New Acquisitions in the Rare Books at Special Collections

Bed room / photographs by Mark Lewis ; words by Tanya Zack ; translator, Lulu Mfazwe-Mojapelo
From her bed in a small Hillbrow apartment, Birthial Gxaleka runs an NGO and shelter. Her tenants all share her one-bedroomed space, sleeping and living on a large raft of beds that leaves only a narrow corridor of standing room. At any one time, there are up to thirty-four residents, because it is rare for Birthial to turn anyone away. Each person wants to make their way in the world: find a job, reconnect with lost family, get access to healthcare, or simply secure a decent place to sleep. They all have stories to tell. Some are of short-lived success, violence or loss, and others are about moving up in the world from this unusual starting place. But the stories all have this in common—Birthial’s no-nonsense generosity and hard-nosed pragmatism.

The seventh book in the *Wake Up, This is Joburg* series by Mark Lewis and Tanya Zack takes us to Hillbrow—the inner city’s crowded, high rise flatland. There, at densities that are ten times greater than those of Hong Kong, people find ways to get on with things. In Birthial’s flat, getting on with things requires assessing one’s attachment to privacy, ownership and belonging. It probably also demands a thick skin and a good sense of humour.

*Wake Up, This is Joburg* is a series of ten stories about ordinary, interesting, odd or outrageous denizens of the city of Johannesburg. Some are newly arrived, some are long-time residents, but all have found a way to inhabit urban space in unusual ways, carving out a living—and a life—in an alternative economy, flying by the seat of their proverbial pants, or working the same job in the same building for decades. All are, in their own ways, survivors: of the dramatic changes that the city has seen in the last twenty years, of successive waves of xenophobia, of political upheaval here and in countries elsewhere on the continent. But some have simply not moved in decades, preferring to sit things out and watch the city transform on their doorstep, making the most of what it brings them. *Wake up, This is Joburg* is a series of stories about that thing you can’t quite put a finger on when you tell people why you live here.

*After the mines / Jason Larkin ; essay by Mara Kardas-Nelson, translated by Thandiwe Nxumalo Kunutu*
In this incisive and wide-ranging photographic project, British photographer Jason Larkin explores the vast waste dumps created by Johannesburg’s gold mining industry. Larkin’s sensitive images of life on and around the city’s incongruous man-made hills shed light on some of the most challenging questions facing South Africa today— the legacy and future of the mines, environmental degradation, service delivery and the housing crisis. An essay by Mara Kardas-Nelson considers the complex debates amongst environmentalists, government entities and communities about the future of the mine dumps.
Jason Larkin (b.1979, UK) trained as a photographer in London and has worked extensively in the Middle East and Africa. He won the Arnold Newman New Portraiture Award in 2011, and in 2013 his publication *Cairo Divided* was nominated for the Deutsche Börse and Prix Pictet photography awards. He has participated in numerous photography festivals, and has exhibited at the Brighton Photo Biennial, the Farnsworth Art Museum in Maine, and the Flowers Gallery in London.

Mara Kardas-Nelson is an award-winning journalist who has written for South African and international publications on such subjects as HIV/AIDS, acid mine drainage, the plight of farm workers, and the pharmaceutical industry.

Reviews
http://aerodrome.co.za/10-questions-jason-larkin/
http://bearwithme.co.za/see/after-mines/

*What remains is tomorrow* : Pavilion of South Africa at the 56th International Art Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia / [editor, Bronwyn Law-Biljoen].
The catalogue for the South African pavilion at the 56th International Art Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia features the work of Willem Boshoff, Mohau Modisakeng, Haroon Gunn-Salie, Jeremy Wafer, Nandipha Mntambo, Robin Rhode, Gerald Machona, Brett Murray, Diane Victor, Jo Ractliffe, Serge Alain Nitegeka, Warrick Sony, Mark Lewis and Angus Gibson.

The Johannesburg Gas Works / edited by Monika Läuferts le Roux and Judith Mavunganidze, with essays by Clive Chipkin and Alexander Oppen
The Johannesburg Gas Works (now Egoli Gas) is a familiar and spectacular industrial landmark in the city. Its dramatic holding towers and red-brick futurist factories are close to the campuses of two universities and within site of the Brixton Tower and the buildings of the SABC. Manufacturing at the site came to an end two decades ago and now gas is piped into the towers and from there into the surrounding neighbourhoods for business and residential use. In recent years, the Gas Works has attracted interest from architects, students, historians and the general public but its now-derelict buildings remain a mystery to most.

This new book, the first comprehensive publication on the significant site, tells the story of the Gas Works and the manufacture of gas in Johannesburg, beginning in 1927. It includes essays by Clive Chipkin and Alex Opper that explore the architectural importance of the incredible buildings, the story of gas production in Johannesburg, the role of gas workers in the industrial development of the city, and the possible future prospects for the site. Maps, drawings and photographs take the reader into the heart of the factory as it was decades ago and as it is today. The Johannesburg Gas Works is an important contribution to the industrial and architectural history of the city.

Monika Läuferts le Roux and Judith Mavunganidze founded their company, tsica heritage consultants, in 2008. They have worked in Johannesburg doing heritage and architectural surveys, heritage impact assessments and historical reports. Their main focus and interest over the years has been in industrial heritage. They have published on the topic and have plans to establish an industrial heritage route and museum in Johannesburg. They have been appointed the heritage consultants for the City of Johannesburg’s Corridors of Freedom development project.

Reviews

http://www.jozilife.co.za/design/joburgs-old-gas-works/

UP UP: Stories of Johannesburg’s Highrises / edited by Nele Dechmann, Fabian Jaggi, Katrin Murbach and Nicola Ruffo, photographs by Mpho Mokgadi
UP UP: Stories of Johannesburg's Highrises presents a selection of buildings in the inner city of Johannesburg. The focus here is on tall modernist towers that quickly became iconic in the architecture of the city. Witnesses to profound shifts in the political history of the metropolis, the skyscrapers have themselves endured immense changes. They are documented here in two ways: firstly, through historical facts, floor plans, archival records and contemporary photographs of their formal architecture; and secondly, through reportage, interviews and essays. This book is the first to document Joburg's skyscrapers and it offers new insights not only into these classic buildings, but also into contemporary urban life in
South Africa.

Reviews

http://www.hochparterre.ch/nachrichten/buecher/blog/post/detail/hoch-hoch/1460119429/
https://www.espazium.ch/up-up-stories-of-johannesburg-highrises
https://bearbooks.se/tag/trust-bank-building/

Writing the City into Being / Lindsay Bremner

Writing the City into Being spans more than a decade of work on Johannesburg. It is both an unflinching analysis of the characteristics of an extraordinary city and a work of imagination—a bringing of the evasive city into being through writing.

Johannesburg has become a touchstone in critical thinking on the development of the twenty-first-century city, attracting scholars from around the world who seek to understand how cities are changing in the face of urban migration in all its myriad forms and the inflow of foreign capital and interest. Bremner is at the forefront of this scholarship. Her intimate knowledge of the city makes this a deeply personal but authoritative collection of essays.

Writing the City into Being is an important book for those seeking to understand cities in a rapidly changing and fragmenting world and Bremner is an extraordinary guide to the city of Johannesburg, and one of its most incisive commentators.

Writing the City Into Being was the winner of the 2011 Jane Jacobs Urban Communication Award, New York.
Hotel Yeoville / Terry Kurgan

Hotel Yeoville was a participatory public art project, conceptualised and directed by artist Terry Kurgan, and based online and in the public library of the old suburb of Yeoville in Johannesburg’s inner city. Kurgan developed the project in collaboration with a diverse group of people working across a range of disciplines. It comprised a website, a photo wall and a series of booths in which members of the public were invited to offer stories about themselves through mapping, video, photography and text. Over the course of a year, Hotel Yeoville came to represent an intimate and multi-layered document of a segment of this diverse community, most of whom are immigrants from across the African continent. Its stories are a small but unusual record of the complexities of everyday life in a rapidly evolving city. The book presents new critical perspectives on contemporary artistic research and practice, and is a remarkable documentation of the complex negotiations—between artists, residents, consultants and audience—that brought the work into being.

Reviews

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17533171.2014.917870
http://forecastpublicart.org/public-art-review/book-reviews/2016/03/hotel-yeoville/
http://www.artlink.co.za/news_article.htm?contentID=32210

Murder at Small Koppie / Greg Marinovich
On 16 August 2012, a contingent of the South African Police Service opened fire with R5 assault rifles on a group of striking miners on and around Wonderkop near the Marikana platinum mine in South Africa’s North West province. By the time the dust settled, 34 miners were dead and 78 more were wounded. Footage of the massacre travelled around the globe, causing public outrage.

The news footage, however, captured only a dozen or so of the dead. A number of those who died were killed beyond the view of cameras at a nondescript collection of boulders known as Small Koppie, some 300 metres behind Wonderkop. Many of these men had been shot in cold blood at close range.

In *Murder at Small Koppie*, renowned photojournalist Greg Marinovich explores the truth behind the Marikana massacre, looking specifically at the largely untold slaughter at Small Koppie. Drawing on his own meticulous investigations, eyewitness accounts and the findings of the Marikana Commission of Inquiry set up by President Jacob Zuma following the massacre, Marinovich accurately reconstructs that fateful day as well as the events leading up to the strike,
and looks at the subsequent denials, obfuscation and buck-passing that characterised Lonmin’s, the SAPS’ and the government’s response.

This is the definitive account of the Marikana massacre from the journalist whose award-winning investigation into the tragedy was called the most important piece of South African journalism post-apartheid.

**Black Labour Act (Act No. 67 of 1964 as amended)**

A resource for the historian studying how apartheid laws affected black people.
Record of Proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual Congress of the Institute of Administrators of Non-European Affairs

The papers provide an insight into the thinking at the time as well as some interesting predictions/projections.
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