

## Brent Meistre

*The Stranger Who Licked Salt Back into our eyes*

March 26 – May 9, 2015

Guest curator : Pierre Beaudoin

Opening:

Video

Saturday, March 28, 4pm – 6pm



*Brent Meistre, The Stranger Who Licked Salt Back into our eyes, 2011 (Video still)*

*The video tells the fictional story of a stranger who arrives in a land to search for himself and his love. He brings with him knowledge which on the one hand is enlightening but on the other is a burden. This work is a subtle exploration of themes around xenophobia, contrasting images of Greece (the Greek term xenos means stranger) with those of regions in southern Africa crossed by the Dorsland trekkers. The soundtrack is an adaptation of a traditional Swahili love song, Malaika, sung by Harry Belafonte and Miriam Makeba and long seen as an unofficial pan-African anthem.*

### Biography

**Brent Meistre** is a South African photographer and film maker. Throughout his body of work is the central notion of journeying, movement and migration within the historical context of Africa and how these traces and remnants continue to constitute and speak to the experience lived by the peoples of this continent.

He was a finalist in the Daimler Chrysler Award for Contemporary Photography in South Africa and received the first Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Museum's Biennale Award. His work has been featured on the Bamako Photo Biennale in Mali, The International Black Film Festival in Canada and the Kunstvlaai: Festival of Independents. His work has also been shown at Making Way: Contemporary Art from China and South Africa and his SOJOURN project was featured on the Head-On Photography Festival in Australia and the Pingyao Photo Festival in China. In 2013 his extensive SOJOURN project was exhibited on street poles across Cape Town as a part of the Terminal GIPCA LAND project. His current project Analogue Eye: Video Art Africa is a mobile drive-in & pop-up cinema that showcases the works made by 47 African video artists. This was featured on the main program of the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown and Infecting the City (The Africa Centre) in Cape Town, South Africa. Analogue Eye will also be featured on the Wiener Festwochen in May/June 2015 in Vienna, Austria.

**Pierre Beaudoin:** Consultant, curator, and performance artist Pierre Beaudoin has been active in the visual and media arts scene for over 25 years. As a curator, he has been particularly interested in contemporary African art. He presented a first exhibition in Montreal in 2011, "Temps – Dialogue sur l'art contemporain du Sénégal," presenting the work of six artists. The program of experimental video and film work, "l'Afrique en mouvement," was presented at the Cinémathèque québécoise and at DAÏMON in 2012 and 2013. His new projects include a solo exhibition by Congolese artist Moridja Kitenge Banza, at Galerie Joyce Yahouda in March 2015, along with two others organized in collaboration with Goethe-Institut Montreal, the artist centre OBORO, and the VIVA! art action festival in October 2015, where the work of Mwangi Hutter will be presented.

Horaire de la Galerie : jeudi-samedi de 12h à 17 h et sur rendez-vous / Heures de bureau : mardi-samedi de 10h30 à 18h