

NEWS FROM:



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Study of parallel communities catches eye at Dak'Art UCT lecturer Svea Josephy awarded Prix du Ministere de la Culture at Dakar's contemporary art biennial

Svea Josephy, a senior lecturer of photography in the Michaelis School of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town, was awarded the prestigious Prix du Ministere de la Culture at Dak'Art 2010 – the ninth biennial of contemporary art in Dakar, Senegal, which was held from 7 May to 7 June 2010.

Twenty-eight artists from across Africa were chosen from more than 400 entries to attend the opening of the exhibition and display their work. Of the eight artists who were selected for awards, four had been trained at UCT: Nirveda Alleck, who won the Prix d'Association Soliel d' Afrique; Twin brothers Hasan and Husein Essop, who won the Prix de la Fondation Thami Mnye; and Josephy.

Josephy's winning submission is a comparison of photographs: one of a South African informal settlement, the other of a similarly named place in a distant part of the globe. Josephy said: "The starting point for these photographs is a concern with the naming practices of places in South Africa. During the apartheid era, new areas were usually given names by bureaucrats, but more recently communities have been responsible for naming their own neighbourhoods.

She added: "One noteworthy post-apartheid era naming practice is to reference current news events (Barcelona, Lost City, Tsunami) or war zones (Kosovo, Kuwait, Burundi, Bosnia, Bagdad, Congo, Vietnam and Beirut). The photographs chosen for display show the 'twin towns' – Kuwait in the Middle East – and its named 'other' Kuwait, in Cape Town. The shared names connect the different locations as sites of struggle and of war, liberation and reconstruction in the early 1990s."

Please see the attachment for Josephy's comparison of Kuwait in the Middle East and Kuwait in Cape Town. Other photos are available showing other comparisons between South African townships and their namesakes in other parts of the world.

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