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## UCT participates in ‘historical journey through land’ to help mark anniversary of 1913 Land Act

**Largest photographic exhibition on the land issue in South Africa will open on Monday, 26 March 2013, at 18h00 at Iziko SA National Gallery**

This year marks the centenary of the controversial 1913 Land Act. The exhibition, which will run from 26 March 2013 until 28 July, will coincide with a major conference that will reflect on the significance of the land question in South African society. The *Land Divided: Land and South African Society in 2013, in Comparative Perspective* conference will be hosted by the University of Cape Town, the University of the Western Cape and Stellenbosch University from 24 to 27 March 2013.

The exhibition, *Umhlaba*, harvests a selection of pictures from 18 archives and the work of over 30 photographers.

The curators, David Goldblatt, Bongji Dhlomo, Pam Warne and Paul Weinberg, have developed a narrative about the land which includes a thorough exploration of archival photographs and the work of committed photographers who have engaged with this issue for over a century.

Goldblatt and Weinberg both have long histories exploring land issues, Dhlomo is a well-known artist and curator and Pam Warne is the curator of photography and new media for the National Gallery at Iziko.

Weinberg, a senior curator at UCT Libraries, said: “The anniversary of the Land Act offers an important opportunity to tell this story in ways it has never been told before. The exhibition is not just about forced removals but also includes a historical journey through the land.”

Weinberg said: “Music, historical films and images up to the present day give the

viewer a rounded experience of the land issue. The exhibition travels in time from the past to the present day, offering insights into the complexity and contested nature of this landscape. It asks questions about how the land is signified and used, and the multiple meanings it has for those who live on it."

The exhibition will move to the Wits Art Museum in August.

**In another exhibition, *Extraordinary lives: Portraits from a divided land*, the work of Sophia Klaase will be showcased from Saturday, 23 March 2013, until Thursday, 18 April 2013, at the District Six Museum.**

Klaase first used a camera as a participant in a photography project organised in 1999, as part of a long-term study into the socio-economic and environmental history of Paulshoek, a remote village in Namaqualand.

Her collection of more than 1, 500 images recorded 13 years of village life from the perspective of a young woman growing up in the new South Africa. Her work documented family, friends, village events and daily chores. It also included self-portraits that provide a poignant record of Klaase's own passage into adulthood.

Dr Siona O' Connell, co-curator from UCT, said: "This exhibition teases apart just what it means to be a young woman in a social landscape that is common to millions of South Africa's rural poor. Klaase's photographs are not 'simple representations', rather they form a powerful and remarkable archive of meanings which are embedded in palpable social, political and economic frames, connecting memories, histories and language."

The exhibition comprises 200 images from Klaase's collection. They were taken with simple disposable cameras, instamatics and digital cameras.

***ENDS***

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**Captions from *Umhlaba 1913- 2013*:**



Pic 1: Moving furniture for collection by government trucks by Ben MacLennan



Pic 2: Kasinyane Maine, Ou Kas as he was affectionately and respectfully known, takes his cattle out to graze in the early morning at Ledig, near Sun City by David Goldblatt

**Captions from *Extraordinary lives: Portraits from a divided land*:**



**Both pics are untitled by Sophia Klaase**



