



Major gifts by Roger Ballen Foundation and Eiger Foundation establish Centre for Photography at Zeitz MOCAA

Cape Town, 14 February 2017 – Ahead of its Grand Opening during South Africa Heritage Weekend in September 2017, the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA) today announced major gifts from the Roger Ballen Foundation and the Eiger Foundation to Zeitz MOCAA's endowment to establish and support a Centre for Photography.

The gifts are the largest financial donations received by the museum, to date, from a Foundation. The investment of the donations will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the museum now, and for generations to come, and will also ensure a committed focus on photography as part of Zeitz MOCAA's mission.

The Roger Ballen Foundation donation includes:

1. The largest financial gift to Zeitz MOCAA's endowment to date from a Foundation, to be invested to support the ongoing logistical, exhibition, programming and educational costs of a Centre for Photography.
2. One signed edition of all work produced by Roger Ballen from 1968–1982 donated to the museum's permanent collection.
3. One signed edition of all works produced by Roger Ballen from now until the artist's death donated to the museum's permanent collection.

"It has been my great desire to contribute to the understanding of photography in South Africa in the country that I call home," said Roger Ballen. "By donating my archive and finance to Zeitz MOCAA, I wish to commit to the ongoing success of this important museum in Africa and ensure that photography is guaranteed a place in the museum's activities."

The Eiger Foundation donation includes:

1. The second largest financial gift to Zeitz MOCAA's endowment, to date, from a Foundation, to be invested to establish an ongoing full time Curator of Photography.
2. An additional financial gift to endow one gallery in the Centre for Photography.
3. One signed edition of every published photograph by Roger Ballen from the following series: *Dorps*, *Small Towns of South Africa*; *Platteland*, *Images from Rural South Africa*; *Outland*; *Shadow Chamber*, *Boarding House*; and *Asylum of the Birds*, donated to the museum's permanent collection.

"The Eiger Foundation promotes photography as an important art form," said Leonard O'Brien, the Founder of the Eiger Foundation. "By supporting the Roger Ballen Foundation Centre for Photography and Zeitz MOCAA, the Eiger Foundation can fulfil its mission of promoting a better understanding of the photographic medium for society at large."

In recognition of this enormous support the Centre for Photography has been named the **Roger Ballen Foundation Centre for Photography**. In honour of the major support by Eiger Foundation, the Curator of Photography is named the **Eiger Foundation Curator of Photography** and one gallery in the Roger Ballen Foundation Centre for Photography is named the **Eiger Foundation Gallery**.

The Roger Ballen Foundation Centre for Photography is one of six centres within Zeitz MOCAA, including the Costume Institute, and Centres for Art Education, for the Moving Image, for Performative Practice, and for Curatorial Excellence.

The mission of the Roger Ballen Foundation Centre for Photography is to collect, preserve, research, and exhibit cutting edge contemporary photography, and artworks that use photography, from Africa and its Diaspora, to develop supporting educational and enrichment programs for all, to encourage intercultural understanding and guarantee access for all. The Centre will also exhibit temporary exhibitions of photographers from all over the world to expose local audiences and practitioners to the rich legacy of photography globally.

Additional support has been provided by M&C Saatchi Abel to endow a photography gallery, the M&C Saatchi Abel Gallery. The AKO Foundation is supporting the position of Assistant Curator of Photography. An additional Assistant Curator of Photography position is being supported by Mikael Kamras and Fredrik Oweson.

Azu Nwagbogu, the Founder and Director of Lagos Photo Festival, has been appointed as the Curator at Large of Photography at the Roger Ballen Foundation Centre for Photography. Gcotyelwa Mashiga has been appointed as the AKO Foundation Assistant Curator of Photography. The Eiger Foundation Curator of Photography position and the Mikael Kamras and Fredrik Oweson Assistant Curator of Photography position have both been advertised and individuals filling these positions will be announced shortly.

As a not-for-profit public cultural institution, donations to Zeitz MOCAA are an integral part of helping the museum fulfil its mission. This coming together of various supporters acts as a blueprint of the manner in which Zeitz MOCAA will fulfil its mission and become sustainable through the collective generosity of local and international communities. The museum is a partnership between the V&A Waterfront and German businessman Jochen Zeitz, to create a significant contemporary art museum on the African continent.

“Zeitz MOCAA is honoured to become the guardian and archive of Roger Ballen’s work and the legacy that he leaves through the Roger Ballen Foundation Centre for Photography,” said Azu Nwagbogu, Curator at Large of Photography. “Ballen remains an inspiration to photographers seeking a unique visual language and his contribution will ensure a professional platform for photographers from across the African continent. It will enable their work to be collected, preserved and exhibited far into the future.”

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For additional information and images:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/53IzIcktt4j63rf/AADc4nRnZKlt-JDcJoEh_oRQa?dl=0

EDITOR'S NOTES

ABOUT THE ROGER BALLEN FOUNDATION

The Roger Ballen Foundation is dedicated to the advancement of education of photography in South Africa. The Foundation creates and supports programmes of the highest quality to further the understanding and appreciation of the medium. Working with artists from around the world, our program enables students and general audiences to engage with notable contemporary photographic art that would otherwise not be seen in South Africa.

ABOUT THE EIGER FOUNDATION

The Eiger Foundation provides educational programs, scholarships, bursaries and awards in relation to art and culture with a particular focus on photography. The Foundation acquires photographic work by aspiring and established artists.

The principle objectives of the Eiger Foundation are the promotion of public awareness and of photography as an art form in particular to promote and support a better understanding of the medium.

ABOUT THE ZEITZ MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART AFRICA

Opening on 22 September 2017, the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa's (Zeitz MOCAA) mission is to collect, preserve, research, and exhibit cutting edge contemporary art from Africa and its Diaspora, to develop supporting educational and enrichment programmes for all, to encourage intercultural understanding, and to guarantee access for all. Eighty galleries are dedicated to a permanent collection, temporary exhibitions, and Centres for Art Education, Photography, Costume, Curatorial Excellence, the Moving Image, and Performative Practice.

Zeitz MOCAA partners with various local and international institutions, manages an established Curatorial Training Programme, and loans artworks to museums globally. As a public not-for-profit cultural institution we depend on philanthropic support from individuals, corporations and foundations.

Admission rates:

- Under 18s: FREE
- Single day entry: ZAR 180
- Annual membership: ZAR 250
- Citizens of African countries: FREE entry every Wednesday, between 10am and 1pm
- Zeitz MOCAA Grand Public Opening Weekend (22 to 25 September 2017): FREE entry for all members of the public

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Twitter: [@zeitzmocaa](https://twitter.com/zeitzmocaa)

Zeitz MOCAA is registered Public Benefit Organisation (PBO number: 930050395). The Zeitz MOCAA Board is comprised of David Green (co-chair), Jochen Zeitz (co-chair), Suzanne Ackerman-Berman, Isaac Julien (artist trustee), Wangechi Mutu (artist trustee), Gasant Orrie, Albie Sachs, Anton Taljaard, and Mark Coetzee (ex-officio).