

Leah Gordon (b.1959) is a British photographer and film-maker who has an ongoing interest in and relationship with Haiti. She first visited the country in 1991 and was the official photographer for the 1994 Amnesty International Report on that country. She has exhibited widely and her images feature in numerous public and private collections including that of the National Portrait Gallery, London. Her work was featured in the Rifleman exhibition 'Voo-doo' in 2009. She has recently been back to Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake. Her upcoming exhibition 'Births, Marriages & Deaths' will include photographs from this visit. She is currently at work on a documentary about the Grande Rue Sculptors and is the author of *The Book of Vodou: Vodou and Art* (Quarto 2000).

August 1994 - photographer for the Amnesty International Report on Haiti.

May 1995 - curated and exhibited in 'Haiti: Photos, Paintings and Ironworks' at the October Gallery, London, WC1..

April 1996 - curated the exhibition 'Sacred Vodoo Flags of Haiti' at the October Gallery.

October 1996 - included in the John Kobal award at the National Portrait Gallery, London.

March - November 1997 - co-produced and directed 'Pig's Tale' (documentary which linked Vodou, pigs and politics) for Channel 4 which was broadcast in October 1997 as part of the Baa Baa Zee season.

October 1999 - Feb 00 - wrote 'The Book of Vodou', a book on Vodou & Art for Quarto Publications.

February 2000 - May 00 - taught digital photography, photojournalism, storyboard and lesbian and gay representation at Gay & Lesbian Arts & Media in Brighton.

August 2000 - produced and co-directed film-essay, 'Lineaments of the Lwa', with Ophandriff Collective, exploring link between art and Vodou in Haiti.

September 2000 - running picture desk and compiling digital database for UK based aid-agency.

October 2000 - co-curated 'Catching the Spirit', exhibition at October Gallery and organised a day of film and talks exploring Haitian art and its symbiotic relationship with Vodou.

February 2001 - coordinated and documented a trades union delegation to investigate working conditions on Haitian orange plantations with the GMB and War on Want.

April 2002 - researching for book of photographs and oral histories of Kanaval in Jacmel.

January 2003 - exhibited 'Ghost Train', photography exhibition at Wiebke Morgan Gallery.

February 2003 - directed and shot documentary pilot on cross-dressing within Vodou.

2003- ongoing - sessional tutor at University College for the Creative Arts for module on 'fact-based experimental video' on BA in Digital Screen Arts & practice tutor for all years.

2005 - shot, wrote and directed 'The Thames', film essay on the slave trade.

2006 - shot & directed 'We're All in the Gutter...', a psycho-geographical video installation about experiences of homophobia in London shown in Paris, Budapest & Seoul.

2006 - shot video piece 'elephant foetus' at Maputo Natural History Museum

2006 - exhibited 'Hierophany', a sculptural photographic lightbox installation on the nature of the divine through the eyes of atheists in the Bargehouse, London.

2006-2007 - free-lance curator in Haiti for the International Museum of Slavery, Liverpool to for Haitian sculpture commission to be shown as a permanent exhibit from August 2007.

March 2007 - exhibited collaborative work with Marg Duston, 'Museum of Collaboration' at Four Corners Film, London.

November 2007 - started to shoot documentary on the Grand Rue sculptors in Haiti.

May 2009 - in conversation at Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris

Dec 2009 - Created and co-curated the Ghetto Biennale held in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

March 2010 - finished photography book 'Kanaval: Vodou, Politics and Revolution on the Streets of Haiti' to be published by Soul Jazz in May 2010

Filmography

Atis-Rezistans: the Sculptors of Grand Rue; Leah Gordon 2008

DV 34 mins film essay documenting a collective of slum based Vodou artists in Port au Prince, Haiti and a meditation on the links between sex, death and creativity.

Selected Screenings and Festivals

2009 April Puerto Rico Ethnographic Film Festival (prize winner)

2009 June Musee de l'Homme, Paris

We're All in the Gutter...; Leah Gordon 2006

DV loop a psycho-geographical installation piece about homophobia in London

2006 Capitales Inconnues , FIAP Paris, Megnyita Budapest & Seoul

The Thames; Leah Gordon 2005

DV 14 mins Poetic film-essay exploring the mythology of rivers and the link between the Thames and the slave trade

Selected Screenings and Festivals

2005 Zanzibar International Film Festival

2005 Jacmel International Film Festival

Lineaments of the Lwa; Leah Gordon, Ranu Mukherjee, Maggie Roberts 2000

DV 30 Minutes Film Essay exploring the Vodou spirits in Haitian life, art and culture
Orphan drift studios

Produced by the Haiti Support Group

Screenings and Festivals

Sept 2000 'Feels Like Vodou Spirit'- Exhibition of Haitian Art

Seminar - Contextualizing Haitian Art, October Gallery London

June 2007 Ritual: Late at the V&A, Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, London

A Pig's Tale Leah Gordon, Anne Parisio 1997

Beta, 52mins - documentary linking pigs, Vodou and US economic imperialism

A Parisio Production for Channel 4 TV in association with Arte/ Crowing Rooster Arts Inc./

Dominant 7 broadcast 23rd Oct 1997 Channel 4 TV Nov 1997 Arte France

Selected Screenings and Festivals

Best Documentary - UK Environmental Media Awards - March 1998

Selected Photography Exhibitions

Kreyol Factory, **Parc de la Villette**, Paris 2009

Voo-Doo, **Rifleman Gallery**, Soho, London 2009

Solo Show, **Photofusion**, London 2009

Kanaval, **Institut Français**, Port au Prince, Haiti 2008

Museum of Collaboration, **Four Corners**, London 2007

We're all in the Gutter, **Capitales Inconnues**, FIAP Paris, Megnyita Budapest & Seoul 2006/2007

Arte Naif Brasil Haiti, **Museu Arte Brasileira & Museu Internacional de Arte Naif Brasil**, Rio de Janeiro 2005

Kanaval, **Brunei Gallery**, SOAS London 2004

Ghost Train, **Wiebke Morgan Gallery**, Hoxton, London Jan 2003

John Kobal Award, **National Portrait Gallery**, London Sept 1996