



The Lost Men Project

Paul Emmanuel

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CONCEPT DOCUMENT & MEDIA KIT

The Lost Men Project

A TEMPORARY, OPEN AIR, SITE SPECIFIC, MEMORIAL INSTALLATION BY PAUL EMMANUEL

CONCEPT

Engaging with concept of memorial and public grief, **The Lost Men** is exhibited as a site-specific installation in various particular spaces that bring their own history and relevance to the content of the images. The viewer encounters the installation, engaging with a personal expression in a public arena. The names of men who have died in conflicts from each particular site are cast in lead type and blind embossed onto the artist's body. These fleeting impressions are photographed before the temporary bruising fades. These photographs of the artist's marked body and skin are then printed onto large, delicate, semi-transparent voile and silk organza sheets that are hung outdoors in the landscape and left to the wind ...

BACKGROUND

Phase I of this outdoor site-specific memorial installation *The Lost Men Grahamstown* was launched in July 2004 on Monument Hill at the National Arts Festival, South Africa. In May 2007, phase II, *The Lost Men Mozambique*, was installed on the Catembe Ferry Jetty, Maputo, Mozambique.

The installation has a delicate, fragile presence and invites the viewer to contemplate the work against the surrounding landscape. This project is a development from a previous series of works dealing with memory and loss, namely the *Air on the Skin* series. (Awarded first prize SASOL competition 2002).

In many contemporary societies worldwide, men are re-evaluating their traditional roles and functions as well as the nature of patriarchy, intimacy, emotion and sexuality. The war in Iraq in 2003, with the attendant destruction, loss and pain, evoked in the artist memories of personal loss as a result of broken relationships.

Traditionally, war memorials have idealised and/or emphasised the glory of war. Usually, the materials chosen for memorials, eg. Granite, marble and bronze, signify the permanence of the memory of those who have died. To make the ultimate sacrifice for one's country or ideals is perceived as a noble concept, as is that of the "glory of war".

This project emphasises the complete opposite. *The Lost Men* talks about loss, the pathos of impermanence, the fragility of life, the memories that remain and how in time they fade, and questions traditional notions of masculinity. The materials specifically emphasise and speak of delicacy and transience and use the ephemeral quality of the imprinted silk to contrast with the use of lead type used by the artist in a process of blind embossing. His body was the 'canvas'.

The artwork presents a soft delicate contrast to the harshness and brutality that is war and conflict. The presentation of the installation makes reference to washing lines, a recurring image in the artist's previous work. The 'washing' on the line refers to the private and personal nature of clothing. For the artist, clothing signifies an absence of the body – an outer skin, holding the inner emotions. The printmaking processes in the production of this installation, eg. printing, lead type blind embossed on the skin's surface and photography, use the concept of the eventual loss of the impression, as memory also fades over time.

It is planned to install *The Lost Men* at sites in Northern Ireland, France, Germany and The United States over the next two to three years.

The project is to be documented in all its stages of production, including the potential damage it might suffer as a result of the outside environment and the effects of the elements. This documentation will be compiled with text into a publication.

The Lost Men Project is extended by a comprehensive printmaking outreach programme, providing learners with a means and process to access their innate creativity and to provide an opportunity to "talk" about themselves.

Paul Emmanuel

1969 Born, Kabwe, Zambia
1988/93 BA Fine Arts Honours, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Solo exhibitions and installations

2009 TRANSITIONS, Albany Museum, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
2009 THE LOST MEN, Kunst Raum Sylt-Quelle, Rantum, Sylt, Germany
2009 TRANSITIONS, KwaZulu-Natal Society of Arts, Durban, South Africa
2009 TRANSITIONS, William Humphreys Art Gallery, Kimberley, South Africa
2009 TRANSITIONS, Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa
2008 TRANSITIONS, Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa
2007 THE LOST MEN MOZAMBIQUE, Catembe Ferry Jetty, Maputo, Mozambique
2006 AFTER-IMAGE, Villa Arcadia, Hollard Insurance Company, Johannesburg, South Africa
2005 AFTER-IMAGE, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa
2005 AFTER-IMAGE, Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa
2004 AFTER-IMAGE, University of Stellenbosch Art Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
2004 THE LOST MEN GRAHAMSTOWN, Monument Hill, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
2003 AIR ON THE SKIN, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2000 PAGES FROM CATHEXIS, Open Window Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa

Selected group exhibitions

2006 NAVIGATING THE BOOKSCAPE, ARTISTS BOOKS AND THE DIGITAL INTERFACE, University of Johannesburg Gallery
2006 NAVIGATING THE BOOKSCAPE, ARTISTS BOOKS AND THE DIGITAL INTERFACE, Aardklop Festival, Potchefstroom
2004/5 WALDSEE 1944, travelling exhibition between galleries and museums in Hungary, Germany and New York
2003 THE AMPERSAND FOUNDATION, Warren Seibrits Modern and Contemporary, Johannesburg
2002 SCHUMANN-SASOL WAX ART COMPETITION, Sasolburg
2001 BAG FACTORY SHOW, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg
2000 WARP AND WEFT, Civic Gallery, Johannesburg
2000 AFTER NEW YORK, Civic Gallery, Johannesburg
1999 POSTCARDS FROM SOUTH AFRICA, Axis Gallery, New York
1998 SOUTH AFRICAN PRINTMAKING, Stockholm, Sweden
1998 ALL IN THE BAG – Sandton Civic Gallery, Johannesburg
1997 BAG FACTORY GROUP EXHIBITION at The Mexican Embassy, Pretoria
1996 A LITTLE SHOW OF DRAWERS, Pretoria University Campus Gallery, Pretoria
1996 ARTISTS' BOOKS IN THE GINSBERG COLLECTION, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg
1995 THE FIRST FOUR YEARS, Civic Gallery, Johannesburg.
1994 OPEN BITE - A NEW LOOK AT INTAGLIO PRINTMAKING, Civic Gallery, Johannesburg

Awards

2002 First prize: Sasol Wax Art Competition
1997 Ampersand Award, The Ampersand Foundation; New York
Worked at The Centre For Book Arts as visiting artist and intern – The Art of the Book, letterpress and book binding
Internship at Dobbin Mill Paper Mill, Brooklyn, New York – papermaking.

Public and corporate collections

- William Humphreys Art Gallery South Africa
- First National Bank South Africa
- Spier Contemporary Collection South Africa
- Hollard Insurance Company Limited South Africa
- Johannesburg Securities Exchange South Africa
- Johannesburg Art Gallery South Africa
- Gauteng Provincial Legislature South Africa
- Vodacom Limited South Africa
- MTN Limited South Africa
- Oliewenhuis Art Museum South Africa
- Sasol University of Stellenbosch Museum South Africa
- Pretoria Art Museum South Africa
- University of South Africa permanent collection
- Standard Bank of South Africa
- SASOL Petroleum Company Limited South Africa
- South African Broadcasting Corporation Limited
- Museum of Contemporary Art, Chamalieres, Auvergne, France



The Lost Men Grahamstown
Monument Hill, National Arts Festival voile, silk, steel photograph by Andrew Meintjes © Paul Emmanuel 2004



The Lost Men Grahamstown
Monument Hill, National Arts Festival voile, silk, steel photograph by Andrew Meintjies © Paul Emmanuel 2004



The Lost Men Mozambique

Catembe Ferry Jetty Maputo voile, silk, steel photograph by John Hodgkiss © Paul Emmanuel 2007



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Catembe Ferry Jetty Maputo voile, silk, steel photograph by John Hodgkiss © Paul Emmanuel 2007



The Lost Men Mozambique

Catembe Ferry Jetty Maputo voile, silk, steel photograph by John Hodgkiss © Paul Emmanuel 2007



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south africa

About Art Source Source South Africa

Art Source is a visual arts and culture consultancy occupying a unique niche within the contemporary South African arts sector. Launched in 2001 as a response to a gap in the rapidly maturing art market, Art Source handles an array of activities within the sector from fundraising and strategy development to curation, project development and management. It services a range of clients and interfaces between the worlds of cultural development at community and individual levels, corporate sponsors and sources of public donor funding. Specializing in strategic project development and career management of Fine Artists, Art Source South Africa has undertaken projects as diverse as contemporary visual art exhibitions, rural craft development projects, as well as initiated local and international artist exchanges which often include community outreach programmes.

Les Cohn:

Art Source cc (est. 2001) was established and is managed by Les Cohn, a qualified artist and an experienced arts administrator. She holds a BAFA from Michaelis School of Art, University of Cape Town and graduated with a H. Dip.in Fine Arts from the Technikon Witwatersrand (now University of Johannesburg). She was awarded a Technikon Merit Medal. Les Cohn gained a Diploma in Arts and Culture Management, from the P & DM School, Graduate School of Business, University of Witwatersrand. Les Cohn is a dynamic fine artist and arts project consultant well networked within the South African cultural sector. Her unique combination of qualifications, extensive experience in development and management positions, and various board connections, position her ideally to take a leading role in industry initiatives.

Taryn Cohn

After completing a BA Fine Art (hons) from the University of Stellenbosch, Taryn went on to obtain a Master of Philosophy in Cultural Development (under the co-supervision of Stellenbosch University's dept of Sociology, and the TWR's FADA – (under Kim Berman). Since 2002 she has worked in various capacities within the realm of arts management and cultural marketing. Her past projects and clients include, The Sasol wax art award, The Brett Kebble Art Award, The Zenex Foundation, Marketing Manager of Constitution Hill, among others. Her areas of speciality include marketing and communications for art and development projects, financial management, project management and strategy.