

David Goldblatt

PARTICULARS

30 April – June 12, 2010

Opening Reception
Thursday April, 29



Woman collecting shellfish, Port St. Johns, Transkei, 1975

As the exclusive U.S. representative of David Goldblatt's photographs, Howard Greenberg is pleased to present *Particulars*, the first New York gallery exhibition of this artist's work. For more than five decades, David Goldblatt has documented the changing historical and political landscape of South Africa. His photographs reflect the cultural complexities of the country during the Apartheid and post-Apartheid years, without being inflammatory or sensationalistic. Instead, they provide an intimate, but powerful exploration of a society that has experienced tremendous upheaval.

Particulars stems from Goldblatt's more traditional portraiture and his experience working in his father's tailoring business. "Of my life experiences, one that was crucial was that of working in my father's shop in Randfontein, where I acquired a consciousness of bodily particulars that was technical rather than subjective," remarked Goldblatt. In 1975, after working for several years on portraits of the residents of Soweto and Johannesburg in their homes and on the streets, Goldblatt began to explore the "particulars" of their bodies "as affirmation and embodiments of their selves." In doing this, he has created a powerful series of photographs illustrating how a small detail of a body, clothing, hair or skin can lead a viewer to make judgments about class and color, and time and place. Tired feet, entwined legs, arms adorned with jewelry, and the nape of the neck fill the entire frame, uncovering and articulating perceptions about the social, economic, and cultural divides of South Africa.

The limited edition book, *Particulars*, won the award for the best photography book at the Rencontres d'Arles festival in 2004.

David Goldblatt was born in Randfontein, South Africa in 1930. He became interested in photography in high school, but found little opportunity in the field of magazine photography. Discouraged, he joined his family's menswear business and enrolled part-time at the university. Following his father's death in 1962, he began working full-time as a photographer. Goldblatt has published 10 books of his work and has had more than 20 gallery and museum exhibitions. His photographic essay *South Africa: The Structure of Things Then* was published and exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 1998. Goldblatt's work was included in *Documenta 11* in 2002, *Documenta 12* in 2007, and the travelling exhibition *Africa Remix* (2004-07). Goldblatt won the 2006 Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography. He received an Honorary Doctorate in Literature from the University of the Witwatersrand in April 2008. In June 2009, Goldblatt was the recipient of the Henri Cartier-Bresson Award for his project *TJ*, about the city of Johannesburg. In 2009, The New Museum exhibited *Intersections Intersected* which received critical acclaim. In May 2010, The Jewish Museum in New York will open *South African Photographs: David Goldblatt*. His work is included in many significant museum collections including the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; and The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, among others.

In addition, we will also exhibit an important selection of Henri Cartier-Bresson images. The group includes vintage photographs from the 1930s printed by Cartier-Bresson as well as specially created prints made in the 1950s which he gave as gifts and were not used for reproduction purposes.

For further information, or to request visuals for press,
contact Ali Price at 212 334 0010 or ali@howardgreenberg.com
Starting April 30th, the exhibition can be viewed at www.howardgreenberg.com