


AKONA KENQU / SOCIETY



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Akona Kenqu was part of the *Women in Photography Mentorship 2012 program of Market Photo Workshop*, during which she worked on her *Society* project. With *Society* Akona Kenqu explores the live and roles of skaters in contemporary South Africa. Seeking spaces of refuge, of expression and of conflict, Kenqu considers the ways in which young black skaters, *Skate Society Soweto (or SSS)* in particular, figure their environments and define their belonging. Some of these spaces are made for skaters; many of them are created and appropriated. Some of the spaces are personal, already owned, and from the objects and aspects of these spaces a connection is developed to what it means to be a skater and how this meaning is fashioned. Kenqu is interested in challenging the stereotypes of skaters and skate culture, and in figuring the roles of relations, connections and socialisation of the people who call it their own.

"My interest to do this project started in 2009. I did a body of work then titled *Kick, Push* and that was somewhat of a build up to *Society*. I photographed these guys skating and I also documented their daily activities that were not so "skater"... so yeah the mundane moments and also the really exciting stuff.

I don't worry about things like male dominated whatever's. I'm a photographer and that's what I care about in my profession. I think if I worried

about such then I would never actually get to do what I really love. I sometimes get people saying "Oh I thought a guy photographed this" but then what does that mean? I am always left a bit puzzled because what is it to photograph like a woman or a man?"

[Source: Akona Kenqu, in conversation with Belinda Kholeka Shange]

Akona Kenqu (b.1987) is a photographer from Cape Town, South-Africa. She began studying at the Market Photo Workshop in 2008, where she completed the Foundation and Intermediate Courses and the Advanced Programme. In the same year, a series from the body of work *Tshepiso* was published in the internationally acclaimed photography journal *Camera Austria*. Kenqu's series *Kick, Push* was included at the 2011 FNB Joburg Art Fair. In 2012, Kenqu was the recipient of the Women in Photography Mentorship, at Market Photo Workshop, which resulted in her first solo exhibition *Society* (also shown at *Framer Framed* in 2016). She was also included in the *My Joburg* exhibition at *La Maison Rouge* in Paris as part of the France-South Africa Season in 2013. Furthermore, she has worked as an archivist for *Santu Mofokeng* and art collector *Warren Siebrits*. At the time of this writing, Akona works as a photo editor for *Ogojiii Magazine*.

AKONA KENQU



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Society 001
dimensions 60 x 90 cm / price 350Eur

AKONA KENQU



FRAMER
FLAWED

Society 002
dimensions 30x 45 cm / price 200Eur

AKONA KENQU



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Society 004
dimensions 30x 45 cm / price 200Eur

AKONA KENQU



FRAMER
EYAMED

Society 006
dimensions 30x 45 cm / price 200Eur

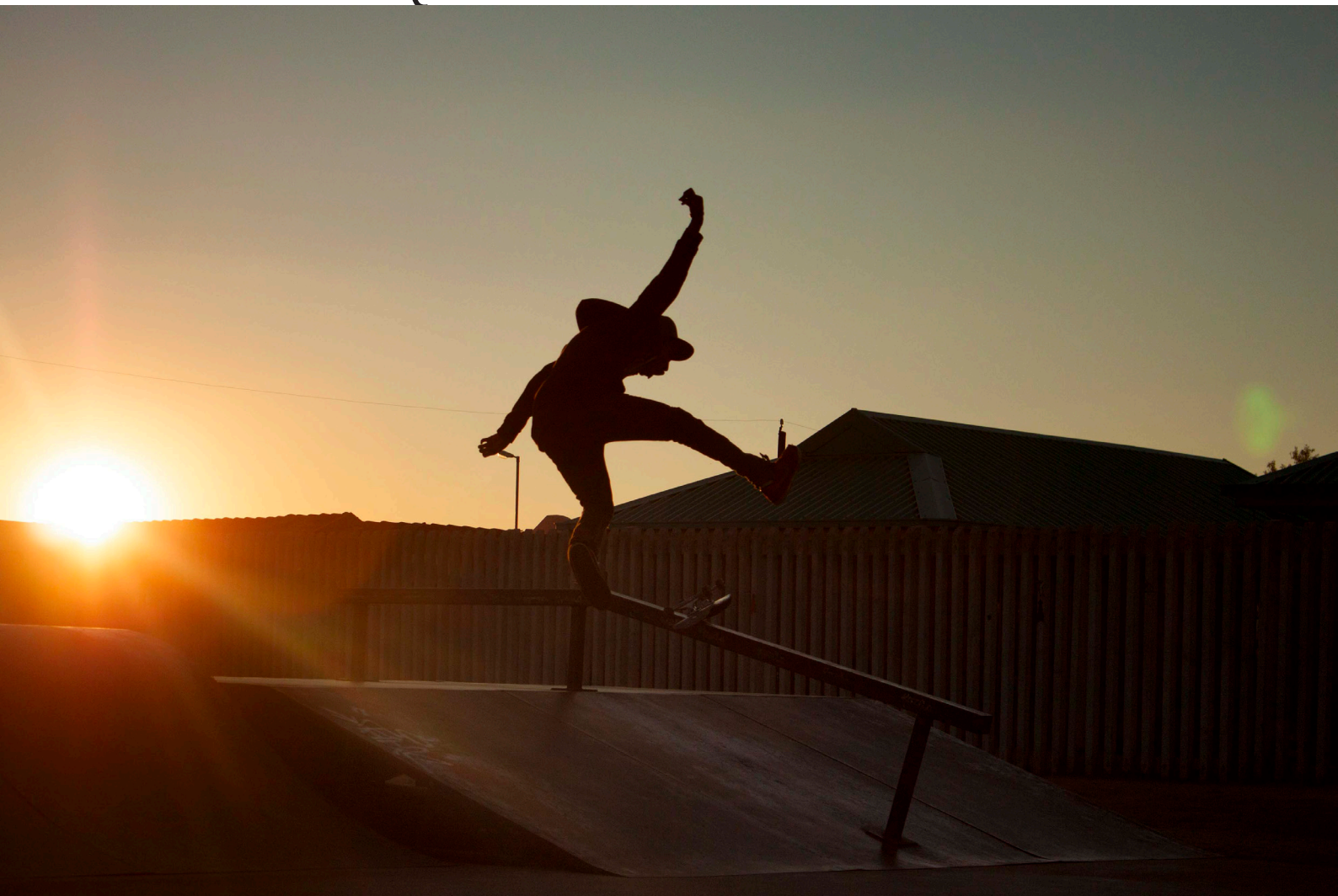
AKONA KENQU



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EKVAMED

Society 007
dimensions 60x 90 cm / price 350Eur

AKONA KENQU



FRAMER
EKVWED

Society 008
dimensions 60x 90 cm / price 350Eur

AKONA KENQU



FRAMER
EKWED

Society 009
dimensions 30x 45 cm / price 200Eur

AKONA KENQU



FRAMER
EYVWED

Society 010
dimensions 30x 45 cm / price 200Eur

AKONA KENQU



FRAMER
BYWED

Society 014
dimensions 40x 60 cm / price 275Eur

AKONA KENQU



FRAMER
KAWMED

Society 016
dimensions 30x 945 cm / price 200Eur

AKONA KENQU



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EKWED

Society 019
dimensions 60x 90 cm / price 350Eur

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FRAMER
EKVAMED

Society 020
dimensions 60x 90 cm / price 350Eur

AKONA KENQU



FRAMER
EKWED

Society 021
dimensions 40x 60 cm / price 275Eur

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FRAMER
EKVWED

Society 022
dimensions 30x 45cm / price 200Eur

AKONA KENQU



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FRAMER

Society 023
dimensions 30x 45 cm / price 200Eur

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EYAMED

Society 024
dimensions 60x 90 cm / price 350Eur

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FRAMER
EYVWED

Society 026
dimensions 40x 60 cm / price 350Eur

These photographs are registered. To purchase
a copy of Akona Kenqu's photography work please
contact: info@framerframed.nl
or call [+31-20 763 09 73](tel:+31-20-763-09-73)

Society by Akona Kenqu
Exhibition produced by Framer Framed
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