

galerie bertrand & gruner

PRESS RELEASE
PIETER HUGO : "PRESENCE"



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PIETER HUGO : "PRESENCE" september 13 - november 4, 2006

Gallery Bertrand & Gruner is delighted to present Pieter Hugo's first solo exhibition in Switzerland. The exhibition 'Presence' gives a complete overview of this photographer's work, who is considered to be one of the best of his generation. Hugo's images were featured in the exhibition 'reGeneration: 50 photographes de demain', organized last year by Le Musée de l'Elysée in Lausanne. In 2006 Hugo won first prize in the Portrait section of the World Press Photo competition and was selected by Getty Images as one of their Young Photographers for that year. He has also been invited to participate in the 7th São Paulo Bienal.

Born in 1976 in Johannesburg, Pieter Hugo is a photographer who commits himself to his subjects and gives particular attention to Africa and developing countries. He has traveled extensively in his home country, South Africa as well as in Botswana, Nigeria and Liberia.

Pieter Hugo devotes himself to his subjects for extended periods of time. In 2003, he ran a large inquiry during which he traveled in a number of countries in Africa, Europe and South America. In that series, dedicated to people suffering from Albinism, Hugo offers a straightforward portrait of individuals often rejected by society. In 2004, he spent time in Rwanda, photographing genocide sites, ten years after the events which caused the death of more than a million people. In 2002, he covered South Africa and Rwanda for the World Health Organisation, following women who were being treated for HIV/AIDS that they had contracted after being raped and subjected to violence.

Last year, the photographer realised a series of portraits of a group of entertainers from Nigeria, who travel across the country with a troop of hyenas, pythons and monkeys. In each series, Pieter Hugo presents a respectful portrait of the people he pictures. His strong images are imbued with the dignified presence of his subjects.

Nathalie Herschdorfer
Associate curator
Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne

Galerie Bertrand & Gruner
16 rue du Simplon
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Tuesday - Friday: 15h - 19h
Saturday: 14h - 18h
(and by appointment)

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