



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Dakar Portraits: Vera Viditz-Ward
December 6, 2007 – February 16, 2008

Thursday, December 6

Gallery Talk by the Artist: 5:00pm; Opening Reception: 5:30-7:30pm

PHILADELPHIA: The Print Center announces *Dakar Portraits*, an exhibition of photographs by Pennsylvania photographer **Vera Viditz-Ward**. In 1996, Viditz-Ward began an ongoing photographic project investigating urban life in West Africa. The recent works featured in this exhibition are from Dakar, the capital of Senegal and an important political and cultural hub between North Africa and the sub-Saharan countries. The viewer is led through the city - entering homes, glimpsing into businesses and viewing crowds from the window of a taxi. Her portraits can give a sense of disarming intimacy, clearly showing the character and surroundings of the subject. In others, we are blocked from entering these personal worlds by closed doors and crushing crowds.

Viditz-Ward is Professor of Photography at Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA. She has had solo exhibitions at international venues including: The Balch Institute of Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia; The Newark Museum, Newark, NJ; the National Museum of Sierra Leone, Freetown, Sierra Leone; and the Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham, England. Her work was included in The Print Center's *80th Annual International Competition: Photography*, 2006 and received The Print Center's Exhibition Award. Her photographs have appeared in numerous publications, including those of the National Geographic Society, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History.

Viditz-Ward's work will be on view at The Print Center from December 6, 2007 to February 16, 2008. The opening reception is Thursday, December 6 from 5:30-7:30pm, with a gallery talk by the artist at 5:00pm.

The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including 11 exhibitions annually; The Print Center Gallery Store, offering the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; an extensive series of continuing education programs and special events.

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