

**For Immediate Release****ROGER BALLEEN: WORKS 1995 - 2015**  
**Photographs by Roger Ballen**

Opening reception on Thursday, October 29, 2015  
On view till January 9, 2016

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Photoink is very pleased to announce an exhibition of photographs by the inimitable Roger Ballen, one of the most important photographic artists of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Roger Ballen's photographs span over forty years and his first exhibition in India draws upon three books — *Outland* (2000), *Shadow Chamber* (2005) and his most recent, *Asylum of the Birds* (2014). A Ballen photograph is instantly recognizable — the B&W, square format photograph that evolved from a stark documentary style to what he now describes as 'documentary fiction'. The exhibition also includes the music video, *I Fink U Freaky*, a collaboration between Die Antwoord and Ballen, which has garnered over 72 million hits on YouTube.

Roger Ballen was born in New York in 1950 and has been based in Johannesburg, South Africa since the early 1980s. His work as a geologist took him into its countryside and those experiences led him to photograph the hidden world of small South African towns. At first, he photographed its streets and soon found himself knocking on people's doors and entering a world of people and objects, which had a profound effect on his work. After 2000, Ballen found his subject closer to home in Johannesburg — mostly marginalized white people who collaborated with him in the series *Outland* and *Shadow Chamber* to create powerful psychodramas. This line between fantasy and reality becomes even more blurred in his most recent series, *Asylum of the Birds* where Ballen creates elaborate sets using drawings, paintings and sculptural objects to heighten the bizarre and complex narrative. The human characters recede into the backdrop as their disembodied body parts interact with creatures of the animal kingdom, dolls etc. With this series, Ballen manages to integrate drawing and photography in a highly original way.

One of the most widely exhibited art photographers in the world, Roger Ballen's photographs reside in major museum collections including *Museum of Modern Art*, New York; *Centre Georges Pompidou*, Paris; *Musee de l'Elysee*, Lausanne; *Museum Folkwang*, Essen; *Tate Britain*, London; *Rijksmuseum*, Amsterdam; *Johannesburg Art Museum*, Johannesburg; *Fotomuseum*, Munchen; *Art Gallery of Western Australia*, Perth and *Berkeley Art Museum*, California to name a few.