

Lindokuhle Sobekwa



Biography

Lindokuhle Sobekwa (b. 1995 in Katlehong, Johannesburg) is a South African photographer. He was introduced to photography in 2012, through the Of Soul and Joy Project in Buhlebuzile High School in Thokoza township, where his photography mentors included Bieke Depoorter, Cyprien Clément-Delmas, Thabiso Sekgala, Tjorven Bruyneel and Kutlwano Moagi.

In 2024, Sobekwa presented solo show at the Johannesburg Art Gallery titled *Umkhondo: Going Deeper*, following his 2023 FNB Art Prize Award.

In 2023, Sobekwa was awarded the inaugural John Kopal Foundation Fellowship. Maintaining the scrapbook aesthetic of the handmade edition for his first photobook, *I carry Her photo with Me*, a photographic search for answers about the disappearance of his sister Ziyanda, was published in 2024.

In 2022, he opened his first museum show at Huis Marseille (Amsterdam), featuring the body of work *Umkhondo: Tracing Memory*, as part of the summer program *The Beauty of the World So Heavy*. His handmade photobook, *I carry Her photo with Me*, was included in *African Cosmologies* at the FotoFest Biennial Houston (2020), curated by Mark Sealy.

In 2021, he completed a residency at A4 Foundation in Cape Town, which culminated in a two-person exhibition with Mikhael Subotzky titled *Tell It to the Mountains*. He is also currently working on a collaborative project with French Photographer Cyprien Clément-Delmas about the community of Daleside in South Africa. This series was published by Gost in 2021 and has been supported by the Rubis Mécénat Foundation.

Sobekwa's work has been exhibited in South Africa, Iran, Norway, the US and the Netherlands. His breakout photo series *Nyaope: 'Everything you do my Boss, will do'* was published in the *Mail & Guardian* (South Africa) in 2014 and his work was featured in *Vice* magazine and the *Standaard* in the same year. He completed the foundation course at Market Photo Workshop and in 2017, Sobekwa was selected by the Magnum Foundation as a fellow in the renowned Photography and Social Justice program.

Sobekwa lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024** *Umkhondo: Going Deeper*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2024** *Heart of the Garden*, Goodman Gallery, London
- 2022** *Umkhondo: Tracing memory*, Huis Marseille, Museum for Photography, Amsterdam
- 2015**, *Everything you give me boss, will do*, No Man's Art Gallery. UNSEEN PHOTO Downtown program, Doka / Volkshotel Amsterdam

Group Exhibitions

- 2024** *Emotion of the Sun*, Veuve Clicquot Italy Milan
- 2023** *Against the Grain*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2023** *JIVE*, Goethe Institut, Johannesburg
- 2023** *Ukuzilanda Homegoing*, Magnum Photos, Cromwell Place
- 2022** *Chosen Family – Less Alone Together*, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland
- 2022** *AMI x Magnum*, Magnum Photos, Paris; Miami; Shanghai; and Kyoto
- 2022** *Where do I being*, Stevenson, Cape Town
- 2021** *Of Blood Sweat and Data/On People, Place and Photography*, Studio Nxumalo Contemporary and the Through the Lens Collective, Johannesburg
- 2021** *_Family Dissemblance*, SARChI Chair in South African Art and Visual Culture, University of Johannesburg
- 2021** *Public Life: Recording the Blur*, FotoFest, Houston, Texas
- 2020** *Daleside (with Cyprien Clément-Delmas)*, PhotoSaintGermain, Paris, France; Frama Gallery, Kortrijk, Belgium; Fotodok, Munich, Germany
- 2020** *Le Grand Chemin #2*, Cité des Arts, Reunion Island
- 2020** *African Cosmologies*, FotoFest, Houston, Texas
- 2019** *Le Grand Chemin #1*, Cité des Art, Reunion Island
- 2018** *Place of Peace*, Rubis Mécénat and Stop Sign Art Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2016** *Free from my Happiness*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg; Photo Festival, Ghent Belgium; No Man's Art Pop-up Gallery, Tehran, Iran; No Man's Art Pop-up Gallery, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2014** *See without looking, hear without listening, breathe without asking*, Kalashnikov Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2014** *Expression of freedom* Kalashnikov Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2014** *Fearless Renewal*, Afrovibes Festival, Amsterdam

2013 *Free from my happiness*, Ithuba Art Gallery, Thokoza; Photo Festival, Johannesburg

2021 *Tell It to the Mountains* (with Mikhael Subotzky), A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town

Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

2023 The John Kobal Foundation Fellowship Lecture at Tate Modern

2021 Canon Student Development programme

One to One Children Fund: Art for ART presents my eye is drawn

2020 Member of Jury: ICP / GOST First Photo Book Award

2020 Joop Swart Masterclass: Lindokuhle Sobekwa

2020 The Photographers' Gallery: Artist Talk Lindokuhle Sobekwa

2020 MA in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography at London College of Communication

2020 How Stories Choose Us: Magnum Photos x FotoFest Biennial.

2020 High Museum + Magnum Photos Live Lab Panel discussion the USA

2019 Photo Vogue Festival Magnum day.

2019 Norway Dokfestival lecture series

2019 Iran New Media talk series Nomans Art Gallery

Awards and Merits

2023 FNB Art Prize Winner

2023 Inaugural John Kobal Foundation Fellowship Recipient

2023 Norval Sovereign African Art Prize (Shortlisted)

2021 Visionary Award, Javett Art Centre, (Shortlisted)

2020 Leica Oskar Barnack Award (Shortlisted)

2020 Joop Swart Masterclass

2018 Magnum Foundation Fund Grant Recipient

2017 Magnum Foundation Social Justice Fellow

2013 Student of the Year, Of soul and Joy Photo Festival

Commissions

2020 Wellcome Trust Commission

Selected Articles and Reviews

2020 Ernest Cole, TATE. (published by TATE Modern, London UK)

<https://www.tate.org.uk/tate-etc/issue-51-spring-2021/ernest-cole-lindokuhle-sobekwa-images-burnt-my-mind>

2020 Huck on Ernest Cole

<https://www.huckmag.com/playlist-archive/unpacking-the-legacy-of-photographer-ernest-cole/>

Publications

2024 *I carry Her photo with Me* (long-form essay by writer and scholar Neelika Jayawardane),

Mack books, May 2024, Spiral-bound hardcover 18 × 22cm, 80 pages

2020 *Daleside* (With Cyprien Clément-Delmas), GOST Books, November 2020, 187 × 253 mm, 128 pages (2 books of 64 pages), 62 colour images, Swiss bound Hardback