Exhibition Overview

Three decades have passed since the dismantling of apartheid began in South Africa. A new generation, raised during the transition to democracy, has reached adulthood. At the same time, the distance between their experience and that of an older generation grows. *Tell Me What You Remember* reflects on this moment by bringing together two of South Africa’s most acclaimed contemporary artists. Born five decades apart, Sue Williamson (b. 1941) and Lebohang Kganye (b. 1990) use film, photographs, installations, and more to consider how the stories our elders tell us shape our family narratives and personal identities.
About Sue Williamson

Sue Williamson is an artist who was born in England in 1941. Williamson emigrated to South Africa in 1948. She is known for her printmaking and works in installation photography and video. Her art deals with societal changes in South Africa during and after apartheid.

About Lebohang Kganye

Lebohang Kganye, born in 1990, is a South African artist and photographer. Kganye uses images to tell stories and brings new ideas to past oral traditions by giving them physical form. By layering media, she creates a rich history that blends her own history with that of South Africa’s past.

South Africa and Apartheid

Apartheid (Afrikaans for “apartness”) was a government-mandated policy that controlled relations between the white minority population and the Black and Brown majority in South Africa from 1948 to 1994. The apartheid government established laws that kept the races separate and discriminated against the nonwhite majority. Apartheid also included forced removal of Black and Brown South Africans from their homes.

The apartheid government ended when a new constitution, one that lifted up Black South Africans as well as other racial groups, was adopted in 1993 and enacted in 1994. An all-race national election culminated in a victory for Nelson Mandela, who became South Africa’s first Black president. Although this was the end of government-legislated apartheid, its societal effects continue into the present.