

PRESS RELEASE

DORIS BLOOM
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Myth of Origin and Other African Stories

opening:	Tuesday 6 April 2004, 6.30 pm
performance:	Tuesday 6 April 2004, 7.30 pm
	Studio Stefania Miscetti
	via delle Mantellate 14 - 00165 Rome, Italy
	tel/fax: 06 6880 5880, e-mail: mistef@iol.it
open until:	8 May 2004
opening hours:	4 pm to 8 pm, Tuesdays to Saturdays

Doris Bloom was born in Vereenigieng, South Africa, in 1954. Since 1976 she has been living and working between Copenhagen and South Africa. She took part in a large number of international shows and she represented Denmark at the Johannesburg Biennale in 1995, realizing a project with William Kentridge that was also presented the same year in Rome as part of the *Projected Artists-Obiettivo Roma* series, curated by Studio Stefania Miscetti and 2RC Edizioni d'Arte.

In this solo exhibition Doris Bloom shows a new series of paintings and photographs, which witness and highlight the complex and continuing relation of the artist to deeply different contexts and cultures.

The **ten photographs** (1995) on show explore violence, that the artist lives as a memory from her childhood in South Africa: images arranged in *tableaux vivants* - which might as well be mistaken for real documents - witness the fragments of an experience that Bloom carried within herself since her early childhood and that only now, after many years in Denmark and the fall of the apartheid, she feels ready to reveal visually. The memories concern fissures in that iron grip of order which the regime sought to enforce upon the culture, but which cracked even more violently when the control weakened. It is not simply the violence of Whites' against Blacks, but also the violence which has spread among the Blacks themselves. For Bloom these brutal events are not limited to the human domain alone, but are part of a strange pact with the South African nature as a whole. It is nature itself which in reality reveals its violent face when the old order collapses.

In the **three large paintings** (2003, *Columbia in Texas*, cm.160 x 205; *Good hope in a bottle*, cm.160 x 205, *Welsh Bell II*, cm. 200 x 300), the recurring themes in Bloom's creative universe emerge: memory, chaos, decadence and rebirth; they take shape through classical and archaic sets of symbols that belong to the two cultures between which Bloom's artistic and cultural experience develops.

This show is part of FotoGrafia, the Third International Photography Festival of Rome.

Doris Bloom's work is also included in the group show about contemporary South African photography *Sugar in the Petrol*, curated by the artist herself with Stefania Miscetti, on show at the **British School at Rome**, via Gramsci 61, from Monday 5 April until 4 June 2004. Info: 06: 32649385 - 1

Doris Bloom

Born in Vereenigen, South Africa, in 1954. Lives and works between Denmark and South Africa.

Solo shows (selection)

- 2003 "Myths of Origin", Ringstedgalleriet, Ringsted, Denmark
- 2002 "Chronology of Bloom III", Galerie Asbæk, Copenhagen
- 2001 Vejle Kunstmuseum, Vejle, Denmark
- 2000 "Smell", Galerie Dahlsgaard, Århus
- 1999 "Newspaper Pictures", Galerie Asbæk, Copenhagen
- 1998 "2 x 22, A Smeller's Sense", Galerie Asbæk, Copenhagen
- 1997 "Luoghi", Sønderborg Slot by Sønderjyllands Kunstmuseum
- 1996 "Snakes & Ladders", DCA Gallery, New York
- 1995 "Geography & Memory" Africus Johannesburg Art Biennale, con William Kentridge
- "Projected Artists", Studio Stefania Miscetti, con William Kentridge
- 1994 "Morild", Gl. Holtegaard Foundation, Copenhagen
- 1993 Gemeente Museum, Arnhem, Holland
- 1992 Sønderjyllands Kunstmuseum, Toender, Denmark
- 1991 "Ma Nian", Franz Pedersens Kunsthandel, Horsens, Denmark
- 1990 Ringsted Kunstforening, Ringsted, Denmark
- 1989 Studio E, Roma
- 1988 Obalne Galerije, Istria, Yugoslavia
- 1987 Franz Pedersens Kunsthandel, Horsens, Denmark
- 1986 Studio E, Roma
- 1985 Franz Pedersens Kunsthandel, Horsens, Denmark
- 1983 Galerie Admiralgade, Copenhagen
- 1982 Trevor Coleman Gallery, Johannesburg
- 1981 Galerie Admiralgade, Copenhagen

Group shows (selection)

- 2004 "Sted//Place", Johannesburg Art Gallery e Oliewenhuis Museum, Bloemfontein
- 2003 "Cairo International Art Biennale"
- "Place//Sted", Galerie Asbæk & Kastrupgaard Samlingen, Copenhagen
- 2002 Museum for Religious Art, Lemvig, Denmark
- 2001 "Decembristerne" Den Frie, Copenhagen
- 2000 "Provocations" Royal Scandinavia, Copenhagen
- 1999 "Decembristerne" Den Frie, Copenhagen
- "Danish Art," Potznan, Poland
- 1996 "Out of Africa" Contemporary Danish Art, South African National Gallery, πCape Town
- 1995 "Contemporary Danish Art", National Art Gallery, Beijing, China
- 1994 "Decembristerne", Den Frie, Copenhagen
- 1993 "Nordisk Grafik Union", Oslo Kunstforening, Norway
- 1992 "Spejlbilleder", The National Portrait Gallery, Fredensborg Slot, Denmark
- 1991 "Artae", Ferrara, Rome & Milan, Italy
- 1989 "Danske Grafikere", Nicolai, Copenhagen
- 1988 Royal Collection of Prints and Drawings, Copenhagen
- 1987 "Nuovi territori dell'arte: Europa/America", Franca Villa & Rome
- 1986 "Europaprijs", Stedelijke Museum Oostende, Belgium
- 1985 "Danske Grafikere", Vejle Kunstmuseum, Denmark
- 1984 "Charlottenborg Autumn", Charlottenborg, Copenhagen
- "Europaprijs", Stedelijke Museum Oostende, Belgium