

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 number of important international exhibitions, including most recently *Masculinities: Liberation through Photography* at the Barbican in London (2020), *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 2021.

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), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the South African National Gallery, among others.

Subotzky's work was included in *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

2019 *Massive Nerve Corpus*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg

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

Goodman Gallery

- 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

- 2020 *_ Masculinities: Liberation Through Photography_*, Barbican, London
2019 *I've grown roses in this garden of mine*, Goodman Gallery, London
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 Valencià 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

Goodman Gallery

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

Goodman Gallery

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

h2. 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/, January

2009 Joerg Colberg, *Beaufort West by Mikhael Subotzky*, *Conscientious*,

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

Goodman Gallery

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