

O B L I Q U E • T H E S O - C A L L E D F R U I T S O F L I F E

fried contemporary is proud to present a solo exhibition by Abrie Fourie

# O B L I Q U E • T H E S O - C A L L E D F R U I T S O F L I F E

an exhibition by Abrie Fourie

31 march - 30 april 2016

What about the story the writer would have written on the day after he died\*  
The new perspective changes my sense of the place completely. It clarifies  
things and I am sorry to have seen it.\*  
Google Him\*  
Subtle but nonetheless violent.\*  
I didn't go looking for him.\*

## Oblique - The So-Called Fruits of Life: Abrie Fourie at Fried Contemporary

by Mika Thom and Abrie Fourie

The project Oblique by South african artist Abrie Fourie follows the publication of the artists' monograph of the same name, published in 2011 in Berlin, Germany. The book marked the start of an ongoing and evolving project, with various exhibition and publication iterations, and stems from a research grant the artist received from the Africa Centre (Cape Town, South Africa). Fourie used this seed funding to digitise and catalogue his film archive spanning several decades, which led to an opportunity to critically engage with this material anew, and think through different ways of presenting, and curating this body of work alongside the development of new creative concerns.

Central to Fourie's work is an interest in the sometimes volatile and complex relationship between photography and action, and the disjunction between memory and what we as viewers and consumers of photography project onto the medium. The exhibition presented at Smac foregrounds this concern with the inclusion of an HD Film installation, edited as a series of slow changing slides of all images included in the monograph. Central to this work is a narration by well known South African actor Marcel van Heerden of a text by the author and theorist Ivan Vladislavić.

A series of mounted and framed photographs have been selected specially for the exhibition, many editioned for the first time. Fourie's practice can be seen as a catalogue of memories, as an ongoing archive. he explores the familiar and intimate zones of home with the same interest and curiosity as he does the unknown. He states that this approach is 'not so much dezoning a place, as circling the relationship between spaces, sign and self; it hints at that silent tension between absence and presence, abstraction and reality'.

In addition a series of text works, quotations from Vladislavić's work, are inserted in the project, in the exhibition itself by way of wall texts, and in more public ways, ranging from postcards, leaflets and magazine advertising.

## ABRIE FOURIE

Abrie Fourie (1969) is a South African artist based in Berlin, Germany. He was born in Pretoria, South Africa where he lived, studied and worked until emigrating in 2007. His practice is largely photography based, but he is also active in teaching, publishing and curatorial projects. Whilst lecturing at the Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa (1993 - 2007), he established outlet (2002-2007), an experimental exhibition space. Curatorial projects include Mine, a traveling exhibition of South African video art which has been shown internationally, including Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Bayreuth, Germany and Johannesburg, South Africa. A revised version of Mine titled The Film Will Always Be You: South African Artists On Screen was staged at Tate Modern London as part of SA-UK Seasons 2014-2015. Since 2005 he is the curator and facilitator for Modern Art Projects South Africa([map-southafrica.org](http://map-southafrica.org).)

Fourie has exhibited in important group exhibitions internationally. This includes Translation/ Seduction/ Displacement at White Box Gallery, New York, USA (2000); ENEMIES/ VYANDE, with Santu Mofokeng, Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees, Oudtshoorn, South Africa (2002); Sugar in the petrol, The British School at Rome Gallery, Rome, Italy (2004); POST, Tama Art University Museum, Tokyo, Japan (2004); Cosmos Mundo Forever, curated by Fernando Alvim, Trienal De Luanda, Angola (2007); SEE3, a collaboration with Ella Ziegler, Temporäre Kunsthalle Berlin, Germany (2009); 1910 - 2010 From Pierneef to Gugulective: A Fresh Look at a Century of South African Art, curated by Riason Naidoo, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (2010); Positioning Osmotic Impulses, curated by Pauline Doutreluingne and Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung, Prison Neukölln, Berlin, Germany (2012); THE SPACE BETWEEN US, curated by Marie-Hélène Gutberlet, a project by IFA, public space of Berlin (2013) & Stuttgart (2014) and The Day will come when Photography revises, curated by Bettina Steinbrügge and Amelie Zadeh, Triennial of Photography Hamburg, Germany (2015).

Solo exhibitions include Whatever, Wherever at Camou age, Brussels, Belgium (2003); End of the World, Museum for African Art, New York, USA (2004) and where-we-r.com, Forum d'art Contemporain, Sierre, Switzerland (2006). Most recent solo exhibitions centered around an ongoing project titled OBLIQUE which has been shown at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany (2012); Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa (2012); Iwalewa House, Bayreuth, Germany (2012); SMAC Art Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (2013); SCAD, Savannah, USA (2013) and SCAD, Atlanta, USA (2014).

ABRIE FOURIE



SOLOMON MAHLANGU DRIVE, MAMELODI, PRETORIA, GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA, 2013

120cm x 120cm

Colour hand print diasec

Edition of 3

ABRIE FOURIE



TREE, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA, 2002

74.5cm x 113 cm

Lightjet print diasec

Edition # 2 of 3

ABRIE FOURIE



771 GOVERNMENT AVENUE, 0083, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA, 2012

100cm x 275cm

Lambda print diasec

Edition 1 of 3

ABRIE FOURIE



DETAIL, VOORTREKKER MONUMENT, SOUTH AFRICA, 2001

80cm x 120cm

Lambda print diasec

Edition # 2 of 3



ABRIE FOURIE



KAFFEE SCHMIDT, SCHERERSTRASSE, BERLIN, GERMANY, 2008

120cm x 120cm

Lightjet print diasec

Edition # 1 of 3

ABRIE FOURIE



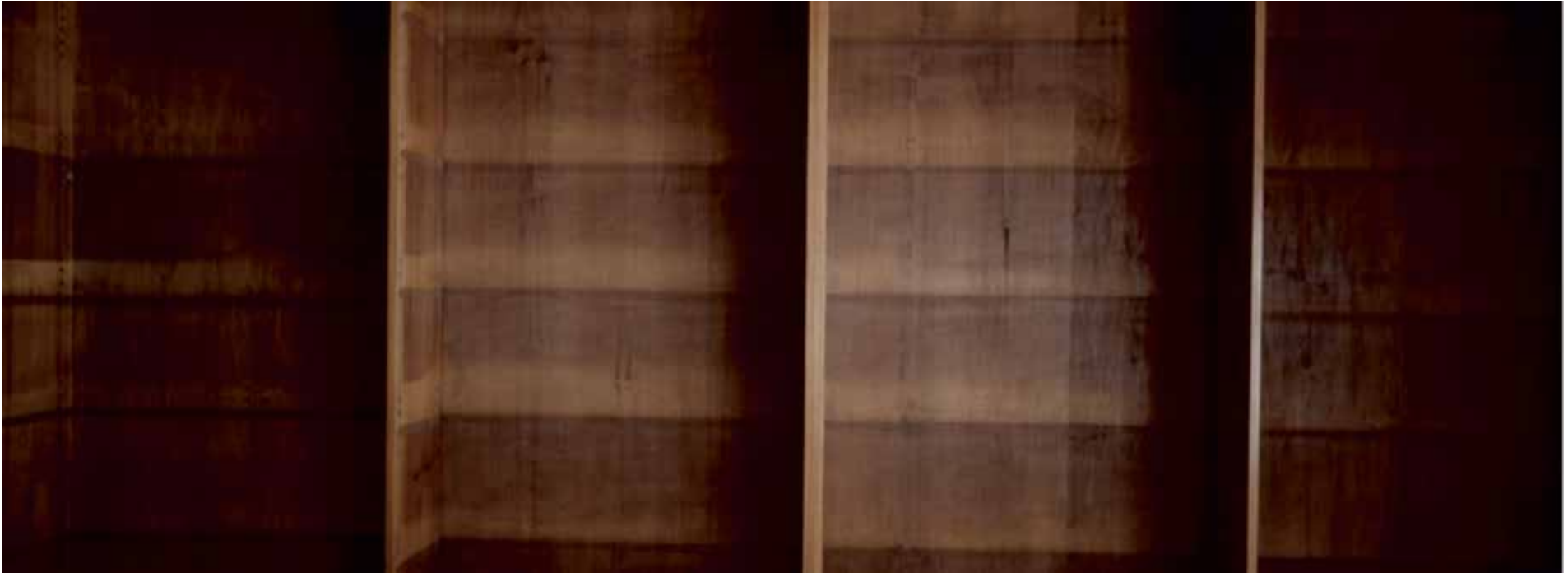
LE-CORBUSIER-HAUS, SPANDAU, BERLIN, GERMANY, 2008

120cm x 120cm

Lightjet print diasec

Edition of 3

ABRIE FOURIE



TELEVISION AND LIBRARY ROOM, PENTHOUSE, KARL-LIEBKNECHT-STRASSE, BERLIN, GERMANY, 2009

44cm x 120cm

Lambda print diasec

Edition #1 of 7

ABRIE FOURIE



COURT, SION PRISON, SWITZERLAND, 2003

20cm x 26,6cm

Lightjet print diasec

Edition # 2 of 7

ABRIE FOURIE



DIANAHOF, REITZ STREET, SUNNYSIDE, PRETORIA, GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA, 2002

30cm x 41cm

Lightjet print diasec

Edition # 1 of 7

ABRIE FOURIE



EMPTY ROOM VIEW, PLEIN STREET, SUNNYSIDE, PRETORIA, GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA, 2001

30cm x 41cm

Lightjet print diasec

Edition # 1 of 7

ABRIE FOURIE



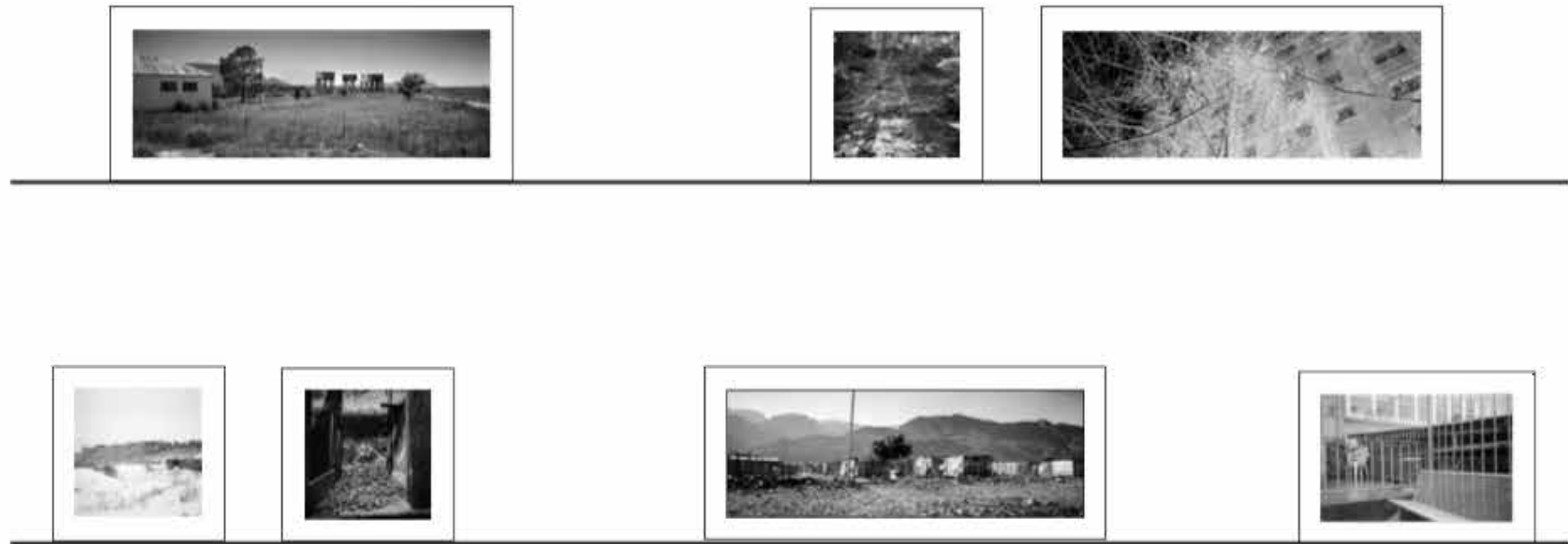
CORRIDOR, STEINBÄCHLE, ILSHOFEN, BADEN-WURTTEMBERG, GERMANY, 2010

30cm x 30cm

Hand printed black & white photograph on Baryta paper

Edition # 1 of 7

# ABRIE FOURIE



## OBLIQUE SHELVE #1:

FORMER RESERVOIRS ALONG THE N1, KROMRIVIER, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA, 2011

SCHMERACHKLINGE, ILSHOFEN, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY, 2011

ON LOCATION, MEMHARDSTRASSE, BERLIN, GERMANY, 2010

SANDSTEINBRUCH, STEINBÄCHLE, ILSHOFEN, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY, 2010

KARTOFFELN, STEINBÄCHLE, ILSHOFEN, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY, 2010

INFORMAL SETTLEMENT ALONG THE N1, DE DOORNS, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA, 2011

TSHWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, ARTS FACULTY, 24 DU TOIT STREET, PRETORIA, GAUTENG, 2006

Hand printed black & white photograph on Baryta paper

Edition # 2 of 7



ABRIE FOURIE



FORMER RESERVOIRS ALONG THE N1 NATIONAL, KROMRIVIER, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA, 2011

30cm x 70cm

Hand printed black & white photograph on Baryta paper

Edition # 1 of 7

ABRIE FOURIE



SCHMERACHKLINGE, ILSHOFEN, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY, 2011

30cm x 30cm

Hand printed black & white photograph on Baryta paper

Edition # 1 of 7

ABRIE FOURIE



ON LOCATION, MEMHARDSTRASSE, BERLIN, GERMANY, 2010

30cm x 70cm

Hand printed black & white photograph on Baryta paper

Edition # 1 of 7

ABRIE FOURIE



SANDSTEINBRUCH, STEINBÄCHLE, ILSHOFEN, BADEN-WURTTENBERG, GERMANY, 2010

30cm x 30cm

Hand printed black & white photograph on Baryta paper

Edition # 1 of 7

ABRIE FOURIE



KARTOFFELN, STEINBÄCHLE, ILSHOFEN, BADEN-WURTTENBERG, GERMANY, 2010

30cm x 30cm

Hand printed black & white photograph on Baryta paper

Edition # 1 of 7

ABRIE FOURIE



INFORMAL SETTLEMENT ALONG THE N1, DE DOORNS, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA, 2011

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ABRIE FOURIE

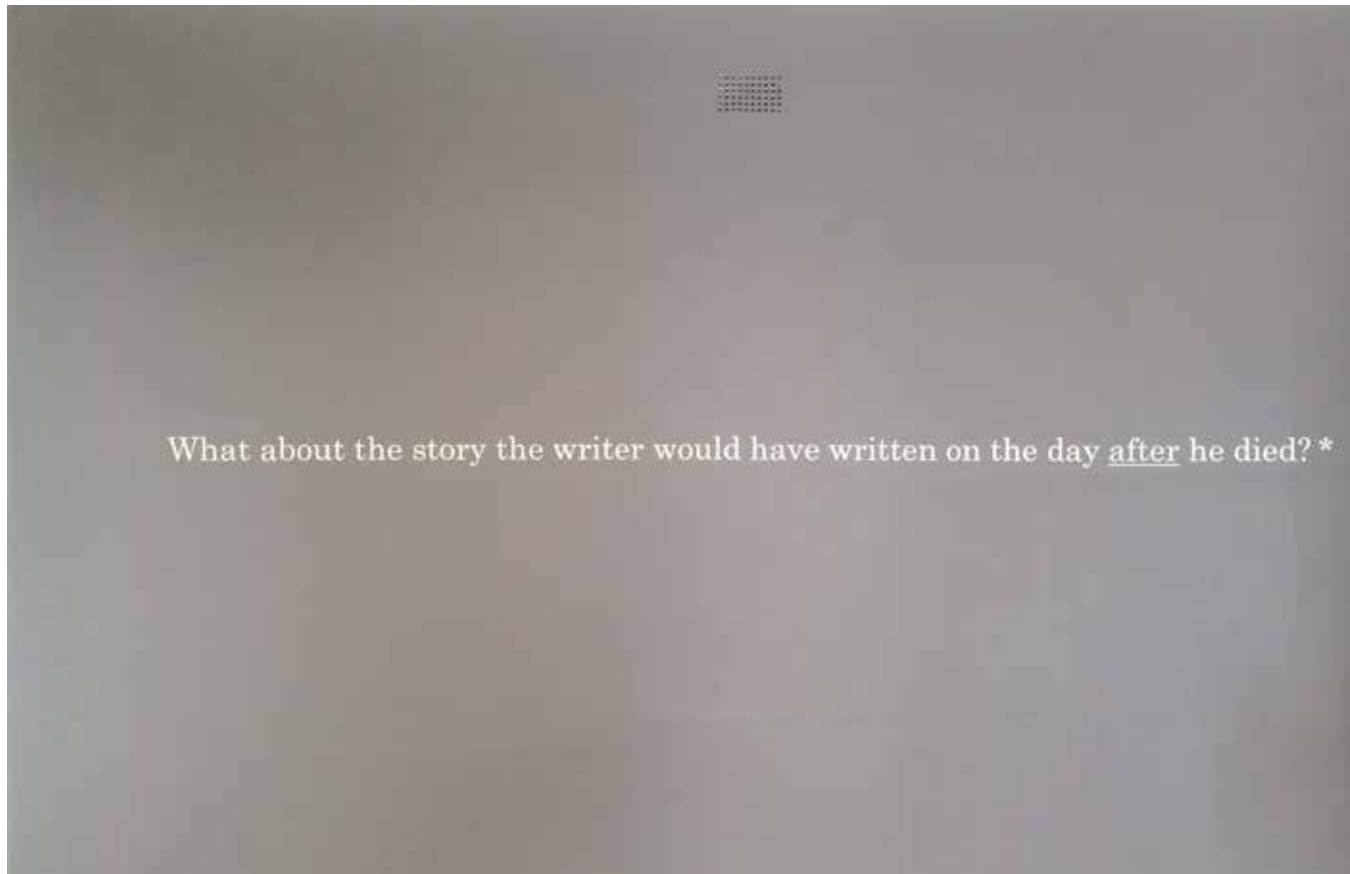


TSHWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, ARTS FACULTY, 24 DU TOIT STREET, PRETORIA, GAUTENG, 2006

30cm x 41cm

Hand printed black & white photograph on Baryta paper

Edition # 1 of 7



WHAT ABOUT THE STORY THE WRITER WOULD HAVE WRITTEN ON THE DAY AFTER HE DIED?\*

Stencilled Chalk Wall Drawing, wall colour NIGHT JEWELS #2

\*Ivan Vladislavić, 'The Last Walk': this text appears in *The Loss Library and Other Unfinished Stories* (Umuzi, an imprint of Random House Struik (Pty) Ltd) Cape Town, 2011) and in *Abrie Fourie, Oblique* (Revolver/Rhodeworks, Berlin, 2011)

Ed. 2 of 3





THE NEW PERSPECTIVE CHANGES MY SENSE OF THE PLACE COMPLETELY. IT CLARIFIES THINGS AND I AM SORRY TO HAVE SEEN IT.\*

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f r i e d  
c o n t e m p o r a r y

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