

Gallery 1957



Life According to James Barnor

21 September - 6 October 2018

As part of Nuku Photo Festival Ghana, Gallery 1957 is proud to present *Life According to James Barnor*, featuring stunning images by legendary Ghanaian photographer James Barnor taken in Ghana and the United Kingdom from 1948 to 1980.

This exhibition is supported by: Alliance Francaise, Institut Francaise, and the Embassy of France, Ghana

All images are courtesy of Clémentine de la Féronnière

LIFE ACCORDING TO JAMES BARNOR

Photographs of Ghana and the United Kingdom, 1948-1980 Born in 1929 in Ghana,

James Barnor experienced first-hand his country's independence as well as the formation of the diaspora to London in the 1960s. In the early 1950s, he opened his famous Ever Young studio in Accra, where he immortalised a nation craving modernity and independence in an ambiance that was animated by conversation and highlife music. He was the first photo-journalist to collaborate with the Daily Graphic, a newspaper published in Ghana by the London Daily Mirror Group. Close to Drum, an important lifestyle magazine founded in South Africa in 1951 and symbol of the anti-apartheid movement, he did several assignments for them in a climate of euphoria and celebration. In 1959, two years after Ghana's independence, James Barnor left for London, a city in the throes of becoming a multicultural capital, to further his photographic knowledge. He discovered colour processing at the Medway College of Art and his photos were published on the front cover of Drum. He eloquently caught the zeitgeist of Swinging London and the experiences of the African diaspora in the capital. Towards the end of the 1960s he was recruited by Agfa-Gevaert and returned to Ghana to set up the country's first colour laboratory. There he stayed for the next 20 years, working in his new X23 studio as an independent photographer and for a handful of State agencies in Accra. Today James Barnor lives in the UK devoting most of his time to his work, in a spirit of transmission.

This exhibition is an excerpt from the one presented at the Rencontres de Bamako in 2017, then at the Museum of Photography in Saint-Louis, Senegal, in 2018.

About Gallery 1957

Based in Accra and working internationally, Gallery 1957 has a curatorial focus on West Africa. The gallery presents a programme of exhibitions, installations and performances by the region's most significant artists currently bridging the gap between local and international practices. Founded by Marwan Zakhem in 2016, Gallery 1957 has evolved from over 15 years of private collecting. Opened in 2017, Gallery 1957 II is the gallery's second space, situated in Accra's Galleria Mall. The gallery serves as a vital platform, promoting West Africa's presence within the art scene by hosting ambitious exhibitions, providing resources for residencies and participating in international art fairs.

Notes to editors:

Exhibition: *Life According to James Barnor*

Private view: 21 September

Dates: 22 September - 6 October

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