



Figures & Fictions: The Ethics and Poetics of Photographic Depictions of People
24 & 25 June 2011

Hochhauser Auditorium, Sackler Centre for the Arts

Figures & Fictions focuses on the representation of people. This conference, will address the way contemporary and recent South African photography stages, complicates and contests identity in a huge variety of practices. Papers will examine the ethnographic past as well as historic documentary practices and portraiture, to explore the various ways in which humans have been depicted in this region. Contemporary photographers will discuss their work in relation to this photographic past. Critics, artists and historians will engage in debate about the politics, ethics and artistic strategies of picturing people in South Africa.

In collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Art, University College London.

Figures & Fictions: The Ethics and Poetics of Photographic Depictions of People Programme

Friday 24 June

- 10.00** **Registration**
- 10.30** **Damien Whitmore** (V&A)
Welcome and Introduction
- 10.40** **Tamar Garb** (Curator, Figures and Fictions: Contemporary South African
Photography / Durning Lawrence Professor of History of Art, UCL)
- 11.00** **Achille Mbembe**
Keynote
- 12.00** **Respondents: Christopher Pinney** (Professor of Anthropology and Visual
Culture, UCL) **and Paul Goodwin** (Curator, Tate Britain)
- 12.30** **Lunch (not provided)**
- 13.45** **Portrayal**
Chair: Annie E Coombes (Professor of material and visual culture,
Birkbeck, University of London)
Anna Douglas (Independent Curator)
Alfred Duggan-Cronin
Darren Newbury (Professor of Photography, Birmingham Institute of Art
& Design)
Cape Town People: Bryan Heseltine's South African Portraits 1950-52
Ashraf Jamal (Rhodes University,)
No Flab, no Space, No pretension: Billy Monk in South Africa Today
- 15.30** **Refreshments**
- 16.00** **Jo Ractliffe** (Artist)
Respondent: Saul Dubow (Professor of History, University of Sussex)
- 16.45** **Panel Discussion: Chair: Matilda Pye (V & A)**
Ashraf Jamal (Rhodes University), **Elizabeth Edwards** (Research
Professor of Photographic History, (DeMontfort University),

Faisal abdu'allah, (Artist) tbc, **Gayle Chong Kwan** (Artist) **Mark Sealy**
(Director Autograph ABP)

17.20 Audience Discussion

17.45 Close

Saturday 25th June

10.00 Registration

10.30 Welcome and Introduction

Chair: Tamar Garb (Exhibition Curator, Figures and Fiction)

10.35 Michael Godby, (Professor of Art History, University of Cape Town)

Keynote

In Black and White: Some Thoughts on recent Documentary Photography in South Africa

11.15 Coffee

11.45 Staging the Subject

Chair: Zoe Whitley (V & A)

Amy Halliday (International Editor, Art Throb, PhD candidate, UCL)

Considering the Human / Animal in Contemporary South African Photography

Liese Van Der Watt (Independent Scholar)

Reframing the Afrikaner Subject: the visual "grammar" of David Goldblatt and Roelof van Wyk

Carli Coetzee (SOAS)

Translating the Gaze, Returning the Gaze

13.30 Lunch (not provided)

14.30 Inside / Outside

Chair: David Dibosa (Wimbledon/ University of the Arts London)

Sean O'Toole (Journalist, art critic, writer)

My Brother is dying: Santu Mofokeng's personal social portrait

Andrew Van der Vlies (Queen Mary's, University of London)

Here I Am: Contemporary South African portraiture and the politics of queer knowledge

Kerryn Greenberg (Assistant Curator, Tate Modern)

Revisiting History: The Influence of Colonial Portraiture in the work of Andrew Putter and Zanele Muholi

- 15.45 Refreshments**
- 16.00 Joy Gregory** (Artist)
Respondents: Andrew Dewdney (Professor, London South Bank University)
- 16.40 Where are we Now – Reflections Sarah Nuttall**
- 17.00 Discussion: Chair Martin Barnes (V & A)**
- 17.30 Close**

Please note the title of the conference has changed previously Figures & Fictions: Ethnography and Photography from the Global South

All programmes very occasionally subject to change without warning.

£50, £40 concessions, £5 Students (prices are per day)

To book, contact the V&A Bookings Office

on +44 (0) 020 7942 2211 or online at www.vam.ac.uk/tickets