSITIONS project came to an end unceremoniously at 3 minutes to midnight" said Emmanuel the morning after he completed the stone drawing for the final print of the Transitions project. "I can't wait to see the work installed. I am excited to work with Goya Contemporary."

Emmanuel was born in Kabwe, Zambia and graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1993. He was the first recipient of the prestigious Ampersand Fellowship, which recognizes emerging South African artists and supports a residency in New York. Emmanuel employs various media, including photography and film, to reveal layered visions concerned with his identity as a young white male living in post-apartheid South Africa.

About Goya Contemporary

Goya Contemporary promotes the art and culture of our time by presenting new works and ideas through curatorial practice, texts and catalogues, print publishing, artist representation, and by encouraging artistic collection, building private & public collections, assisting in acquisitions and de-acquisitions, and facilitating auction activity via the main auction houses. Goya Contemporary has earned international acclaim for its thought-provoking exhibitions, innovative programming, and unique collaborations with artists. Known internationally as one of the most prestigious and long running galleries in the mid-Atlantic as well as one of the few with membership to longstanding ethical art institutions such as the IFPDA, Goya is dedicated to scholarly programming, and promoting the work of mid-career artists, proving Baltimore as a justifiable hot-bed of culture.

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