



Zurich April 17, 2013

Press Release

Pink Apple presents:

ZANELE MUHOLI
FACES & PHASES

April 28 - 11. May 11, 2013

Opening reception

Saturday April 27, 2013 4pm

Sunday talks

Sunday April 28, 2013 4pm

With Andrea Thal, Les Complices*

Sunday May 5, 2013 4pm

With Peter Stohler, Curator and Publicist

Opening hours

Tue - Sun 3 to 9pm

WIDMER+THEODORIDIS contemporary is pleased on behalf of Pink Apple to welcome South African artist Zanele Muholi. The exhibition 'Faces & Phases' in the gallery premises will be running parallel to the film festival Pink Apple. The show consists of 14 black-and-white photographs from the series 'Faces & Phases' and six colour prints from the series 'Being'.

Muholi describes her method in 'Faces & Phases' as visual activism. 'Faces' means herself, photographer and community worker, being face to face with the many lesbians from different townships.

Individuals in this series of photographs hold different positions within the black lesbian community: soccer player, actress, scholar, lawyer, dancer and filmmaker. However, they are merely presented by the media as victims of rape and homophobia. This is the reason for 'Phases': their lives are not just what makes the newspapers headlines every time one of them is attacked. Every face has a story, has an identity.

In her series 'Being' Muholi points to the woman's role in African culture: to be a mother and to procreate with a male partner. Every deviation is regarded as a threat and offense against the heterosexual family nucleus and hence is prosecuted sharply. Homosexuality is considered as 'un-African'. Lesbians who openly express their identity are subject of 'corrective' rape in order to erase their male attitude and make them into true women, females, real women, mothers and men's property.

'Faces & Phases' and 'Being' show the story, battle and life of black lesbians that in spite of their experiences have not given up.

www.zanelemuholi.com

Zanele Muholi (*1972 in Umlazi, Durban) lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. She completed her studies at Market Photo Workshop in Newtown, Johannesburg and at Ryerson University, Toronto with a Master of Fine Arts. She is founding member of the Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FEW), a black lesbian organisation based in Gauteng. She was the recipient of the 2005 Tollman Award for the Visual Arts, the 2006 BHP Billiton/Wits University Visual Arts Fellowship and she was the 2009 Ida Ely Rubin Artist-in-Residence at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In 2010 her 'Faces & Phases' series was included on the 29th Sao Paulo Biennale and in 2012 the series was shown on Documenta 13 in Kassel. 2013 she received the Index Award for her courageous and powerful action on freedom of expression.

www.pinkapple.ch

The Gay and Lesbian Film Festival Pink Apple was founded in 1997 by a handful of film enthusiasts in Frauenfeld in the Canton of Thurgau. Thurgau, the Swiss 'Apple Canton', was the reason for its naming. Initially its aim was to promote the emancipation and acceptance of homosexuality in the provinces on the basis of a cultural activity. The festival was first held in 1998, showing ten films to a large crowd in the tiny Cinema Luna in Frauenfeld. Pink Apple landed in Zurich in the wake of the lesbian and gay Eurogames held there in the year 2000. The programme - with seven performances of seven films in the Arthouse Movie Cinema - was very successful right from the start. Since then the festival has been growing continuously, and its focal point now lies in the big city, thanks to the great public encouragement and increasing demand for an annual gay and lesbian film programme.

Apart from fulfilling a socio-political function, Pink Apple has recently been offering events in a film-aesthetical context. This fringe programme with panels, lectures and discussions also attracts large audiences.