

NEW RELEASE 2024



Mário Macilau *Faith / Fé*

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Interview with Mário Macilau by Paula Nascimento
Designed by Christine Béroff & Kehrer Design (Loreen Lampe)
Hardcover
30 × 22 cm
80 pages
24 duotone ill.
English, Portuguese
ISBN 978-3-86828-893-3
Euro 38,00

New work by one of Africa's most exciting young photographers

Mário Macilau's long term project *Faith* documents the practice of animism (the belief that everything has a soul or spirit) within traditional religions in contemporary Mozambique. It reflects local and yet diverse conceptions of God and the cosmos and how ancient Mozambican traditions are preserved.

From the text *Macilau, the Man Hope* by **Ângela Ferreira**:
The work of Macilau is one of the most sensitive and moving portraits of Mozambique. In the land where he was born, Macilau has built the stage of his photographic mission, developing a restless practice in the field of photography, ruled by discomfort and an obsessive search around the photograph that crosses the hearts of men.

From the text *A Reflection of Macilau* by **José Eduardo Agualusa**:
Because through his work — which combines intelligence, sensitivity, extreme aesthetic detail and a curious vision that simultaneously exposes local realities while restoring the dignity of socially-isolated groups, putting their identity before the world so that it becomes known — Mário Macilau conveys the momentum that prospers amid the mire and (apparent) chaos. The astonishing beauty found in the portraits of Macilau is almost always based on the resistance and dignity of the simple people of Africa: children, peasants, fishermen, workers or healers.

From the interview *Mário Macilau– On Life, Photography and Faith* by **Paula Nascimento**:

PN: ...You mention the way the community changed but what changes did you go through as a photographer? How has your relationship with the community and your gaze evolved? Are you photographing the same people you have before?

MM: *Photography has been much more than a personal thing for me. Through it, I have experienced fundamental moments in my life by constructing different meanings, telling stories about people in time and space; and photographing not only with my camera but with my soul as well. Breaking the cycle of silence and neglect, the experiences of those whose voices are seldom heard have been brought out into the open so that their true identities are revealed, and, in the end, I become a part of the subject. I automatically build a relationship with the community and the people there.*

(...)

PN: You once said that "being a photographer is to bring the voice of people into the world". Is this what you are trying to do by drawing attention to or eternalizing a practice that is almost disappearing?

MM: *I believe that whatever we do, we must always think first about how it will impact on others. As human beings, we are not here by chance, there is always a reason for our presence and even if we never find our true mission on this earth, we must keep trying to explore our possibilities.*

Mário Macilau (b.1984) started his journey into photography from the streets of Maputo. His career began when in 2007 he traded his mother's cell phone for his first camera. He specializes in long term projects often focusing on socially and economically marginalized groups. His powerful and sensitive work has been widely exhibited to growing critical acclaim, for example at the 56th Venice Biennale, at Volta NY, and at Photo London. His debut book *Growing in Darkness* was published 2016 by Kehrer. For the series *Faith*, he received the Prix Roger Pic 2023. He lives and works in Maputo, Mozambique, and in Lisbon, Portugal.

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Kehrer Verlag, Mannheimer Str. 175, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
Phone +49 (0) 6221 - 649 20-18 – www.kehrerverlag.com

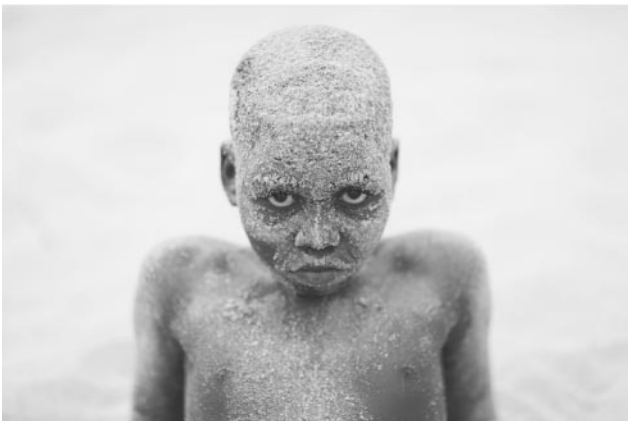
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01_ A Crucifix Chest, Nova Mambone, Inhambane, Mozambique, 2020
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02_ Prayers, Maputo, Mozambique, 2020
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03_ Jojo Alfredo, 16 years, Mozambique, 2019
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04_ Fishing Net, Maputo, Mozambique, 2019
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05_ A Goat, Nova Mambone, Inhambane, Mozambique, 2020
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06_ Carla Zandamela, 34 years old, Nova Mambone, Inhambane, Mozambique, 2021 © Mário Macilau



07_ God Bless my son, Maputo, Mozambique, 2015
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08_ A Candle Man, Inhambane, Mozambique, 2021
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09_ Man with a Cross, Maputo, Mozambique, 2017
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10_ A group of people lying Mozambique, 2022
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11_ Animism and Christianity in the same Ritual, Mozambique, 2015
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