

# Lindokuhle Sobekwa



## Biography

Lindokuhle Sobekwa is a South African photographer born in 1995 in Katlehong, Johannesburg. 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 2013 Sobekwa joined Live Magazine as a part-time photographer in 2013. In subsequent years he exhibited work at Kalashnikov Gallery in South Africa and with No Man's Art Gallery in from the Netherlands and in their pop-up exhibitions in South Africa, Iran, and Norway. In the past year his work has been shown internationally at Paris Photo by both Goodman Gallery and Magnin-A gallery.

Sobekwa's 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. This is where he developed the project I carry Her photo with Me, a photographic search for answers about the disappearance of his sister Ziyanda. A journal created during this time was turned into a hand-made limited edition photo book and exhibited in the African Cosmologies exhibition, curated by Mark Sealy, at the Houston Fotofest in March 2020.

In 2018, Sobekwa was awarded a grant from the Magnum Foundation Fund to continue with his long term project Nyaope. 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 will be published by Gost in 2021 and has been supported by the Rubis Mécénat Foundation.

Sobekwa joined Magnum Photos in 2018 and became an associate member in 2020. He participates in a variety of photography related activities with the agency, including assignments in Kenya and South Africa, as well as giving lectures about his work and photography in South Africa for audiences in various European and American cities.

Sobekwa continues to live and work in Thokoza.

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2024** *Heart of the Garden*, Goodman Gallery, London
- 2022** *Umkhondo. Tracing memory. (The beauty of the world so heavy)*, 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; Fragma 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** TATE Lecture: South African artist Lindokuhle Sobekwa talks about his work in this inaugural lecture, Member of Jury: Vital Impacts Environmental Photography Grant

**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

\*2023\*John Kobal Fellow

**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