



Iluminando Vidas
Fotografia Moçambicana 1950–2001
Ricardo Rangel & The Next Generation

Photographic exhibition at the PhotoforumPasquArt Biel/Bienne, Switzerland, 13 April to 19 May 2002

Opening (exhibition and catalogue): 13 April 2002, 5.00 pm

Press conference: PhotoforumPasquArt, 12 April 2002, 10.30 am

(The photographers Ricardo Rangel, Joel Chiziane, Sérgio Santimano will be present.)

«Iluminando Vidas» is the title of the forthcoming exhibition on contemporary Mozambican photography at the PhotoforumPasquArt in Bienne. This will be the first exhibition in Europe to present such a comprehensive view of Mozambican photography since the end of 16 years of civil war in 1992.

The starting point of the exhibition is the work of the doyen of Mozambican photography Ricardo Rangel, who is 78 years old today. He is considered to be one of the most outstanding African reportage photographers. His sociocritical work is dedicated to documentary reportage in line with the Magnum tradition. Since 1983, he has been director of the Centro de Documentação e Formação Fotográfica (CDFF) in the capital Maputo, an institution of singular importance in the African context. Rangel's work and teaching has had a substantial influence on the younger generation of Mozambican photographers.

On display are 25 photographs by Rangel and over 100 images by 14 of his «disciples». All of the photographers are considered to play an important role in contemporary Mozambican photography. The pictures, produced under extremely difficult conditions, are of a captivating formal quality and are surely among the best that African photography has to offer.

Mozambican photography is a story of success. The main objective of the exhibition is to honour a photographic tradition which, to date, is hardly known in the North, and to highlight the cultural achievement it represents. At the same time, it wants to challenge our stereotyped perception of Africa as a continent dominated by disaster. Taken from a perspective of the South that it is rarely present in our media, the pictures open up a subtly diversified and unexpectedly poetic view of the everyday life of people in an African society.

Being an itinerant exhibition, after Bienne «Iluminando Vidas» will travel on to the Museo Cantonale d'Arte in Lugano from 8 June to 21 July, and will possibly be shown in the exhibition rooms «Auf der Lyss» in Basle in November 2002. It will complete its journey in Mozambique, where it will be exhibited at the gallery of the Mozambican photographers' association Associação Moçambicana de Fotografia (AMF) in Maputo.

The exhibition is accompanied by a high-quality catalogue published by Christoph Merian Verlag of Basle. The catalogue contains articles by acknowledged experts and is available in two editions (German/French and English/Portuguese).

After the opening of the exhibition in Bienne, the invited photographers will be holding a ten-day workshop on reportage photography organized in cooperation with the Basle School of Art and Design and the Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais in Sierre and aimed at promoting a cultural North-South dialogue. Furthermore, exhibition tours with the photographers have been organized for the students of the Bern/Bienne School of Art and Design and the Swiss Centre for Media Studies (MAZ) in Kastanienbaum.

The main sponsor of the project is the *Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)*. It is also supported by *Pro Helvetia*, the *Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation* and other organizations.

A press folder including photographs of the exhibition will be available by mid March.

Further information:

Gallati und Burkhard
 Christoph Burkhard
 Zentralstrasse 156
 CH-8003 Zürich SWITZERLAND

Tel: ++41+1 451 66 96
 E-Mail: mail@galbur.ch

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<http://www.christoph-merian-verlag.ch/>