

Ryan

Reflections from a
custodian of moments



Enslin

30.9.23
24.10.23

Exhibition Opening
The Market Theatre
30 September, 13h00



“Reflections from a custodian of moments”

A solo exhibition by Ryan Enslin

Joburg-based photographer and writer Ryan Enslin shares a selection of intimate moments, captured over the last four years, in his first solo exhibition *Reflections from a custodian of moments*. Showing at the Market Theatre complex and opening during the Joburg iteration of the WOMAD South Africa festival, the exhibition invites the viewer to look through the lens with the artist as he captures unique angles of everyday occurrences.

From lamenting the loss of a friend, to the unexpected inspiration imparted from a child at story time and personal learnings from a ballerina in an abandoned hospital, Enslin applies his left-of-centre blend of storytelling and lensing ability to make sense of the world around him. *Reflections from a custodian of moments* also marks the artist's first foray into showcasing his work.

“I felt the time was right to start sharing my work with a wider audience, especially the pieces I was most passionate about. Each photograph in the show has a story that lies close to my heart, and I’m rather keen to see other people’s reactions to these photographs.”

“This body of work is my attempt to record my inner-most thoughts and feelings as a reaction to circumstances I found myself in. By implication, to stop, consider and frame an image based on how the particular situation made me feel; and how I interacted with it on a spiritual level,” Enslin explains. *Reflections from a custodian of moments* is curated by Sara Hallatt of the META foundation.

The exhibition will be taking place at the Market Theatre from 30 September to 20 October 2023.

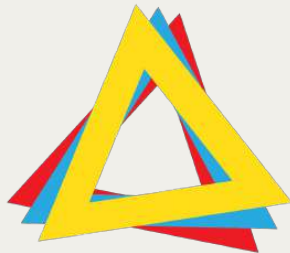
This exhibition forms part of the



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Saturday afternoon at the pool

Ryan Enslin

2021

Photograph printed on tecco PM Smooth Matt 230gsm

59.5 x 84.1cm

Edition of 10

R 3 500.00

“I love to travel, and when I get to travel with my friend Allison, it’s that much more exciting. Particularly as she was once a prima ballerina, who still holds herself with the grace and poise learnt from hours of ballet. When Allison and I found ourselves in 2021 at a public swimming pool inside a caravan park in Riversdale, in the Western Cape, I was initially rather dismal at the prospect of shooting anything worthwhile. And then Allison did what Allison does and took a walk and sat on the edge of the diving board. The grace embodied in her simple pose had me snapping away and reminded me that beauty exists all around us, we just need the eyes to see it. The scene took me back to my youth and the many carefree afternoons my siblings and I would spend around our swimming pool at home.” – Ryan Enslin



Mush

Ryan Enslin

2019

Photograph printed on tecco PM Smooth Matt 230gsm

186,6cm x 140cm

Edition of 10

R 9 000.00

“My good friend, and one of the original South African travel bloggers, Merushka Govender sadly died in early 2019. Many times, as my travel companion, our times together were marked by laughter and a shared love for life. Mush, as many of us called her, was a self-proclaimed Afrophile with a deep love for the inner city of Johannesburg, which we shared. Driving home from her memorial that Thursday afternoon, I detoured through the inner city to avoid traffic. Without thought, I found a parking and went on a walk through town with my camera, the place she had loved so much. Coming upon Harrison Street in the now-late afternoon rush, I was drawn in by the yellow demarcated bus lane and the old-world buildings further down the street. To me, this spoke into the essence of the inner city – a place of beauty and contrast, fraught with challenges which should not be present. Like the imposing bus lane, often ignored by motorists and taxi drivers alike.” – Ryan Enslin



Breakfast in Bethulie

Ryan Enslin

2021

Photograph printed on tecco PM Smooth Matt 230gsm

59.5 x 84.1cm

Edition of 10

R 3 500.00



A Man and his Craft

Ryan Enslin

2023

Photograph printed on tecco PM Smooth Matt 230gsm

59.5 x 84.1cm

Edition of 10

R 3 500.00

As a child, my grandparents would often take my siblings and I on train trips between Johannesburg and Gqeberha, then Port Elizabeth. It was a time of adventure as we headed into what my young brain processed as *the unknown*. Perhaps this is where my adult fascination with railway lines comes from. As COVID restrictions first eased in late 2020, I went on a trip, passing through Dullstroom for a few days. A heavy mist descended as I approached the fishing town. Noting an open farm gate on the side of the road, I instinctively pulled over, aware from past experience that there was a railway line on the other side. Only after framing this shot, did I note the sign *Tuisbly*, meaning *stay at home* in Afrikaans. The scene immediately spoke to my wanderlust seeking soul, contrasting the imperative to stay at home during a worldwide pandemic against the yearning to head into *the unknown* and explore new lands.



Ye though the restrictions are eased

Ryan Enslin

2020

Photograph printed on tecco PM Smooth Matt 230gsm

59.5 x 84.1cm

Edition of 10

R 3 500.00



As the world closes in

Ryan Enslin

2019

Photograph printed on tecco PM Smooth Matt 230gsm

59.5 x 84.1cm

Edition of 10

R 3 500.00



The power of presence

Ryan Enslin

2020

Photograph printed on tecco PM Smooth Matt 230gsm

59.5 x 84.1cm

Edition of 10

R 3 500.00



Night shift

Ryan Enslin

2020

Photograph printed on tecco PM

Smooth Matt 230gsm

59.5 x 84.1cm

Edition of 10

R 3 500.00

Johannesburg has an energy unique unto itself. And, at no time is this energy more tangible than during the night hours. Mundane activities take on surrealist nuances as daily realities play out in an often fascinating reversal of roles. Nothing is as it seems in the City of Gold, and long may it stay that way.



No more

Ryan Enslin

2023

Photograph printed on tecco PM

Smooth Matt 230gsm

59.5 x 84.1cm

Edition of 10

R 3 500.00

“A stretch of the Johannesburg city centre opens up and says *no more*. No more mismanagement, no more neglect, no more disregard and disrespect. No more politicking to no-one’s benefit, no more. But my city is resilient, she is resourceful and a fighter, raised on the dusty plains of this once-mining camp. She will bounce back, stronger than before, perhaps with less weighing her down. A shakeup is coming.” – Ryan Enslin



End of the line

Ryan Enslin

2020

Photograph printed on tecco PM Smooth Matt 230gsm

59.5 x 84.1cm

Edition of 10

R 3 500.00

“The small Mpumalanga town of Carolina holds many fond memories for me from early teen days of hiking in the Eastern Transvaal. On a road trip in 2020, I noted a sign for the turnoff to Carolina, and immediately rerouted my car in her direction. Sadly, there is not much to see in the town, but on the far side I turned the car around, only to see the railway line and its rather abrupt ending in this rusted metal structure. The scene beautifully juxtaposed my love of railway lines, which represent the freedom to explore, against the permanence of the ending. Its weathered featured had me entranced for some time, with the moody weather playing its part. Endings can, in themselves, be rather fascinating things. It all depends on your viewpoint.” – Ryan Enslin

Artist Bio

Ryan Enslin is a Pietermaritzburg born, Joburg-based photographer and travel writer. Qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in the early 2000s, he soon came to understand that storytelling flowed in his veins. A self-taught photographer, aided by the odd course to hone his skillset, Ryan is happiest when lensing a scene that speaks to the storytelling nature of his soul.

Ryan photographs his subjects using prime lenses, preferring to physically frame the scene using the placement of his body to ensure a more detailed level of engagement with the subject. This approach delivers frames which are personal and evocative, as he translates the initial internal connection to a subject into the physical manifestation of the final photograph.

In his first exhibition *Reflections from the custodian of moments*, Ryan invites the viewer to look through the lens with him and consider his take on everyday occurrences.





For more information on the exhibition, the artist or the artwork, please contact us.

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