

NEUERSCHEINUNG 2024



## Mário Macilau *Faith / Fé*

Texte von José Eduardo Agualusa, Ângela Ferreira, Mário Macilau  
Interview mit Mário Macilau von Paula Nascimento  
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### Neue Arbeiten eines der aufregendsten jungen Fotografen Afrikas

Mário Macilaus Langzeitprojekt *Faith* beschäftigt sich mit Praktiken des Animismus (Glaube an die Beseeltheit der Natur) innerhalb traditioneller Religionen im modernen Mosambik. Es zeigt unterschiedliche regionale Vorstellungen von Gott und dem Kosmos und wie uralte mosambikanische Traditionen bewahrt werden.

Aus dem Text *Macilau, the Man Hope* von **Ângela Ferreira**:  
*The work of Macilau is one of the most sensitive and moving portraits of Mozambique. In the land where he was born, Macilau has built the stage of his photographic mission, developing a restless practice in the field of photography, ruled by discomfort and an obsessive search around the photograph that crosses the hearts of men.*

Aus dem Text *A Reflection of Macilau* von **José Eduardo Agualusa**:  
*Because through his work — which combines intelligence, sensitivity, extreme aesthetic detail and a curious vision that simultaneously exposes local realities while restoring the dignity of socially-isolated groups, putting their identity before the world so that it becomes known — Mário Macilau conveys the momentum that prospers amid the mire and (apparent) chaos. The astonishing beauty found in the portraits of Macilau is almost always based on the resistance and dignity of the simple people of Africa: children, peasants, fishermen, workers or healers.*

Aus dem Interview *Mário Macilau—On Life, Photography and Faith* von **Paula Nascimento**:

PN: ...You mention the way the community changed but what changes did you go through as a photographer? How has your relationship with the community and your gaze evolved? Are you

photographing the same people you have before?

MM: *Photography has been much more than a personal thing for me. Through it, I have experienced fundamental moments in my life by constructing different meanings, telling stories about people in time and space; and photographing not only with my camera but with my soul as well. Breaking the cycle of silence and neglect, the experiences of those whose voices are seldom heard have been brought out into the open so that their true identities are revealed, and, in the end, I become a part of the subject. I automatically build a relationship with the community and the people there.*  
(...)

PN: You once said that “being a photographer is to bring the voice of people into the world”. Is this what you are trying to do by drawing attention to or eternalizing a practice that is almost disappearing?

MM: *I believe that whatever we do, we must always think first about how it will impact on others. As human beings, we are not here by chance, there is always a reason for our presence and even if we never find our true mission on this earth, we must keep trying to explore our possibilities.*

**Mário Macilau** (\*1984) begann seine fotografische Laufbahn, als er 2007 in den Straßen von Maputo, Mosambik, das Handy seiner Mutter gegen seine erste Kamera eintauschte. Er arbeitet vor allem an Langzeitprojekten über die Einflüsse von Lebens- und Umweltbedingungen auf soziale Randgruppen in Afrika. Macilaus Werk wurde vielfach ausgezeichnet und ausgestellt, so zum Beispiel bei der 56. Biennale Venedig, bei Volta NY und bei der Photo London. Sein erstes Buch, *Growing in Darkness*, erschien 2016 im Kehrer Verlag. Er lebt und arbeitet in Maputo, Mosambik, und in Lissabon, Portugal.

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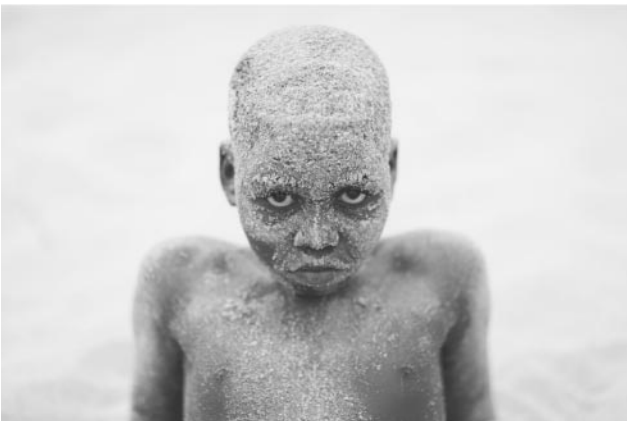
## Pressebilder



01\_ A Crucifix Chest, Nova Mambone, Inhambane, Mozambique, 2020  
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02\_ Prayers, Maputo, Mozambique, 2020  
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03\_ Jojo Alfredo, 16 years, Mozambique, 2019  
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04\_ Fishing Net, Maputo, Mozambique, 2019  
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05\_ A Goat, Nova Mambone, Inhambane, Mozambique, 2020  
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06\_ Carla Zandamela, 34 years old, Nova Mambone, Inhambane, Mozambique, 2021 © Mário Macilau



07\_God Bless my son, Maputo, Mozambique, 2015  
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08\_A Candle Man, Inhambane, Mozambique, 2021  
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09\_Man with a Cross, Maputo, Mozambique, 2017  
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10\_A group of people lying Mozambique, 2022  
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11\_Animism and Christianity in the same Ritual, Mozambique, 2015  
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