



SOUTH AFRICA

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For: ***Transitions***, an artist's project by Paul Emmanuel.  
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***Transitions – an artist's project by Paul Emmanuel opens at William Humphreys Art Gallery, Kimberley, Northern Cape, South Africa.***

The third exhibition of the ***Transitions*** project opens at William Humphreys Art Gallery, Kimberley, Northern Cape on the 15th April 2009 at 6.30pm.

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

It is Emmanuel's second major project and his seventh 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). Some of the footage was shot in 2006 on the base in Kimberley at the time of the new intake; Kimberley being one of two remaining South African military training camps, which still performs the obligatory hair shaving of 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 way 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 at the artist's current market value."

**Transitions** is currently on its South African tour; the artist is presently working on phase two - a series of hand-drawn, hand-printed 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 film prior to the production of either, and thus secured the production of the full scope of the artists plans for the film element.

The broader 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 William Humphreys Art Gallery, Kimberley, Northern Cape from 15th April – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

Please join us at 18h30 on the 15th April 2009 for the opening.

### **William Humphreys Art Gallery**

Cullinan Crescent • Civic Centre • Kimberley

### **Gallery Hours**

Mondays – Fridays 08h00 – 16h45 • Saturdays 10h00 – 16h45

Sundays & Public Holidays 14h00 – 16h45

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Ends

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