



Roger Ballen

Asylum of the Birds

Toured by Curatorial Exhibitions

Considered one of the most original image makers of the twenty-first century, American-born photographer Roger Ballen has lived and worked in South Africa for four decades. His newest work, *Asylum of the Birds*, is set within the confines of a makeshift house on the outskirts of Johannesburg, a place inhabited by individuals at the absolute margins of society. In this anarchic place, the human and animal inhabitants collaborate as Ballen's cast in an ongoing series of quasi-directed performances. As we enter Ballen's layered netherworld the images simultaneously repel and compel our gaze and transport us to an even darker dreamworld, that of the fears within our own imagination.

The omnipresent birds, both alive and dead, signal a foreboding reminiscent of Alfred Hitchcock, while simultaneously suggesting hope and freedom. While "asylum" promises insanity, it also suggests refuge and persists in our mind as a metaphor for redemption. Says Ballen of his work, "My purpose in taking photographs over the past forty years has ultimately been about defining myself. It has been fundamentally a psychological and existential journey."

The exhibition also presents Ballen's latest film, produced in collaboration with Sydney College of the Arts students and alumni: "Theatre of the Mind," a psychological thriller set in a zone between sanity and insanity, dream and reality. Filmed in underground tunnels built in 19th century Australia to house the mentally insane, the work encapsulates Ballen's hauntingly intense style.



Front page: *Place of the Eyeballs*, 2012
Left: *Altercation*, 2012
Facing page: *Banner*, 2009

Fee

\$8,500 per 6 to 8 week period, plus prorated shipping

Number of Works

40 framed photographs, 1 digital video (looped, 2:09m)

Frame Sizes

(29) 23 x 22 in (58.4 x 55.9 cm)

(11) 29 x 28 in (73.7 x 71.1 cm)

Space Requirements

Approx. 145 linear feet (44.2 linear meters)

Support Materials

Publication, *Asylum of the Birds*, Thames & Hudson, 2014

Booking

Curatorial Exhibitions

exhibitions@curatorial.org | 626.577.0044



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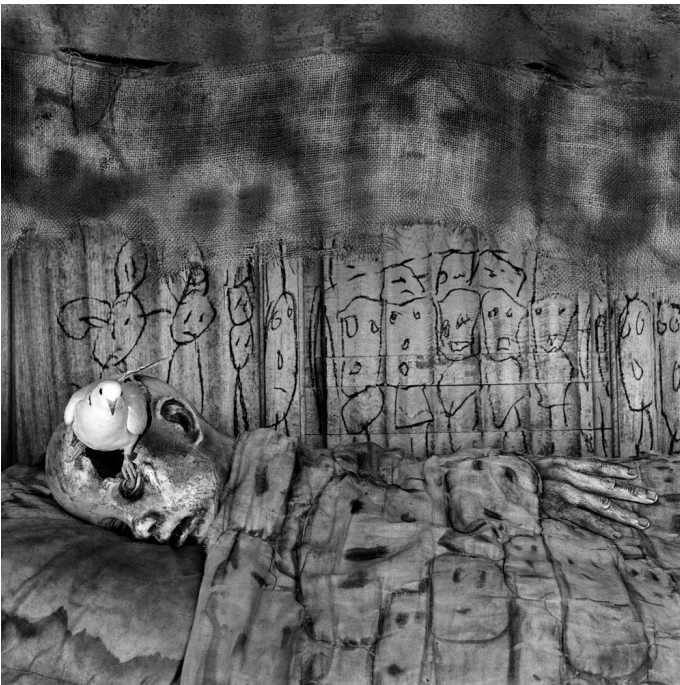
Curatorial



Encaged, 2012



Headless, 2006



Deathbed, 2010



Malicious, 2012

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Blinded, 2005

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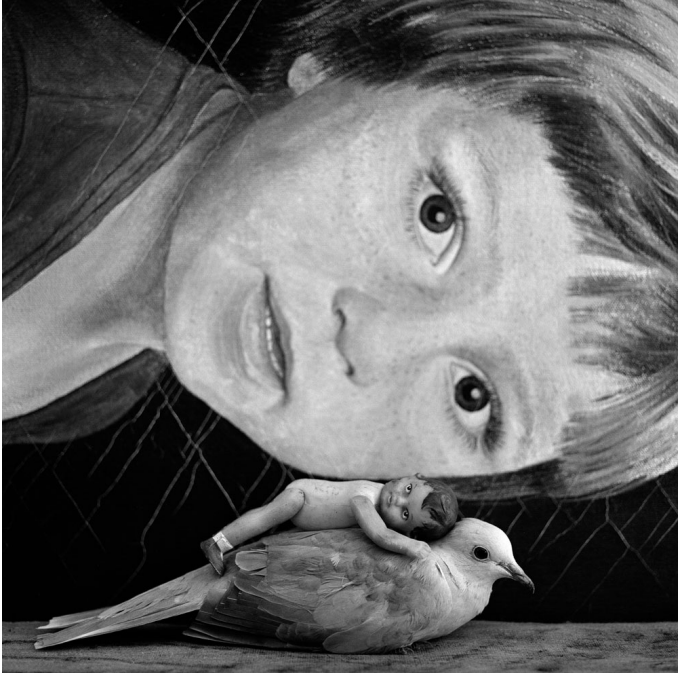


Five Hands, 2006

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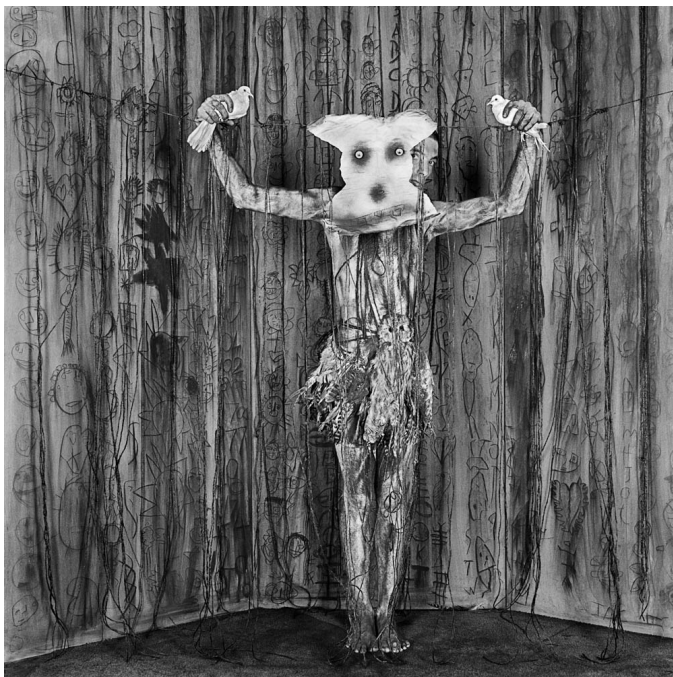
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Mirrored, 2012



Ascension, 2013



Altar Ego, 2010



Take Off, 2012



Bereaved, 2012

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Threat, 2010



Omen, 2011



Consolation, 2011

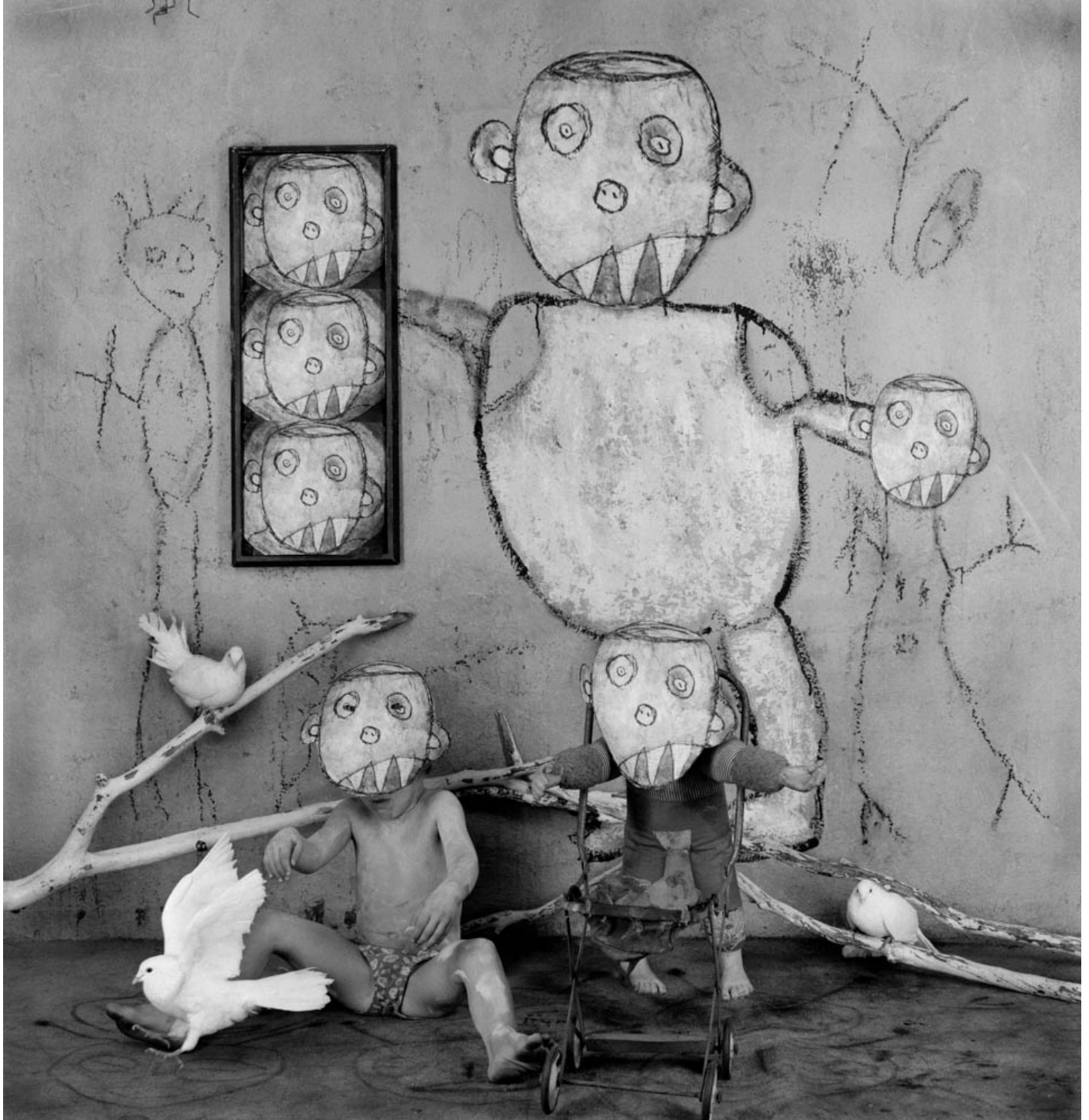


White Eye, 2011

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Look Alike, 2012

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Invitation, 2003



Caged, 2011



Bride, 2013



Scream, 2012



Playroom, 2012



Ethereal, 2011

Curatorial Exhibitions is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for access, outreach, and education in the visual arts through the origination and circulation of diverse and innovative exhibitions for museums and art organizations worldwide. Our organization fosters collaborations between public and private resources by developing traveling exhibitions that expand public opportunities to view and experience significant works of art. Formed in 2000, Curatorial Exhibitions has toured more than 500 exhibitions to over 850 art venues worldwide.