

The National Art Gallery of Namibia presents

The Earth Inside

An Exhibition by Nicola Brandt



SHOWING

31 JULY to 23 AUGUST 2014

PRESS PREVIEW

WED 30 JULY 2014 (18h00 to 21h00)

Nicola Brandt's exhibition *The Earth Inside* at the National Art Gallery of Namibia is the artist's first solo show in Namibia. The multimedia installation consists of video, photographs, audio, archival materials and found objects.

In her post-documentary approach to film, Nicola creates vignettes that reveal three parallel lives in a small coastal town. A Herero woman makes her living from tourists taking photos of her in her traditional dress. On her way to work, she passes by Herero and Nama mass graves. A German Namibian woman in her nineties tries to maintain her illusions about the Second World War and recalls a romantic encounter in the garden of the cemetery that lies near her home, and adjacent to the unmarked mass graves. A woman in her twenties has returned to Namibia, the country of her birth, after years of living in Europe, and grapples with her heritage.

The three stories are accompanied by large-scale video and photography triptychs of the Namibian desert coastline and its hinterland. These deceitfully beautiful, derelict landscapes contain places of historical violence by the German colonialists against the Herero and Nama people. The sites are largely unmarked and their identity has been preserved primarily through personal memories and oral histories.

The exhibition is the product of Nicola Brandt's three-year research project in Namibia and at the University of Oxford. It will be accompanied by a series of talks and a catalogue.

The Earth Inside

Exhibition by Nicola Brandt

31 July – 23 August 2014

Gallery hours: Monday to Friday 8h00 to 17h00 and Saturdays 9h00 to 14h00

Additional video screenings: 31 July and 1 August at 18h00

For more information regarding the exhibition please contact: vid.simoniti@rsa.ox.ac.uk or info@nicolabrandt.com

NATIONAL ART GALLERY OF NAMIBIA (NAGN)
Corner of Robert Mugabe Avenue and John Meinert Street, Windhoek
Tel: (+264 61) 231160
<http://www.nagn.org.na/>

Short Biographies

Nicola Brandt is based in London and Namibia. She is due to complete her doctorate in Fine Art at the University of Oxford in 2014. She creates films, photography and installations that explore stories and personal histories. She is interested in how places, objects and images carry fragmented references and memories that both in direct and unintentional ways influence our ideas and shape our lives. *The Earth Inside* (2014), at the National Art Gallery of Namibia is Nicola's first solo show.

Professor Peter Katjavivi is the guest speaker at the opening of the exhibition. He was born in Okahandja, Namibia in 1941. Professor Katjavivi was one of the key actors in the struggle for Namibia's liberation. Since liberation he has been involved in Namibia's political life as diplomat and parliamentarian and is currently Chief Whip in Namibia's parliament. He holds a Masters degree from the University of Warwick and a doctorate from the University of Oxford. Professor Katjavivi is an authority on recent Namibian history and is the author of *A History of Resistance in Namibia* (1988).

Vid Simoniti curates the show. He was born in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 1984. He holds degrees in Philosophy from the Universities of Reading, London and Oxford and is currently completing his doctorate in art history and theory at Oxford. He works as freelance art writer and curator.

Catherine Meyburgh is a director and film editor. Based in Johannesburg, South Africa, she has worked as editor on commercial and art house films, including *Portrait of a Young Man Drowning* (1999) and *Kentridge and Dumas in Conversation* (2009). She is the projection designer for William Kentridge's 2015 opera production of Alban Berg's *Lulu* that will premiere at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Rolfe Kent has composed the score for some of the videos. He was born in St Albans, England in 1963. He was nominated for a Golden Globe Award in the "Best Original Score" category for *Sideways*. He has composed widely for film and television, including for programmes such as *Dexter*. He currently lives in Los Angeles.

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