

**Lumen Travo gallery presents**

**ZARINA BHIMJI**  
***Love (1998-2006)***

**From march 24th to april 21th**

Lumen Travo gallery  
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From wednesday to saturday  
13-18 pm, sunday 13-17 pm

Known for having participated to the english Black Art movement of the eighties, Zarina Bhimji (born in Uganda in 1963, lives in London) has become to be known on the international artistic scene, exhibiting at the Venice and Johannesburg biennials in 2003. For her new exhibition at the Lumen Travo gallery, in Amsterdam, she presents a selection of photographs from the serie *Love* (1998-2006). These images have been taken in Uganda by the time the artist was making her research for the realisation of her internationally acclaimed film *Out of blue*, commissianned by the Documenta XI, in 2002.

"*To listen with my eyes*" Zarina Bhimji describes the way she is exploring the world. Like Michel Leiris, she considers her work as a "*poetical adventure*", to taste the boundaries of significations through the medium of sensitivity. Revealing the pictural dialogue between shapes and lights, depicting the texture of warm and humidity or making sounds and scents being present through the pictures, Zarina Bhimji develops her work as a unique quest for perception. There, the physical places change into resonant and opened psychological atmospheres. Poetical and gripping, her photographs make reality to rise up in its beautiful strangeness and absolute mystery. They introduce the viewer into a floating world of perceptions, where objects and places, materials and atmospheric elements reveal their inner correspondances. Through her work, the viewer breaks through a new way of seeing and understanding these places that have kept a living unspoken memory.

Impressive by their large seize and intense by their feature, the photographs catch the eye by their inner sensuality. Zarina Bhimji pays a particular attention to cross reality beyond its materiality or not to reduce it to the admitted significations. Thus, she has left behind her the previous investigations she had made into official documents, to undertake an investigation within the world of pictures, where reality arises in a state of poetical emergency. Choosing evocative titles, Zarina Bhimji realises as much as sensitive metaphors. Wether in *Cracked earth* (2006), a golden light penetrates brutally into a small abandoned room, wether in *My Heart Was Beating Wildly* (2006) worn out walls seem to overwhelm life and existing. Her photographs open a space in-between, where the intimate meets the universal. In *Your sadness is drunk* (2006), the picture increasingly turns brown to blue, from the enclosed buildings to the lightness of space, and reveals the deep symbiosis between the earth and the sky. Zarina Bhimji reveals how aesthetics acts as a poetical chink, where the universal spreads its majesty and unformulated depth.

Zarina Bhimji's solo shows include Haunch of Venison, London (2006); *Matrix*, Wadsworth Athenium, Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut (2003); *Art Now*, Tate Britain, London (2003); Talwar Gallery, New York (2001); and *I will always be here*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (1992). Her work has also been shown at *Zones of Contact*, Biennale of Sydney, Australia (2006); *Snap Judgments: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography*, ICP, New York (2006); *British Art Show 6*, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (2005); *Documenta XI*, Kassel, Germany (2002); *Fault Lines*, Venice Biennale (2003); *Poetic Justice*, Istanbul Biennale (2003); *The Short Century*, Museum Villa Stuck, Munich (2001), which toured to Berlin, Chicago and New York and *No Place (Like Home)*, Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis (1997), Kadist Art Foundation, Paris, France, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago USA, Tate, London, UK, Government Art Collection, UK, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, USA, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, Polaroid International Collection, Germany, Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, Arts Council collection, London Charing Cross Hospital/Public Art Development Trust, London Private collections

