

Galería Elba Benítez



DAVID GOLDBLATT

Evidence of Immanence

June 21 – July 27, 2024

The Galería Elba Benítez is pleased to announce the coming exhibition *Evidence of Immanence*, a selection of work by the South African photographer David Goldblatt.

Evidence of Immanence presents a small but judicious selection of Goldblatt's photographs that highlight the renowned photographer's career-long examination of structures (in an expanded sense of the term) found throughout his native South Africa. Curated by George Stolz, *Evidence of Immanence* focuses especially on Goldblatt's particular sensitivity to the charged flux of currents — temporal, cultural, political, historical and even spiritual— contained within such structures, becoming particularly palpable where they reflect the immediate hands, hopes and needs of their makers. At the same time, given Goldblatt's masterful and exquisite photographic craftsmanship, the photographs become singularly poetic artifacts that themselves can similarly be read as 'structures.' As Goldblatt himself wrote about his work, these are images of 'the quiet and the commonplace where nothing "happened" and yet all was contained and immanent.'

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.

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David Goldblatt's work has been featured in solo exhibitions at the Art Institute of Chicago (2023); the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (Sydney, 2018); the Centre Pompidou (Paris, 2018); the Minneapolis Institute of Art (2014); the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson (Paris, 2010); the Jewish Museum (New York, 2010); the New Museum (New York, 2009); the Museu de Serralves (Porto, 2008); Fotomuseum Winterthur (2007); Camera Austria (Graz, 2006); Hasselblad Center (Göteborg, 2006); MACBA Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (2002); Iziko South African National Gallery (Cape Town, 1999); MoMA Museum of –Modern Art (New York, 1998) and elsewhere. He participated in Documenta 12 (2007) and Documenta 11 (2002), as well as the 54th International Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia (Venice, 2011). Goldblatt received the 2006 Hasselblad award, the 2009 Henri Cartier-Bresson Award and the 2013 ICP Infinity Award. In 2016 he was awarded the Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres by the Ministry of Culture of France.

David Goldblatt: No Ulterior Motive, an overview of 70 years of work by David Goldblatt, is currently on view at the MAPFRE Foundation in Madrid and forms part of PHotoESPAÑA 2024.

Evidence of Immanence is the 5th exhibition dedicated to David Goldblatt's work at the Galería Elba Benítez. The exhibition also forms part of PHotoESPAÑA 2024.

In collaboration with
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