

# YOSSI MILO GALLERY



**For Immediate Release:**

**Pieter Hugo**  
***Kin***

**September 6 – October 19, 2013**

**Artist's Reception: Friday, September 6, 6:00 – 8:00 pm**

Yossi Milo Gallery is pleased to announce *Kin*, an exhibition of new color photographs by Pieter Hugo. The exhibition will open on Friday, September 6, and close on Saturday, October 19 with an opening reception for the artist on Friday, September 6 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. This is the artist's fourth solo exhibition at the gallery.

Created over the past eight years, Pieter Hugo's series *Kin* confronts complex issues of colonization, racial diversity and economic disparity in Hugo's homeland of South Africa. These subjects are common to the artist's past projects in Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Botswana; however, this time, Hugo's attention is focused on his conflicted relationship with the people and environs closest to home.

*Kin* is the artist's personal exploration of South Africa through landscapes, portraits and still life photography. Hugo depicts locations and subjects of personal significance, such as cramped townships, contested farmlands, abandoned mining areas and sites of political influence, as well as psychologically charged still lives in people's homes and portraits of drifters and the homeless. Hugo also presents intimate portraits of his pregnant wife and the domestic servant who worked for Hugo's family for three generations. Alternating between private and public spaces, with a particular emphasis on the growing disparity between rich and poor, *Kin* is the artist's effort to locate himself and his young family in a country with a fraught history and an uncertain future.

Hugo describes the *Kin* project as "an engagement with the failure of the South African colonial experiment and my sense of being 'colonial driftwood' ... South Africa is such a fractured, schizophrenic, wounded and problematic place. It is a very violent society and the scars of colonialism and Apartheid run deep. Issues of race and cultural custodianship permeate every aspect of society here and the legacy of Apartheid casts a long shadow ... How does one live in this society? How does one take responsibility for history, and to what extent does one have to? How do you raise a family in such a conflicted society? Before getting married and having children, these questions did not trouble me; now, they are more confusing. This work attempts to address these questions and to reflect on the nature of conflicting personal and collective narratives. I have deeply mixed feelings about being here. I am interested in the places where these narratives collide. *Kin* is an attempt at evaluating the gap between society's ideals and its realities."

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A mid-career survey of Hugo's photographs, *This Must Be the Place: Selected Works 2003-2011*, is currently on view at the Ludwig Museum, Budapest and will travel next to Fotografiska, Stockholm (August 30 – November 24, 2013) and Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon (March 28 – June 1, 2014). Previous venues include the Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland; and Hague Museum of Photography, The Netherlands. His work is held in the permanent collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne; Huis Marseille, Amsterdam; Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven; and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, among many others. The artist's books include *Looking Aside: South African Studio Portraits 2003-2006* (2006), *Messina/Musina* (2007) both published by Punctum; *The Hyena & Other Men* (2007), *Nollywood* (2009), *Permanent Error* (2011) and *This Must Be the Place* (2012) published by Prestel; and *There's a Place in Hell for Me and My Friends* (2012) published by oodee, London. Pieter Hugo was born in South Africa in 1976 and currently lives near Cape Town.

For more information, please contact Alissa Schoenfeld at 212.414.0370 or [alissa@yossimilo.com](mailto:alissa@yossimilo.com), or visit the gallery's website at [www.yossimilo.com](http://www.yossimilo.com).