

POP '13 PICLET.ORG CAP PRIZE FOR CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN PHOTOGRAPHY

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Basel / Berlin / Zürich, May 9, 2013

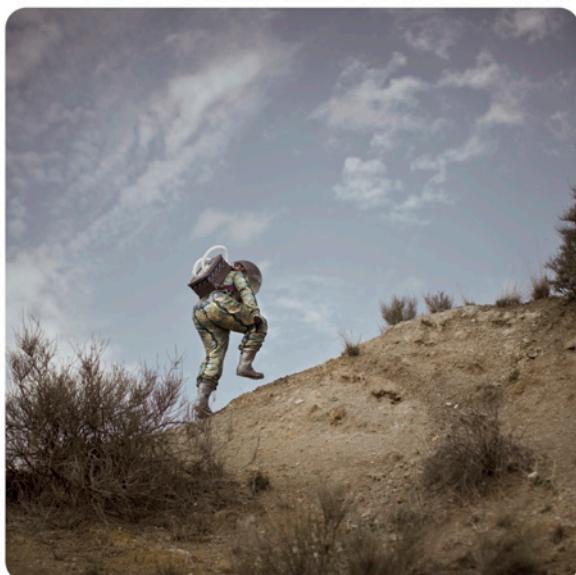
Winners POPCAP '13

Cristina de Middel

Born in 1975 in Alicante, Spain

Lives in London, Britain

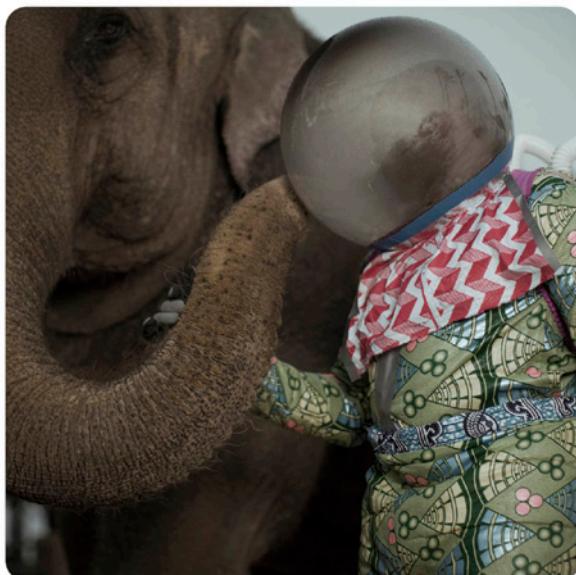
www.lademiddel.com



HAMBA from *The Afronauts*, 2010



IKO IKO from *The Afronauts*, 2010



IFULEGI from *The Afronauts*, 2010



The Afronauts

In 1964, still leaving the dream of their recently gained independence, Zambia started a space program that would put the first african on the moon catching up the USA and the Soviet Union in the space race.

Only a few optimists supported the project by Edward Makuka, the school teacher in charge of presenting the ambitious program and getting its necessary funding. But the financial aid never came, as the United Nations declined their support, and one of the astronauts , a 16 year old girl, got pregnant and had to quit.

That is how the heroic initiative turned into an exotic episode of the african history, surrounded by wars, violence, droughts and hunger.

As a photojournalist I have always been attracted by the excentric lines of story-telling avoiding the same old subjects told in the same old ways.

Now , with my personal projects, I respect the basis of the truth but allow myself to break the rules of veracity trying to push the audience into analyzing the patterns of the stories we consume as real.

"Afronauts" is based on the documentation of an impossible dream that only lives in the pictures.

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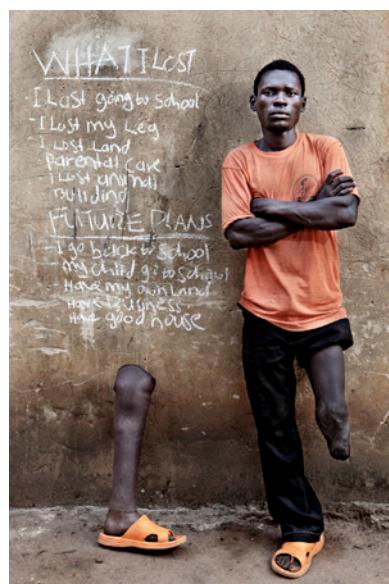
Winners POPCAP '13

Anhua Collective

Álvaro Laiz born in 1981 in León, Spain. Lives in Madrid, Spain

David Rengel, born in 1978 in Torreblanca de los Caños - Sevilla, Spain. Lives in Madrid, Spain

www.an-hua.org



Uganda, 2012. Florence Lakot, 29 years old. Kidnapped in 1998. Released eight years later, in 2006. For Florence and her two children the worse thing is the stigma and the isolation that comes with it. „I would like to go back to school and give my children a better life than the one I had, but I don't have any money“. From *Future Plan*

Uganda 2012. John Otto Baptist, 24 years old. Kidnapped in 1998. Release nine years later, in 2007. „I was 12 years old when I was abducted. I got to command over 200 people. Sudan's army provided us with weapons, uniforms, food... Everything. But after the Iron Fist operation of the Ugandan government, we were isolated. „We attacked villages and devastated small towns to get food. I lost my leg in one of those skirmishes. Once you're part of the system it is not easy to escape. You accept that is your life, to keep killing and being a soldier. I still have nightmares of those days“. From *Future Plan*

Uganda, 2012. Alice Lakot, 29 years old. Kidnapped in 1992. Released eleven years later in 2003. „I managed to escape during a skirmish with the army in the border with Sudan. I married and soon we had Fiona, but her father abandoned us when he found out he was HIV positive. He blamed me for being a rebel. We both have AIDS. Now I'm focusing all my efforts in Fiona having a better life, being able to study and go to school“. From *Future Plan*

Future Plan

Imagine you are nine years old and you live in a small country called Uganda. Every night, all children in your town play the same game. When the sun sets you hide among the high weeds and in holes dug in the earth. The objective is for them not to find you if they come, because if the catch you...

Rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army have been kidnapping children for over 25 years in the border between Uganda and Sudan, where they are trained as soldiers and taught how to use light weapons to fight the Uganda Army (UPDF). Their trademark is to cut the lips and ears of those getting in their way. Girls are used as sex slaves. Joseph Kony Himself, the leader of the guerrilla fighters, encourages his soldiers to get pregnant as many girls as they can, to supply the LRA with a new generation of "fighters". Deprived of education and brought up in a culture of extreme violence, they are forced to kill and abduct more people.

John, Margaret, Grace, Nighty are just a sample of the state of terror in Uganda in the last quarter of a century. Although the LRA has moved recently to the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo, the few that manage to return are rejected by a society who blames them for the deaths of their relatives and friends. They are rejected for what they symbolize: the thousands of sons and daughters, brothers and sisters who are still in Kony's hands (the notorious leader of Uganda's rebel guerrilla The Lord's Resistance Army) and many never come back.

Future Plan is a project of diverse NGOs for LRA's children soldiers in which they share their experiences and plans for tomorrow. Imagine your life was a great plain wall. Imagine you have a piece of chalk. What would you do with it?

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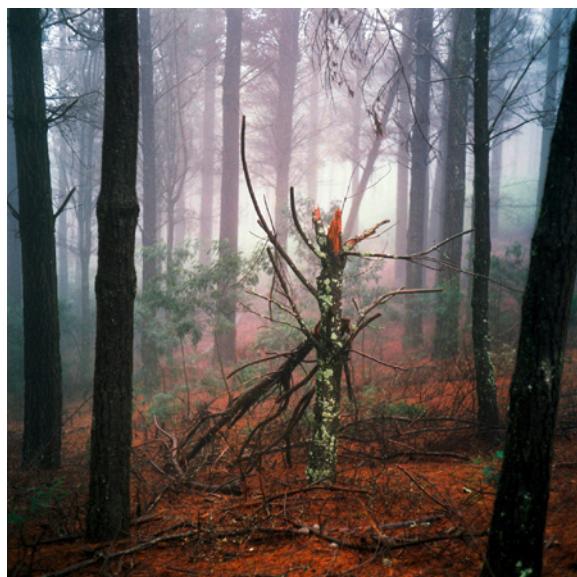
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Winners POPCAP '13

Alexia Webster

Born in 1979 in Johannesburg, South Africa
Lives in Johannesburg in South Africa
www.alexiawebster.com



A spirit of the pine forest. From *A Village in the Clouds*



A young Nguni calf, a breed of cattle indigenous to southern Africa, roams the forests and plateau's of Hogsback, a mist forest village in the Amatola mountains of the Eastern Cape of South Africa. From *A Village in the Clouds*



A young man, wearing a suit and hat and clay of his face that shows he has recently completed the traditional Xhosa rite of passage to manhood, relaxes against his car in the forestry workers' village in Hogsback. From *A Village in the Clouds*

A Village in the Clouds

In 1932 my great grandfather, Reverend A J Cook, bought a piece of land in Hogsback, a village nestled high up in the forests of the Amatola Mountains in South Africa.

Cloaked in mist and magic, it has been thought of as sacred ground by many the generations of people who have lived in Hogsback. Before the bloody frontier wars and before missionaries and settlers appropriated the land for homes and pine plantations, people would take their cattle up the mountain to graze, believing that it was in these ancient forests that their ancestors spirits resided.

Despite its beauty and charm, Hogsback holds a sad and complex history that in many ways mirrors the pain and contradictions that South Africa has faced. By the 1960s apartheid laws had rezoned Hogsback as an all-white area. Black people were no longer allowed to own land on the mountain and could only live in the village as temporary residents in the back yards of their employers.

Nineteen years after the fall of apartheid, the village is still a hauntingly beautiful but unsettled landscape struggling to come to terms with the ghosts of its past and the inequalities of the present.

This project explores the village now and searches for a glimpses of those spirits, including my own ancestors, who roam these ancient and haunted forests.

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Winners POPCAP '13

Dillon Marsh

Born in 1981 in Cape Town South Africa

Lives in Cape Town, South Africa

www.dillonmarsh.com



Limbo 5, 2012. From *Landmarks*



Invasive Species 6, 2009. From *Landmarks*



Assimilation 6, 2010. From *Landmarks*

Landmarks

Landmarks is a selection of photographs from four landscape series that I completed in recent years. In these series I seek to find things that are out of the ordinary, picking them out of the landscape where they might otherwise blend in.

The relationship between humans and the natural environment plays an important role in all these series. However, rather than advocating strong environmental messages, I prefer to show the subtle and curious manner in which this relationship often plays out. In my two more recent series, *«Limbo»* and *«A Matter Of Course»*, socio-political factors also play an important role as I try to offer a new perspective on the complex identity of Cape Town.

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Winners POPCAP '13

Graeme Williams

Born in 1961 in Cape Town, South Africa
Lives in Johannesburg, South Africa
www.graemewilliams.co.za



A torn tablecloth is cleaned and hung out to dry.
Phutanang township, Kimberley, 2011. From *On the other side*



Pheliswa Ngwane, unemployed, lays in the sun outside her house. Nduli township, Ceres, 2011. From *On the other side*



The Top Star Drive-in theatre screen remains, as the mine dump on which it was build is re-worked to extract the remaining gold content. Johannesburg, 2010. From *On the other side*

On the other side

Since its first democratic elections in 1994, South Africa has been on an accelerated drive towards change. However, as the years have gone by, the realities and challenges of an evolving nation have emerged. It remains a juggling act to balance the challenges of a relatively new democratic dispensation with the country's inherited apartheid past.

There remains an uneasy stasis as South African's social and physical landscapes continue to shift. This state of flux is perpetuated by the mélange of real and perceived opposites; the present and the past, wealth and poverty, black and white, power and helplessness. The essay focuses on isolated, but telling facets of daily life within the country, in an attempt to mirror the complexity and fragmented nature of the process of transformation.

The photographs emphasize both change and the lack of change, while the essay as a whole becomes a commentary on the intertwined relationship between past, present and an uncertain future.

These photographs were taken in small towns, townships and cities throughout South Africa.



Die POPCAP '13 Jury

Florian Ebner, Kurator, *Museum Volkwang*, Essen, Deutschland

Benjamin Füglister, Künstler und Gründer von *piclet.org*, Berlin, Deutschland

Ángel Luis González Fernández, Director, *Photoland*, Dublin, Ireland.

Bohnchang Koo, Künstler, Seoul, Korea

Michket Krifa, Kuratorin, Paris, Frankreich

Lesley A. Martin, Publisher, *Aperture Foundation*, New York, USA

Jeanne Mercier, Gründerin von *Afrique en Visu*, Paris, Frankreich

Aida Muluneh, Künstlerin und Direktorin des *Addis Foto Fests*, Addis Abeba, Äthiopien

Andreas Müller-Pohle, Künstler und Verleger von *European Photography*, Berlin, Deutschland

Moritz Neumüller, Kurator und Leiter *European Master of Fine Art Photography*, Barcelona, Spanien

Azu Nwagbogu, Direktor von *Photo Lagos*, Lagos, Nigeria

Jürg Schneider, Historiker, Basel, Schweiz

Laura Sérali, Kuratorin, Paris, Frankreich

Anne Wilkes Tucker, Kuratorin, *Museum of Fine Arts*, Houston, USA

Das POPCAP '13 Kernteam

Benjamin Füglister Künstlerische Leitung POPCAP



Benjamin Füglister wurde 1978 in Zürich geboren und wuchs im Raum Basel auf. Seit 2005 lebt er nach dem Studium an der HGKB und in den Niederlanden an der HKU in Berlin. In seiner künstlerischen Arbeit beschäftigt er sich mit sozialen Konventionen und deren visuellen Transformation. Dabei fällt der Fokus besonders auf die Fotografie als Interface zur Observation und als Medium zur Sichtbarmachung der Veränderung des Menschenbildes. Seit 2006 ist Benjamin Füglister redaktioneller Mitarbeiter im European Photography Verlag. 2009 gründete er die Plattform für handverlesene Fotografenportfolios piclet.org, die 2012 zum ersten Mal POPCAP ausschrieb.

Angela Nyffeler Administrative Leitung POPCAP



Wurde 1977 in der Region Basel geboren. Sie studierte Public Relations und Event-Kommunikation am SPRI in Zürich und sammelte Arbeitserfahrung in diversen Kommunikationsabteilungen von nationalen und internationalen Firmen. Heute arbeitet sie als PR-Beraterin für ihre eigene Agentur Nunc. in Zürich. Ihre Berufserfahrung umfasst über zehn Jahre in der Kommunikationsbranche wobei die Kultur immer eine zentrale Rolle spielt. In den letzten Jahren wirkte sie bei folgenden Kultur-Projekten mit: Museumsnacht Basel, Inga Svensson - Ingvar kom hem, The Focused Coachmen - Von Menschen und Pferden, Nox Illuminata, Liestal Air, Kulturnacht Lichtblicke. Sie gründete im Oktober 2010 den Verein Liaison für gemeinnützige kulturelle Veranstaltungen im Bereich der interdisziplinären Kunst.

Die Gewinner POPCAP '12 / Winners POPCAP '12

Guillaume Bonn

Born in 1970 in Tananarive, Madagascar. Lives in Paris, France
www.guillaumebonn.com



A maid prepares a picnic lunch for her employers, who have a farm at Lake Naivasha, and their friends, 2010. From *Silent Lives*.



A gardener on week end duty cleans the swimming pool while his employer's guest sunbathes. The property is situated in Ulu 45 minutes outside of Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, 2010. From *Silent Lives*.



Caroline, a single mother of 41 years old, is from Nyanza Province in western Kenya. She was hired 20 years ago to be nanny for the children in the photograph. Now she is a housemaid and sometimes stands in for the family cook, 2009. From *Silent Lives*.

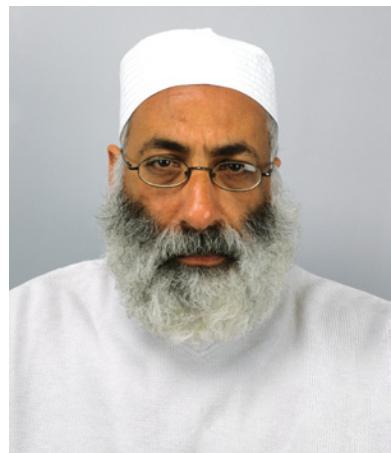


The maids are preparing a room for a guest who is coming to spend the weekend, 2009. From *Silent Lives*.

Die Gewinner POPCAP '12 / Winners POPCAP '12

Nabil Boutros

Born in 1954 Cairo, Egypt. Lives in Paris, France
www.nabil-boutros.com



All images from *Egyptians*, 2010–2011

Die Gewinner POPCAP '12 / Winners POPCAP '12

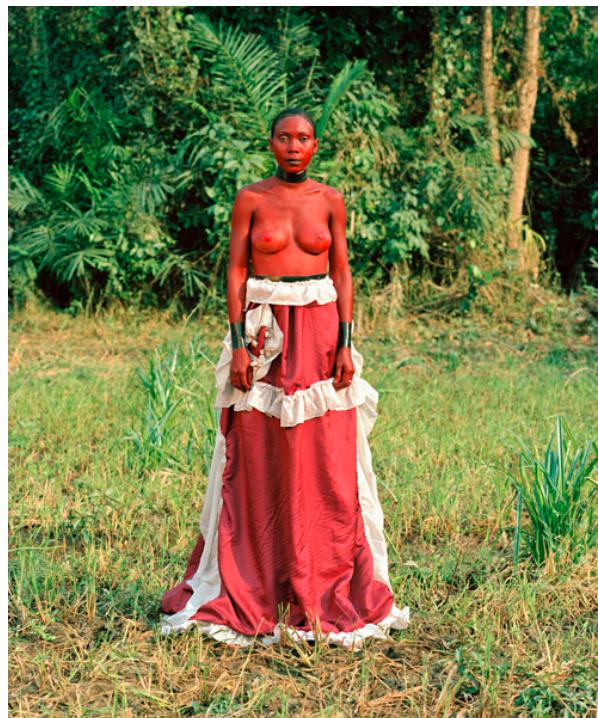
Namsa Leuba

Born in 1982 in St. Aubin, Switzerland. Lives in Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

www.namsaleuba.com



Statuette Zoo Foret, Guinee, 2011. From *Ya Kala Ben/Crossed look*, 2011



Statuette Sorsorne Oumou, Guinee, 2011. From *Ya Kala Ben/Crossed look*, 2011

Die Gewinner POPCAP '12 / Winners POPCAP '12

Paolo Patrizi

Born in 1965 in Rome, Italy. Lives in Tokyo, Japan.
www.paolopatrizi.com



Chair, 2007–2009. From *Migration Linked to Prostitution*.

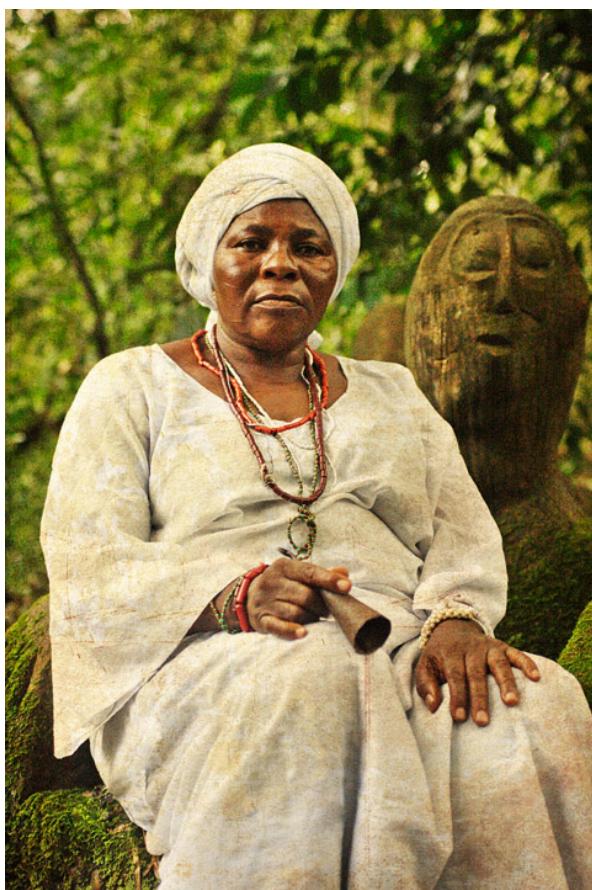


Sharon, a Nigerian sex worker on her makeshift bed on the fringes of Rome, Italy. 2007–2009.
From *Migration Linked to Prostitution*.

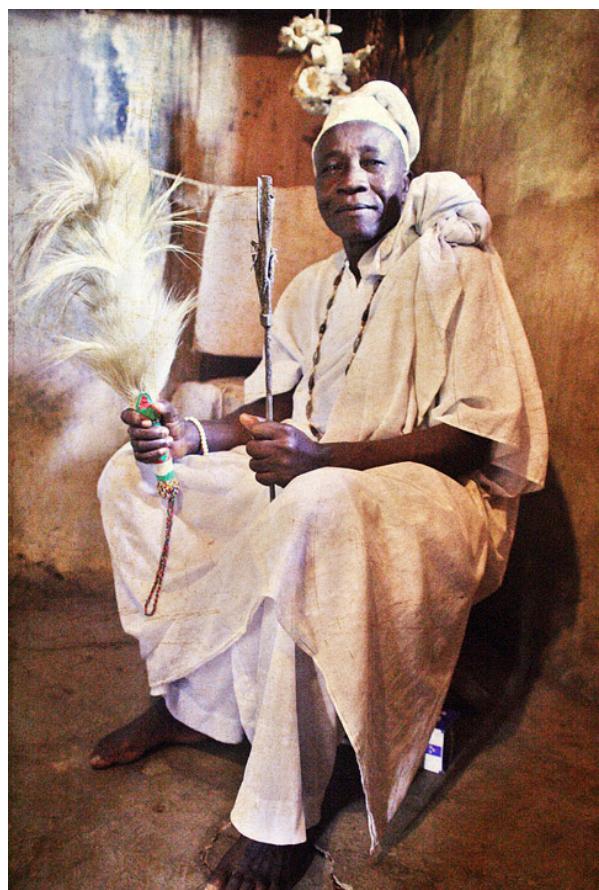
Die Gewinner POPCAP '12 / Winners POPCAP '12

Adolphus Opara

Born in 1981 in Imo State, Nigeria. Lives in Lagos, Nigeria.
www.adolphusopara.com



Orisa Osun, Deity of Good of Prosperity and of Water, Mrs Titilayo Ogunrimu, 2009–2011. From *Emissaries of an Iconic religion*.



Orisa Ayelala, Deity of Protection, Chief Olasupo Awolowo, 2009–2011. From *Emissaries of an Iconic religion*.