

Lindokuhle Sobekwa



Biography

Lindokuhle Sobekwa (b. 1995 in Katlehong, Johannesburg) is a South African photographer. 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 2024, Sobekwa presented solo show at the Johannesburg Art Gallery titled *Umkhondo: Going Deeper*, following his 2023 FNB Art Prize Award.

In 2023, Sobekwa was awarded the inaugural John Kobal Foundation Fellowship. Maintaining the scrapbook aesthetic of the handmade edition for his first photobook, *I carry Her photo with Me*, a photographic search for answers about the disappearance of his sister Ziyanda, was published in 2024.

In 2022, he opened his first museum show at Huis Marseille (Amsterdam), featuring the body of work *Umkhondo: Tracing Memory*, as part of the summer program *The Beauty of the World So Heavy*. His handmade photobook, *I carry Her photo with Me*, was included in *African Cosmologies* at the FotoFest Biennial Houston (2020), curated by Mark Sealy.

In 2021, he completed a residency at A4 Foundation in Cape Town, which culminated in a two-person exhibition with Mikhael Subotzky titled *Tell It to the Mountains*. 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 was published by Gost in 2021 and has been supported by the Rubis Mécénat Foundation.

Sobekwa's work has been exhibited in South Africa, Iran, Norway, the US and the Netherlands. His 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.

Sobekwa lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Solo Exhibitions

2024 *Umkhondo: Going Deeper*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg

2024 *Heart of the Garden*, Goodman Gallery, London

2022 *Umkhondo: Tracing memory*, 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 *in situ*, Oude Leeskamer, Stellenbosch

2024 *Heroin Falls*, Sainsbury Centre, Norwich,

2024 *Emotion of the Sun*, Veuve Clicquot, 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 The John Kobal Foundation Fellowship Lecture at Tate Modern
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

2025 The Deutsche Borse Photography Foundation Prize (Shortlisted)
2023 FNB Art Prize Winner
2023 Inaugural John Kobal Foundation Fellowship Recipient
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