

Galería Elba Benítez



David Goldblatt . In Memoriam (1930-2018)

November 2018 – January 2019

The Galería Elba Benítez is pleased to announce the coming exhibition of work by the late South African photographer David Goldblatt, who passed away last July. Opening November 17 and entitled *David Goldblatt . In Memoriam (1930-2018)*, the exhibition will contain a selection of prints from Goldblatt's *On the Mines*, one of the artist's most significant projects and a landmark in the history of 20th-century photography.

On the Mines documents the structures, labor systems and living conditions of South Africa's gold and platinum mines. It also portrays, with dignity and poignancy, the individuals who live and work there, whether they be miners, merchants, administrators or executives. The photographs themselves are technically exquisite, at times achieving a stunning beauty; and yet through Goldblatt's controlled, incisive vision, *On the Mines* also voices a powerful protest against the injustices and inequalities on which the apartheid system as a whole once rested, a protest that continues to resonate globally today.

David Goldblatt (Randfontein, South Africa, 1930; Johannesburg, 2018) documented the harsh complexities of South Africa with a combination of profound intimacy and profound outrage. From the onset his photography was based on protest – informed, passionate, yet never vitriolic or propagandistic -- first against South Africa's oppressive apartheid

policies, and later against the post-apartheid conditions that still wreak havoc on the nation's social fabric. Goldblatt's photographs, whether of people, places or buildings, are carefully, often beautifully composed, but they are never self-consciously virtuosic. Instead, they possess the muted directness of the commonplace, an ease with emptiness, an affinity for the oblique and the quiet.

David Goldblatt had solo exhibitions at the Centre Pompidou (Paris, 2018); the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (2014); the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson (Paris, 2010); the Jewish Museum (New York, 2010); the New Museum (New York, 2009); the Serralves Museum (Porto, 2008); Fotomuseum Winterthur (2007); Camera Austria (Graz, 2006); Hasselblad Center (Göteborg, 2006); Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA) (2002); South African National Gallery (Cape Town, 1999); Museum of Modern Art (New York, 1998) and elsewhere. He participated in Documenta 12 (2007) and Documenta 11 (2002), as well as the 54th La Biennale di Venezia (Venice, 2011). Goldblatt received the 2006 Hasselblad Award, the 2009 Henri Cartier-Bresson Award, and was the 2010 Lucie Award Lifetime Achievement Honoree. Currently, the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (Sydney) has organized a major retrospective of his work.

David Goldblatt . In Memoriam (1930-2018) is the artist's fourth solo show at the Galería Elba Benítez.

This exhibition was organized in collaboration with Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg.

Image: David Goldblatt, *Shaftsinking: the cactus grab has dumped the last load of big rocks in the kibble, now the men clear the smaller rocks from the bottom, lashing the kibble with shovels. President Steyn No. 4 Shaft, Welkom, Orange Free State, June 1969* (detail)