



SEM FLASH

Homenagem a Ricardo Rangel (1924–2009)

NO FLASH

**Homage to Ricardo Rangel, photographer
(Mozambique, 1924–2009)**

A film by Bruno Z'Graggen & Angelo Sansone

Film release in Maputo:

22 March 2012, 19h, Centre Culturel Franco-Mozambicain, www.ccfmoz.com

Film release in Switzerland:

13 April 2012, 19.30h, Galerie & Edition Stephan Witschi, Zurich, www.stephanwitschi.ch

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Link to trailer: www.iluminandovidas.org

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Zurich, 15 February 2012

1. Summary

The documentary film portrait *NO FLASH. Homage to Ricardo Rangel (1924–2009)* directed by exhibition curator Bruno Z'Graggen with camerawork by video film-maker Angelo Sansone (both from Zurich) is a tribute to the life work of the outstanding Mozambican photographer Ricardo Rangel.

Ricardo Rangel is regarded as the doyen of Mozambican photography and is one of the leading photo reporters in Africa in the second half of the 20th century. He belongs to a tradition of documentary photography which is close to the approach of the Magnum photographers. He always had any critical attitude towards the Portuguese colonial regime, and this led to conflicts with the censorship authorities and to imprisonment. After independence in 1975 he made a major contribution to the construction of the new socialist state, while maintaining his critical distance to the establishment. As a leading journalist and as a teacher in the Centro de Formação Fotográfica (CFF), Rangel had a strong influence on the next generation of photographers and was one of the main founders of the photographic tradition in Mozambique.

Ricardo Rangel's legacy is impressive. His work as a photo reporter, freelance photographer and director of the CFF covers a period of over 50 years. He had a lasting influence on the print media in Mozambique as a photographer, photo editor and co-founder of the new newspapers and magazines. His masterpiece *Pão nosso de cada noite (Our Nightly Bread)* (1959–1975) brought him international recognition from the mid-1990's onwards thanks to exhibitions and publications. It is a revealing account of the pulsating nightlife in Lourenço Marques (Maputo). At the beginning of the 1980's he established the CFF, which he headed from 1983 to his death. With the school, documentation Centre, studio and laboratories, the Centre is unique in Africa. Its archive is immensely important as a visual memory for the country.

The film shows sequences from 2003 with Ricardo Rangel at the time of the opening of the exhibition *Iluminando Vidas. Ricardo Rangel & the Next Generation* (curated by Bruno Z'Graggen and Grant Lee Neuenburg) in Maputo. Rangel talks passionately about his background, his experience as a photo reporter in the colonial period and his love of jazz and recalls locations from *Pão nosso de cada noite (Our Nightly Bread)*. He also shows the film-makers around the CFF and gives some revealing insights into the diverse areas of the Centre's work. These scenes alternate with photographs by Rangel and jazz music.

The scenes from 2003 are interwoven with longer interview passages from the year 2011 with Alexandre Pomar (*1947, Lisbon) and Sérgio Santimano (*1956, Lourenço Marques / Maputo). Pomar is a respected Portuguese art critic and journalist who lives in Lisbon. Santimano, a «pupil» of Rangel, is the most successful contemporary Mozambican photographer. He lives in Uppsala. They both recount their vivid memories of meetings with Ricardo Rangel and from their different perspectives they assess his achievement and influence, the reception of his work, and his personality. In addition, there are brief statements by Kok Nam (*1939, Lourenço Marques / Maputo), a colleague who together with Rangel was once the leading photographer in the country, and Luís Carlos Patraquim (*1953, Lourenço Marques / Maputo), a poet and journalist.

The result is a film portrait that gives an insight into the life and work of an outstanding photographer and a charismatic personality, a man with a passion for photography and jazz, full of life, humorous, independent and incorruptible, hugely productive and with a sensitive eye for people in difficult contexts.

2. Biographical information about Ricardo Rangel

Ricardo Rangel

*1924	in Lourenço Marques (Maputo), of mixed race status, with a Greek, African and Chinese origin
1941–1951	Apprenticeship in a photo laboratory and work as a photo printer for daily newspapers
1952	First non-white journalist on a newspaper editorial staff (Notícias da Tarde) in Mozambique
1952–1983	Work as a photo journalist, chief photographer, photo director and editor-in-chief on all the main newspapers in the country
1959–1975	Freelance work on <i>Pão nosso de cada noite</i> (<i>Our Nightly Bread</i>)
1970	Co-founder of Tempo, the first colour magazine in the country
1981	Co-founder of the Associação Moçambicana de Fotografia (AMF)
1983–2009	Director of the Centro de Formação Fotográfica (CFF) in Maputo, co-head of the centre with his wife Beatrice
2008	Receives the title of <i>Officier des Arts et Lettres</i> from France
2009	Death and state funeral

Individual exhibitions (Selection, *with catalogue)

1986	<i>Ricardo Rangel. Storie di mozambicani nell'epoca del colonialismo</i> . Centro culturale San Fedele, Milano
1992	<i>Ricardo Rangel</i> . University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
1998	<i>Ricardo Rangel, Fotografias</i> . Arquivo Fotográfico Municipal de Lisboa
2001	<i>Ricardo Rangel. 4èmes Rencontres de la Photographie Africaine</i> , Bamako*
2003	<i>Ricardo Rangel – Fotografien</i> . Iwalewa-Haus, Bayreuth
2008	<i>Photographs by Ricardo Rangel and Mauro Pinto</i> . Afronova Gallery, Johannesburg <i>Histoire, histoire(s) – 50 ans de photojournalisme au Mozambique. Retrospective Ricardo Rangel</i> . Centre Culturel Franco-Mozambicain, Maputo
2011	<i>Uma história, mil histórias. Ricardo Rangel e as crianças</i> . Kulungwana, Espaço Artístico, Maputo

Group exhibitions (Selection, *with catalogue)

1981	<i>Moçambique. A Terra e os Homens</i> . 1º Salão Nacional de Arte Fotográfica, Conselho Municipal Maputo*
1990	<i>Karingana ua Karingana</i> . Palazzo d'Accursio, Bologna*
1994	1ères Rencontres de la Photographie Africaine, Bamako
1996	<i>In/sight: African Photographers, 1940 to the Present</i> . Guggenheim Museum, New York*
1998	<i>L'Afrique par elle-même</i> . Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris et al.
2001	<i>The short century</i> . Museum Villa Stuck, München; MoMA, New York et al.*
2002	<i>Iluminando Vidas. Ricardo Rangel & the Next Generation</i> . PhotoforumPasquArt Biel/Bienne et al.*
2010	<i>La Revanche de l'Archive Photographie</i> . Centre de la Photographie Genève <i>A Useful Dream: African Photography 1960–2010</i> . Palais des Beaux-Arts, Bruxelles*

Publications (Selection)

1994	<i>Ricardo Rangel, Photographe du Mozambique</i> . Centre Culturel Franco-Mozambicain, Maputo (Hrsg.). Éditions Findakly, Paris <i>Moçambique</i> . Photographies, Revue Noire 15, Paris
1998	<i>Anthologie de la Photographie Africaine et de l'Océan Indien</i> . Éditions Revue Noire, Paris
2004	<i>Ricardo Rangel, Pão nosso de cada noite</i> (<i>Our Nightly Bread</i>). Editora Marimbiq, Maputo

Films

2006	Licínio Azevedo, <i>Ferro em Brasa</i> (<i>Branding Iron</i>). LX Filmes & ÉBANO Multimédias, Maputo
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3. Biographical information about the interview partners in 2011

Alexandre Pomar

*1947 in Lisbon, lives and works in Lisbon. He is an art critic and journalist, the author of numerous articles on art, photography and cultural policy as well as reviews of exhibitions and of books on art. The history of photography in Portugal and in Mozambique from 1930 to the present is one of his areas of specialisation. From 1982–2007 Pomar wrote regularly for the magazine *Expresso* and other Portuguese print media. He is the author of publications on art, works as an exhibition curator and also writes a blog: alexandrepomar.typepad.com

Sérgio Santimano

*1956 in Lourenço Marques (Maputo), of Indian origin (Goa). He works as a freelance photographer, is married to a Swedish woman and has been living in Uppsala since 1988. Most of his photography projects have been shot in Mozambique.

At the beginning of his career in 1982, Santimano worked as a photo reporter for the weekly newspaper *Domingo* under Ricardo Rangel. Following that he worked until 1988 for the state news agency AIM, reporting on the civil war. From 1991 to 1993 he studied documentary photography in Sweden. He has received a number of grants for his work.

His main themes are demobilisation, the results of war, the reconstruction of the country and the exploration and portrayal of the country and the people. His projects are usually long-term, for example his work on the northern provinces of Cabo Delgado and Niassa. His first publication entitled *Terra incógnita* (Niassa), was published in 2005, with essays by famous authors such as Henning Mankell and Luís Carlos Patraquim. In his most recent project he portrays African authors.

Santimano's work has been displayed in individual and group exhibitions throughout the world since 1992. He regularly takes part in the African Photography Biennial in Bamako and his work is exhibited both in overview exhibitions of African photography and in publications on the subject.

Kok Nam

*1939 in Lourenço Marques (Maputo), son of Chinese immigrants. He lives in Maputo. Like Ricardo Rangel, Kok Nam first learnt the trade of a photograph printer in the 1950's and then started to work as a photo reporter in the 1960's. At first he worked under Rangel and together with him gradually became one of the major photo reporters in the country. In 1970 together with Rangel he co-founded the magazine *Tempo*, where he became chief photographer and head of the photograph section. Like Rangel, Kok Nam was a co-founder of the Association of Photographers AMF in 1981. After the peace agreement of 1992, he campaigned for the independence media, was a co-founder of the *Mediacoop* and is still director of the independent weekly *Savana*.

Kok Nam became well known as a photographer with his comprehensive work on the FRELIMO troops, whom he accompanied for a long time during the civil war behind the front lines, de-mystifying them by presenting them in their daily life. His work was shown at numerous exhibitions both inside Mozambique and abroad, where it still awaits discovery.

Luís Carlos Patraquim

*1953 in Lourenço Marques (Maputo), has lived in Portugal since 1986 and today works in Lisbon as a poet, writer of theatre plays and journalist, including work for the literary magazine *Lusografias*. He is the author of numerous works and is considered one of the leading authors in the country. In 1995 he was awarded the *Prémio Nacional de Poesia de Moçambique*.

During the colonial regime, Patraquim worked as a journalist. In 1973 he had to flee to Sweden and returned to Mozambique after independence in 1975. He was co-founder of the state news agency AIM. From 1977 to 1986 he worked as a scriptwriter for the Instituto de Cinema de Moçambique and as a journalist for the film magazine *Kuxa Kanema* and the magazine *Tempo*.

4. Information about the film and the film-makers

Interviews with:

Ricardo Rangel, Maputo 2003
Alexandre Pomar, Lisbon 2011
Sérgio Santimano, Uppsala & Sunne 2011
Kok Nam, Caparica (Lisbon) 2011
Luís Carlos Patraquim, Caparica (Lisbon) 2011

DVD-R 16:9 PAL | 56 Minutes | Colour
Portuguese & English | English subtitles

Idea & concept: Bruno Z'Graggen & Angelo Sansone
Director: Bruno Z'Graggen
Camera, sound & montage: Angelo Sansone
Second camera, Hotel Costa da Caparica: Joaquim Carlos Vieira
Photographs: Ricardo Rangel
English subtitles: Paul Knight
Language support: Brigitte Weber

Music: *Bon Voyage*
Composed & arranged by Werner Fischer
Performed by Adam White (tp), Werner Fischer (g), Hiroyuki Takubo (p),
Nesin Howhannesjan (b) & Adolfo Herrera (dr)
From the CD *Eastbound*, Werner Fischer's B Coalition (elchi 140503-72)
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Bruno Z'Graggen

*1960 in Zurich. Freelance curator of photography and contemporary art; lives and works in Zurich. Together with Grant Lee Neuenburg, he curated the exhibition *Iluminando Vidas. Ricardo Rangel & the Next Generation*, which was presented at the PhotoforumPasquArt in Biel in 2002 and at the Galeria da Associação Moçambicana de Fotografia (AMF) in Maputo in 2003 as well at eight other venues in Switzerland, Portugal and Africa (see: www.iluminandovidas.org).

Angelo Sansone

*1962 in Zurich. Video film producer and film-maker; lives and works in Zurich (see: www.sanson.ch).