

# Mikhael Subotzky



## Biography

Mikhael Subotzky (b. 1981, Cape Town) is a Johannesburg based artist whose works in multiple mediums (including film installation, video, photography, collage and painting) attempt to engage critically with the instability of images and the politics of representation. Subotzky has exhibited in a series of important international exhibitions, including most recently *Inheritance: Recent Video Art from Africa* at the Fowler Museum (UCLA) in Los Angeles (2019) and *Ex Africa* in various venues in Brazil (2017-18). His award-winning *Ponte City* project (co-authored with Patrick Waterhouse) was presented at Art Basel Unlimited in 2018. The full exhibition and archive of this project has since been acquired by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and will be the subject of a monographic exhibition there in the fall of 2020.

Subotzky's work is collected widely by international institutions, including the Museum of Modern Art (New York), Solomon R Guggenheim Museum (New York), the National Gallery of Art (Washington), Tate (London), Centre Pompidou (Paris), and the South African National Gallery, among others.

Subotzky's work was included in the Lubumbashi (2013) and Liverpool (2012) biennials. *Pixel Interface*, a multi-component video installation, was included in *All The World's Futures*, curated by Okwui Enwezor at the 56th Venice Biennale (2015).

## Solo Exhibitions

2017 *Yellow Bille (or work in Progress)* Maitland institute Cape town

2017 *WYE*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2016 *Mikhael Subotzky: WYE*, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation Sydney, Australia

2015 *Ponte City*, Photography Gallery, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland

2014 *Ponte City*, Le Bal, Paris, France

2014 *Ponte City*, FOMU, Antwerp, Belgium

2014 *Ponte City* (with Patrick Waterhouse), National Galleries, Scotland, UK

2014 *Show 'n Tell*, Goodman Gallery Cape Town, South Africa

2012 *Retinal Shift*, Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year Exhibition, various venues around South Africa including Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town and Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

- 2010 *Mikhael Subotzky and Patrick Waterhouse: Recent Works*, Goodman Gallery Cape, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009 *Two Projects*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2008 *Beaufort West* (in *New Photography 2008*: Josephine Meckseper and Mikhael Subotzky), Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- 2007 *Beaufort West*, Studio La Citta, Verona, Italy
- 2007 *Beaufort West*, FOAM (Foto Museum Amsterdam), Amsterdam, Holland, Netherlands
- 2007 *Beaufort West*, Goodman Gallery Cape, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2006 *Die Vier Hoeke and Umjiegwana*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2006 *Die Vier Hoeke*, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2005 *Die Vier Hoeke* in the Nelson Mandela Cell at Pollsmoor Prison, Cape Town, South Africa

## Group Exhibitions

- 2018 *Magnum Manifesto: Guardare il mondo e raccontarlo in fotografia*, Museo dell`Ara Pacis, Rome
- 2018 *ex africa*, CCBB, Rio de Janeiro
- 2018 *Of Sovereignty and Safety*, curated by Daniel Rautenbach, Goodman Gallery Video Room, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017 *L'exposició PLEASE COME BACK. El món com a presó?*, institut valencia d'art modern, valencia
- 2017 *Making Africa: A continent of contemporary design*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta
- 2017 *Ex Africa*, CCBB, Belo Horizonte
- 2017 *Up to Now*, Fabrica photography, fabrica, Reggio Emilia, Treviso
- 2017 *Magnum Manifesto*, International Center for Photography, New York City, USA
- 2017 *Please come back. The world as prison?*, Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo, Rome, Italy
- 2016 *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016 *After Eden: Photography from the Walther Collection*, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France
- 2016 *Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design*, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
- 2015 *Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design*, The Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain
- 2015 *Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design*, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany
- 2015 *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize exhibition*, The Photographer's Gallery, London, UK
- 2015 *Edge of Silence*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015 *The Poetry In Between: South-South*, Goodman Gallery Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015 *All the World's Futures*, la Biennale di Venezia, Italy
- 2014 *From Sitting to Selfie*, Standard Bank Gallery, South Africa
- 2014 *Destini/Storie/Vite*, Centro Arte Moderna e Contemporanea della Spezia, La Spezia-Italy, Italy
- 2014 *Apartheid & After*, Huis Marseilles Museum voor Fotografie, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2014 *Surfacing*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014 *EXPO*, Museu de Arte Moderna in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2014 *In Context: The Portrait in Contemporary Photographic Practice*, Wellin Museum of Art, Clinton, New York State, USA
- 2014 *Public Intimacy: Art and Other Ordinary Acts in South Africa*, SF MOMA in partnership with the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA), San Francisco, USA
- 2014 *Contemporary Art/South Africa*, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut, USA
- 2014 *Earth Matters*, Bowdoin Museum of Art, Brunswick, Maine, USA
- 2013 *This House in Nouvelles Vagues*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
- 2013 *My Jo'burg*, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France
- 2013 *Some Views of Africa*, Studio La Citta, Verona, Italy
- 2013 *Earth Matters*, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, USA
- 2013 *Concrete – Photography and Architecture*, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland
- 2013 *Structures*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 *A Different Kind of Order*, The ICP Triennial, International Center of Photography, New York, USA
- 2013 *La Chambre*, Strasbourg, France

- 2012 *State of the Art Photography*, The NRW-Forum, Düsseldorf, Germany  
2012 *Out of Focus: Photography*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 2011 The 6th Curitiba Biennial, Curitiba, Brazil  
2011 *Highrise – Idea and Reality*, The Museum für Gestaltung Zürich, Switzerland  
2011 *Appropriated Landscapes*, The Walther Collection in Neu Ulm/Burlafingen, Germany  
2011 *Photography Now: Engaged, Personal, and Vital*, The New York Photo Festival, New York, USA  
2011 *Figures & Fictions*, V&A Museum, London, UK  
2011 Arles Discovery Award Exhibition, Arles
- 2010 *Peekaboo! Current South Africa*, Helsinki City Museum and Tennispalast, Helsinki, Finland  
2010 12th Cairo Biennale  
2010 *In Context*, South African National Gallery and Arts on Main, Cape Town and Johannesburg  
2010 *Contemporary African Photography from the Walther Collection: Events of the Self, Portraiture and Social Identity*, The Walther Collection, Ulm, Germany
- 2009 *Still Revolution: Suspended In Time*, Contact Photo Festival, Toronto, USA  
2009 *Nation State*, Goodman Gallery Cape, Cape Town, South Africa  
2009 *Armory Show*, Goodman Gallery, New York, USA  
2009 *Mythologies*, Haunch of Venison, London, UK  
2009 *Three Stories: Pieter Hugo, Mikhael Subotzky, Paolo Woods*, Centre National de l'Audiovisuel, Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- 2008 *A Look Away – South African photography today, Kuckei + Kuckei*, Berlin, Germany  
2008 *Unseen, An Exhibition of International Photography*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China  
2008 *.ZA*, Young Art from South Africa, Palazzo delle Papesse, Siena, Italy  
2008 *Art 39 Basel*, Goodman Gallery Booth, Switzerland
- 2006-8 *Snap Judgements: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography*, curated by Okwui Enwezor, International Center for Photography, New York, Miami, USA; Mexico City, Mexico; Amsterdam, Holland, Netherlands
- 2007 *A Legacy of Men*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2007 *ArtBasel*, Goodman Gallery Booth, Miami Beach, Miami, USA  
2007 *NY C Photo*, Phillips, de Pury & Luxembourg, Luxembourg; New York, USA  
2007 *Bare Life*, Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem, Israel  
2007 *says the junk in the yard*, Flowers East, London, England  
2007 *The Loaded Lens*, Goodman Gallery Cape, Cape Town, South Africa  
2007 *Lumo 07 – 'Us'*, 7th International Photography Triennale, Jyväskylä, Finland  
2007 *Art 38 Basel*, Goodman Gallery Booth, Basel, Switzerland  
2007 *Lift off II*, Goodman Gallery Cape, Cape Town, South Africa  
2007 *Reality Check: Contemporary Art Photography from South Africa*, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin, Germany
- 2006 *Risk*, Exhibition of the 2006 Joop Swart Masterclass, FOAM, Amsterdam, Holland, Netherlands  
2006 *Art Basel*, Miami Beach, Goodman Gallery booth, Miami, USA  
2006 *The Living is Easy*, Flowers East Gallery, London, UK  
2006 *Art 37 Basel*, Goodman Gallery, Basel, Switzerland  
2006 *New Code*, Studio La Citta, Verona, Italy  
2006 *Personae & Scenarios – New African Photography*, Brancolini Grimaldi Arte Contemporanea, Rome, Italy  
2006 *Olvida quien soy [Erase me from who I am]*, Centro Atlantico de Art Moderno, Canary Islands
- 2005 *Vies Recontres Africaines de la Photographie*, Bamako, Mali  
2005 *The Pantagruel Syndrome*, TI, Turin Triennial curated by Francesco Bonami and Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, Turin, Italy  
2005 *Art 36 Basel*, Goodman Gallery booth, Basel, Switzerland  
2005 *Art Basel*, Miami Beach, Goodman Gallery booth, Miami, USA  
2005 *Click*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2005 *Vyf Kurators, Vyftien Kunstenaars [Five Curators, Fifteen Artists]*, Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees, Oudtshoorn, South Africa

## Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

2004-6 Part-time lecturer in photography at the University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

2005-8 Set up and ran photographic workshops inside Pollsmoor Prison, Cape Town, South Africa

## Awards and Merits

2012 Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year Award for Visual Arts

2011 Discovery Award at Rencontres de la Photographie, Arles

2009 Lou Stouman Award, Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, USA

2009 Leica Oskar Barnack Award

2008 W. Eugene Smith Memorial Grant, New York, USA

2008 ICP Infinity Award (Young Photographer Award), New York, USA

2008 Goethe Institute Grant

2007 City of Perpignan Young Photographer Award, Perpignan, France

2007 KLM Paul Huff Award, Amsterdam, Holland

2006 F25 Award for Concerned Photography, Fabrica, Italy

2006 Participated in the 2006 Joop Swart Masterclass, World Photo Press, Amsterdam, Holland

2005 Special Jurer's Prize at the Vles Recontres Africaines de la Photographie, Bamako, Mali

2005 South African National Arts Council Grant

2005 Goethe Institute Grant

## Academic Record and Residencies

### Residencies

2007-8 Civitella Ranieri fellowship, Italy

2007 One-year residency at Fabrica, Treviso, Italy

2006 Participated in the 2006 Joop Swart Masterclass, World Photo Press, Amsterdam, Holland

### Undergraduate

2004 Graduated with a distinction, BA of (Fine) Arts Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

## Collections

### South Africa

South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

### International

Foam (Fotomuseum Amsterdam), Amsterdam, Holland

21C Museum, Kentucky, USA

Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, USA

The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

Elton John Private Photography Collection

## Selected Articles and Reviews

- 2013 Chris Thurman, *Looking Back in Anger to be Seen*, Business Day Live, South Africa
- 2013 Eugene Reznik, *Ponte City: An Apartheid-Era High Rise Mired in Myth*, Time Lightbox, <http://lightbox.time.com/2013/05/20/ponte-city-an-apartheid-era-high-rise-mired-in-myth/>, May
- 2013 Francis Hodgson, *Marrakech's Museum for Photography and the visual arts offers Surprises*, Financial Times, United Kingdom
- 2012 Anthea Buys, *Observers of the Settler's Town*, Mail and Guardian, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2012 Blake Andrews, *Book Reviews: Retinal Shift*, 8 November
- 2010 Camilla Peus, *\_Schwartz, Weiss, Und Alle Fabren*, Art Magazine
- 2010 Anthea Buys, *Sprawling Tales of Home*, Mail and Guardian, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010 Ufrieda Ho, *A Nose and a Box To Draw Art Lovers*, The Star, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010 Kei Wakabayashi, *Visions of South Africa*, GQ Japan
- 2009 Charles Schultz, *The Subotzky Trajectory\_*, Vewd, [http://vewd.org/index.php/news/article/the\\_subotzkytrajectory/](http://vewd.org/index.php/news/article/the_subotzkytrajectory/), January
- 2009 Joerg Colberg, *Beaufort West by Mikhael Subotzky\_*, Conscientious, [http://jmcolberg.com/weblog/2008/11/review\\_beaufort\\_west\\_by\\_mikhaelsubotzky.html](http://jmcolberg.com/weblog/2008/11/review_beaufort_west_by_mikhaelsubotzky.html), November.
- 2009 Alex Hawgood, *The Insider | Mikhael Subotzky*, The Moment, <http://themoment.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/11/10/the-insider-mikhael-subotzky/>, November.
- 2008 Raffaella Delle Donne, *Documenting and Inhabiting the Contradictions, Mikhael Subotzky\_*, *The Sunday Independent*, South Africa
- 2008 *The White/Nonwhite Divide*, Carol Strickland, The Christian Science Monitor, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/1003/p13s03-1gn.html>, October.
- 2008 Karen Rosenberg, *Splitting a Gallery in Half to Focus on Social Strife*, The New York Times, New York
- 2008 Ivor Powell, *\_Mikhael Subotzky*, NKA: Journal of Contemporary African Art, Issue 22/23, Spring 2008, p114 – 121.
- \*2008\* Sean O'Toole, *Die Vier Hoeke*, Foam Magazine, Amsterdam
- 2008 Joshua Mack, *Mikhael Subotzky: In His Images of South Africa's Fractured Communities*, *Photographer Mikhael Subotzky Dissolves the Barrier Between Us and Them*, Art Review, London
- 2007 Michael Godby, *Mikhael Subotzky: Inside South Africa's Prisons*, Aperture Magazine, Issue 188, Fall 2007
- 2007 Melvyn Minnaar, *Subotzky captures Beaufort West prison again*, Cape Times (Life), September.
- \*2007\* Leo Benedictus, *Mikhael Subotzky's Best Shot*, The Guardian, London
- 2007 Sue Williamson, *Mikhael Subotzky*, Artthrob, South Africa

## Publications

- 2008 *Beaufort West*, Mikhael Subotzky Chris Boot Ltd, London