Behind the Walls

1. Marie Thomas-Meilhan: Winchester Hills, Johannesburg, 2017.
2. Marie Thomas-Meilhan: The Cambridge, Bryanston, Johannesburg, 2017.
3. Marie Thomas-Meilhan: Honeydew Ridge, Johannesburg, 2017.
4. Natalie Payne: Untitled.
5. Bianca van Heerden: Lady entering her driveway one afternoon after work.
6. Bianca van Heerden: Friendly dog protecting her family.
7. Lisa King : Pasadena Rafferty, Matthew Rayment and Madison Rafferty, Almeisan, Roodepoort, from the series Milky Way, 2013-14.
8. Lisa King : Minz Naran, Dane Stadler and Rayn Brink, Almeisan, Roodepoort, from the series Milky Way, 2013-14.
9. Natalie Payne: Closed in/closed out, Milky Way I, 2014.
10. Natalie Payne: Closed in/closed out, Milky Way II, 2014.
11. Nocebo Bucibo: Roodepoort , 2014, "I sleep here when I need some time away from the wife and kids".
12. Nocebo Busibo: Roodepoort, 2014, "What I Love Most About My Home Is Who I Share It With".
13. Melissa Bennet: This is a photograph of Mphori and her grandson, Papa. They live in a house on the outskirts of Durban Roodepoort Deep gold mine. Mphori worked aa a librarian at the Roodepoort public library. She acted as my guide in the beginning of my project and introduced me to people who she considered important within her community.
14. Melissa Bennet: This photograph was taken at a shelter in Berlindina Street, Roodepoort. Although the woman in the photograph owned nothing but a bag and the clothes on her back, she lay on the bed and presented herself to the camera as if she were at home.

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Middle Class Life: the repetition of the model in townhouse complexes

Photo: Shogan Naidoo

A Photographic Exhibition
Origins Centre, Wits University

14 November — 15 December

The Project

Gated communities from different perspectives. The mutation of a model from the upper class to the middle class.

Circulation of the urban model referred to as *gated communities* challenges the understanding of contemporary urban spaces all over the world. Big-scale multiplication of low cost housing, middle-class townhouse complexes and luxurious gated estates (all representing different forms of gated communities) dominates South Africa's urban and peri-urban landscape and is associated with the reproduction of apartheid geography, with its forms of spatial segregation. The aim of this project is to articulate and problematise this view.

Middle Class Life: The repetition of the model in townhouse complexes is a collaborative project featuring images by South African and French photographers.

In 2013, Wits University students, under the guidance of Prof. Rory Bester and Jo Ratcliffe and with the support of the Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI), documented the sudden social and spatial change of Johannesburg's West Rand. Over some time, the photographers experienced life in the complexes and their surroundings, and portrayed the social life of these spaces and its integration into the environment. These photos were realised as an artistic addition to the already existing 'Emerging Communities' project, led by PARI.

The Exhibition

Suburban Life

1. Michelle Monareng: I explore the spaces which border densely populated townhouse and complex developments in the West Rand. I am interested in how these divisions and re-divisions of land evoke the fraught negotiation of space taking place in areas like Wilgehuwel. These spaces begin to arouse the nostalgic visions of an untouched landscape- they are the in-between spaces yet to be defined.
2. Musa Nxumalo: Hero, Physic, Ruimsig, Roodepoort, 2013.
3. Musa Nxumalo: Van Boerneef tot Briekdaans, 2013.
4. Marie Thomas-Meilhan: Honeydew Ridge, Johannesburg, 2017.
5. Lisa King: The view eastward across Roodepoort from the terrace of a large private home under construction, from the series Milky Way, 2013-14.
6. Marie Thomas-Meilhan: Buffer zone, Boksburg, Ekurhuleni, 2017.
7. Marie Thomas-Meilhan: Boksburg, Ekurhuleni, 2017.
8. Alexia Webster: Untitled.
9. Paul Samuels: Untitled.
10. Paul Samuels: Untitled.
11. Bianca van Heerden: Helper looking after child in Eagle Canyon.

Residential Sectorisation

1. Alexia Webster: Untitled.
2. Shogan Naidoo: Withered Palm Tree, From the series Vacancy, Roodepoort, 2014.
3. Shogan Naidoo: Veld Fires and Powerlines in Roodepoort, from the series Vacancy, Roodepoort, 2014.
4. Michelle Monareng: Plot
5. Alexia Webster: Untitled.
6. 7., 8,,10. Marie Thomas-Meilhan: Honeydew Ridge, Johannesburg, 2017.
9. Marie Thomas-Meilhan: Boksburg, Ekurhuleni, 2017.

Natalie Payne's editorial work encompasses portraiture, fashion and social documentary. Her photographs have been exhibited in a number of group shows as well as published in magazines and books. In her artistic practice, she explores the intertwining of place and identity. Payne has a diploma in photography from the ENSP (L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie, France) and recently obtained a Masters in Fine Arts, with distinction, from the University of Witwatersrand. Alongside her photographic practice she works as a photography lecturer at Lisof, a higher education fashion institution based in Gauteng, where she developed the fashion photography course. She forms part of the Through the Lens Collective, which aims to promote contemporary photographic practice on the African continent. She is deeply invested in photography and education in South Africa.

Paul Samuels was born in 1989 in Johannesburg. With his father as an amateur photographer, he picked up a camera at an early age, and began to document his surroundings as well as the lives of those close to himself. This broadened into a documentation of the broader South African landscape, and how it functions in the odd period of post-apartheid South Africa.

Shogan Ganas Naidoo completed his BA Fine Art degree at Wits University in 2007. In 2010, he was a participant in the Play/Urban exchange in Strasbourg, France exploring urban scenography. He was the 2013 photography recipient of the Tierney Fellowship at Wits University and has since been involved in photography projects that include PhotoFocus, The Magnum Foundation and Rites and Routes. In 2014, his work was exhibited at the Photoville in New York and with the Michaelis Galleries in Cape Town. He is currently designing and researching on open online education for higher learning at the Wits University Centre for Learning, Teaching and Development.

A second component of the exhibition is the work of Marie-Thomas, a French photographer, architect and town planner, and researcher Karen Lévy. These pictures were taken while conducting fieldwork in Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni on middle-class townhouse complexes for Karen Lévy's PhD research. They provide visual material for the research and are at the core of the analysis. At the same time, they are testimony to the current urban period.

The photos selected show three different aspects of the newly urbanised spaces.

The *Suburban Life* section shows the landscape in which the complexes are built and it illustrates modes of fragmentation. It interrogates the nature of the spaces created and the territorial fragmentation that comes with it.

Residential Sectorisation details a new urban vocabulary. It shows the repetition of the model, the security-driven town planning and the new life that it creates, dictated by a radical division between 'home' and the outside world.

Finally, the complexes come to life in *Behind the Walls*. The residential space depicts sociability and ordinary moments of daily life, questioning notions of proximity, of togetherness and of different modes of (dis)appropriation of the private space.

The Photographers

Alexia Webster is a South African documentary photographer and video journalist based between Cape Town and Johannesburg. Her work explores dislocation, identity, migration and intimacy. She was awarded the Artraker Award for Art in Conflict, the CAP Prize award for Contemporary African Photography, and she received the Frank Arisman Scholarship at the International Centre of Photography in New York City. Most recently she traveled to Juba, South Sudan and Tijuana, Mexico as part of an International Womens Media Foundation fellowship.

Bianca van Heerden is a Wits City Institute Mellon Architecture, Urbanism and Humanities Masters Fellow. She is registered for a Master's degree in Fine Art (MAFA) in the School of Arts, Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand. She is co-supervised by Professor Noëleen Murray (Wits City Institute) and Dr. Juan Orrantia (Wits School of Arts).

Lisa King was born in 1980 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Lisa graduated from the University of Cape Town with a BA in Film, Visual and Media Studies in 2003, and from the Wits School of Arts at the University of Witwatersrand with a Master's in History of Art (distinction) in 2017. Lisa works in the documentary tradition and focuses on the realisation of long-term projects. Her current interest lies in the exploration and intersection of photography and mapping and specifically how a more complex understanding of visual material is revealed through the relationship between the two.

After ten years in different architecture agencies, in 2016 Marie Thomas-Meilhan chose to set up her own architecture and photography agency in Grenoble (France). Photography, which she started to practice during periods of life abroad (Denmark, USA, Japan, Canada), has always accompanied her job as an architect. She says, 'It completes it, because it allows me to see the architecture, it freezes it at a chosen moment, transforms it, embellishes it or underlines its defects.'

Melissa Bennett graduated with her Master's degree in Fine Art at The University of the Witwatersrand in 2017. She was the 2013 recipient of the Tierney Fellowship which is a programme designed to mentor emerging artists in the field of photography. Bennett's MAFA photobook, *Raimundo*, was a top 20 finalist in the Recontres d'Arles Dummy Book Award. Recontres d'Arles is one of the premiere contemporary photography festivals in the world. She is currently working as a teacher in Johannesburg and in the process of creating a new body of work in the field of photography and archives.

Michelle Monareng completed her BA degree in Fine Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand (2013) where she was awarded the top graduate show prize and the Anya Millman Scholarship. She has participated in the Digging Our Own Graves 101 project at KW Institute for Contemporary Art, 8th Berlin Biennale, Past Imperfect //Future Present exhibition at FADA gallery, Boundary Objects exhibition at Kunsthaus Dresden and recently part of the exhibition A LABOUR OF LOVE at the Weltkulturen Museum.

Soweto-based Musa N. Nxumalo is a black contemporary photographer whose work explores youth culture, identity and the journey to self-discovery. Born in 1986 in Soweto, Nxumalo received his introduction to photography at the Market Photo Workshop. Musa's work has received critical acclaim and form part of several private and public collections.

Nocebo Bucibo recently completed her MAFA at Wits University, awarded with distinction. She has a national diploma and BTech in photography from the Vaal University of Technology. Her body of work titled Ikaya`lam was exhibited as part of a group exhibition at The Lovell Gallery during the 5th Month of Photography in Cape Town (2012). A selection of images from Ikhaya'lam has also been exhibited in a group show titled Invisible Borders: Cultural Time Zones in Johannesburg and New Delhi. Nocebo Bucibo is the recipient of the 2015 Tierney Fellowship at Wits University, a fellow at the WITS city institute 2016/2017 and a nominee for the 2018 Joop Swart Masterclass award.