



PRESS RELEASE / 10 MAY, 2017
A NEW BOOK BY DAVID GOLDBLATT
Ex-Offenders at Scene of Crime
South Africa and England / 2008 – 2016

David Goldblatt was born in South Africa and has been a photographer since 1963. Over the years he has done a number of photographic essays examining aspects of South African society. Since 2008, David has focused on his concern with crime which, in numerous ways, has become an overwhelmingly important part of life. David is not a social worker or a journalist; he seeks to make photographs and tell life stories that might deepen our understanding of people and circumstances – to see people who have committed crimes not as the sudden forces and threats that many have experienced, nor as names in news reports, but as individuals. Multistory has been working with David Goldblatt since 2012 to bring his South African project to the UK.

Ex-Offenders at Scene of Crime is a new book that will be available in June (date TBC) that explores David's concerns through photographs and words. David met with people who have committed crime or been accused of it and punished. It was important to him that he meet them not as incarcerated criminals, but paroled or free. He photographed them not in re-enactment of crime, but in stillness at the scene of crime. He also recorded whatever they wished to tell him of their life and their stories are told in the book.

"Given South Africa's history and present conditions ... I, in fear, humiliation, helplessness and anger at hold-ups threatening force and knives and guns, have asked: *Who is doing this to us? Who are you? Are you monsters? Are you ordinary people – if there are such? How did you come to this? What is your life? Could you be my children? Could I be you?* The project was broadened when I was invited by Multistory to make photographs and I chose to pursue a similar enquiry to the one I have done in South Africa."

David Goldblatt

An exhibition of the photographs and text will be shown at HMP Birmingham and HMP Manchester from mid-May 2017, exclusively for the prisoners and staff, with a launch event at both for invited guests.

"It has been a great honour for Multistory to collaborate with David on the ex-offenders project here in the UK and to see him work in the field. We are grateful to staff at HMP Birmingham and HMP Manchester for permission to exhibit the photographs and texts and to Steidl for publishing the book. It is our ambition that the photographs and texts provide an insight into the lives of ex-offenders and that the stories resonate far and wide."

Emma Chetcuti, Director, Multistory

The project was part-commissioned by the West Bromwich-based arts organisation Multistory, who is supported by Sandwell Council and Arts Council England. The book is published by Steidl.

MEDIA

If you are interested in any of the following, please contact Caron Wright at Multistory on 0121 569 2883; or email caronwright@multistory.org.uk

- A selection of high-res press images.
- A press review copy of the book (available in June; date TBC).
- An interview with David Goldblatt and / or Multistory.

David Goldblatt

David Goldblatt was born in 1930 in South Africa and since the 1960s he has devoted all of his time to photography. In 1989, he founded the Market Photography Workshop in Johannesburg. In 1998 he was the first South African to be given a solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. David was one of the few South African artists to exhibit at Documenta 11 (2002) and Documenta 12 (2007) in Kassel, Germany. He has held solo exhibitions at the Jewish Museum and the New Museum, both in New York. His work was included in the exhibition ILLUMInations at the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011, and has featured on shows at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Barbican Centre in London. David has published several books of his work. He is the recipient of the 2006 Hasselblad award, the 2009 Henri Cartier-Bresson Award, and the 2013 ICP Infinity Award.

goodman-gallery.com/artists/davidgoldblatt

Multistory

Ex-Offenders at Scene of Crime was part-commissioned by Multistory, an ambitious community arts organisation based in West Bromwich, as part of an ongoing body of photographic work and digital archive that documents life in Sandwell and the Black Country. Multistory commissions acclaimed photographers, film-makers and writers to work with local people to tell their stories of everyday life, resulting in exhibitions, films and publications. Commissions have included projects by Martin Parr, Susan Meiselas, Liz Hingley and Mahtab Hussain.

multistory.org.uk

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