

03/2020

David Goldblatt

Ex Offenders at the Scene of Crime

Main description

The origins of this book lie in David Goldblatt's simple observation that many of his fellow South Africans, regardless of their race and class, are the victims of often violent crime. "I have asked myself," says Goldblatt, "not least in the fear and fury of holdups with knives and guns, who are you? Are you monsters? Are you 'ordinary' people—if there are such? How did you come to do this? What are your lives?"

And so began in 2008 *Ex Offenders at the Scene of Crime*, for which Goldblatt photographed criminal offenders and alleged offenders at the place that was probably life-changing for them and their victims: the scene of the crime or arrest. Each portrait is accompanied by the subject's written story in his or her own words, for many a cathartic experience and the first opportunity to recount events without being judged. To ensure the integrity of his undertaking, Goldblatt paid each of his subjects 800 rand for permission to photograph and interview them, and any profit from the project will be donated to the rehabilitation of offenders. *Ex Offenders* also features Goldblatt's portraits and interviews of subjects in England, made in collaboration with the community arts project Multistory.

Biography

David Goldblatt (1930–2018) was a South African photographer renowned for documenting his homeland during and after apartheid. He created landmark visual essays that explored diverse subjects united by his primary concern: the values with which South Africans shaped their world and their expression in its landscapes. Widely exhibited and collected by museums including the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Centre Pompidou in Paris, Goldblatt published over 20 books and won the HCB and Hasselblad Awards. Goldblatt's books with Steidl include *On the Mines* (2012), *The Transported of KwaNdebele* (2013), *Structures of Dominion and Democracy* (2018) and *Some Afrikaners Photographed* (2020).

Bibliography

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Ex Offenders at the Scene of Crime

English

Book design: David Goldblatt, Christelle Troskie, Holger Feroudj, Gerhard Steidl

112 pages

48 photographs

Tritone

35.5 x 29 cm

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