

NEW RELEASE

Ad van Denderen, Lebohang Tlali, Margalith Kleijwegt
Welkom Today

Edited by Ad van Denderen, Anne Ruygt, Bas Vroege

Text by Margalith Kleijwegt

Designed by Jeremy Jansen

Softcover

17 x 24 cm

304 pages

70 color and 80 b/w ill.

English

ISBN 978-3-86828-926-8

Euro 39,90 / GBP 35.00 / US\$ 45.00

25 years after the abolishment of apartheid in South Africa, this book interweaves multiple histories and perspectives

In the early 1990s the Dutch photographer Ad van Denderen and journalist Margalith Kleijwegt travelled to Welkom, a small mining town in South Africa, to document the last days of apartheid. The growing tensions between the white and the black community often lead to unrest. The city was seen as an example of how things could go wrong during the process of change. After multiple visits, the story was published in *Vrij Nederland* magazine and in the critically acclaimed photo book *Welkom in Suid-Afrika* in 1991.

25 years later, the South African photographer Lebohang Tlali reached out to Van Denderen. Tlali grew up in Welkom's neighbouring township Thabong, and discovered *Welkom in Suid-Afrika* while studying in Cape Town. The book was a revelation to him: for the first time Tlali could see how the white community lived during apartheid. At the same time, the photos taken in Thabong provided a feeling of recognition.

In order to think about the future, one must know the past. Taking this notion as a starting point Tlali and Van Denderen initiated a series of photography workshops at three high schools in Welkom and Thabong. Using photography to reflect on their identity, the young »born free« students became empowered participants in the project.

Welkom Today combines new and existing photographs by Van Denderen, Tlali and their students as well as images from family albums, newspaper archives, interviews by journalist Margalith Kleijwegt and essays. In a multi-vocal, non-hierarchical way, the project opens up to multiple histories and perspectives, across generations and backgrounds.

Welkom Today is a Paradox production and is curated by Anne Ruygt and Bas Vroege, in close collaboration with the photographers. Partners include the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, CBK Zuidoost, Atlas Contact and Kehrer Verlag. Paradox is a Dutch not for profit organisation founded in 1993 developing projects around contemporary issues with documentary authors.

www.paradox.nl

Ad van Denderen (b. in NL, 1943) is known for his long-term projects on issues like migration, apartheid and the Israel- Palestine conflict. He worked as a freelance photographer for international news media. His work has been exhibited and collected by the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Huis Marseille, the Rijksmuseum, and Fotomuseum Winterthur, among others. His publications include *Peace in the Holy Land* (1997), *Go No Go* (2003), *So Blue, So Blue* (2008), and *Stone* (2017).

Lebohang Tlali (b. in ZA, 1978) works as a photographer, educator, project manager and curator in South Africa and abroad. He studied photography and art history at the Michaelis School of Fine Art in Cape Town (ZA) and Kaospilot in Bern (CH). Tlali co-organised the public programme of the 10th Berlin Biennale and has worked for various galleries such as Stevenson, Park West, and the Cape Africa Platform.

Margalith Kleijwegt (b. 1951) is a Dutch independent publicist. Her first book, *Invisible parents, parents, the neighbourhood of Mohammed B*, about students and their parents at a multi-cultural school in Amsterdam, became a bestseller. In 2015 she published *2 worlds, 2 realities*, a report about polarization in the classroom. The report had a great impact: the House of Representatives organized a special hearing to discuss the findings of Kleijwegt.

Exhibition

Welkom today

Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam

18.05.– 13.10.2019

The exhibition will travel to Oliewenhuis, Bloemfontein and Market Photo Workshop, Johannesburg (ZA), 2019 – 2020

Press images



1 Ad van Denderen, Acclimatization space in Steyn mine, 1991



2 Ad van Denderen, Maid of AWB-leader Blikkies Blignaut, 1991



3 Ad van Denderen, Mooi West, Welkom, 1990



4 Ad van Denderen, Land occupation on former Harmony mine site, Welkom, 2018



5 Ad van Denderen, Welkom centrum, 2017



6 Ad van Denderen, Welkom park, 2018



7 Lebohang Tlali, Linkie Tlali, 2018



8 Lebohang Tlali, Lerato Motsatse, 2018



9 Lebohang Tlali, Moses Tlali, 2018



10 Noma Nyamani, workshop participant Welkom Gimnasium, 2017



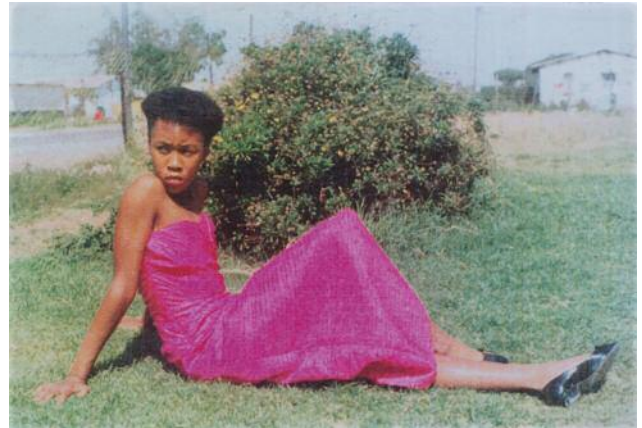
11 Thabo Mōdikeng, workshop participant Teto High, 2017



12 Vista krantenarchief, Welkom, 1950's



13 Archive familie Blake, Wendy Blake and her niece Linda, ca. 1991



14 Archive Thabong, 1970's



15 Ad van Denderen, Miner on his way to Thabong, 1990

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Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-25, Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20
www.kehrerverlag.com