



BLOODLINE

AIDS AND FAMILY

EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY KRISTEN ASHBURN

## EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY KRISTEN ASHBURN

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Bloodline- AIDS and Family provides an intimate look at the harsh reality of the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. During 2005 alone, an estimated 2 million adults and children died as a result of AIDS in the Sub-Saharan region. Looking beyond the statistics and into the individual stories of the unfolding catastrophe, photojournalist Kristen Ashburn documented the impact of the disease from 2001 onward. She spent months with families chronicling the journey of their lives and their struggle with HIV/AIDS. The African social landscape, forever altered by the AIDS pandemic, is memorialized in this collection of powerful imagery.

The photographs convey an emotional depth through sensitivity to light and darkness. The exhibition consists of 31 images printed as Duotrans on light boxes. The effect of light emanating from within the image brings the viewer closer to the experience of life and death. And yet death is not the focus of Ashburn's efforts but rather building a bridge of understanding and compassion to one of the most horrific tragedies of our time.

Kristen Ashburn is a documentary photographer based in New York City who has received numerous honors including the John Faber Award from the Overseas Press Club of America in 2007, a Getty Grant in 2006, National Press Photographers Association's (NNPA) Best of Photojournalism (2007, 2006, 2003), Pictures of the Year (POY) 2007, and two World Press Photo prizes (2005, 2003). In 2004 she won Canon's Female Photojournalist Award (AFJ) and was named as one of Photo District News (PDN) top Thirty Emerging Photographers. In 2003 she was granted the Marty Forscher Fellowship for Humanistic Photography.

Ashburn's work took her to Iraq a year following the US-led invasion as well as to Israel and the Palestinian Territories where she produced stories on Jewish settlers in Gaza, Suicide Bombers, Palestinian Youth and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat during his house arrest in Ramallah. She also covered the immediate aftermath of the tsunami in Sri Lanka, Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, and the spread of tuberculosis in the penal system in Russia.

Her photographs and stories from the Middle East, Europe, and Africa have appeared in many publications including The New Yorker, Time, Newsweek, and Life among others.

The Exhibition is composed of twenty-nine 2x2 ft light boxes and three larger pieces measuring 11x4ft, 11x8ft and 5x4ft also backlite. In addition, there is a 29in x 6ft panel of silver printed portraits. A multimedia presentation accompanies the prints providing the viewer with real time video of personal accounts.

The Bloodline exhibition tour is coordinated by Contact Press Images□

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EXHIBITION



Exhibition



Exhibition



Exhibition

EXHIBITION IMAGES



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4



Image 5



Image 6



Image 7



Image 8



Image 9



Image 10



Image 11



Image 12



Image 13



Image 14



Image 15



Image 16



Image 17



Image 18



Image 19



Image 20



Image 21

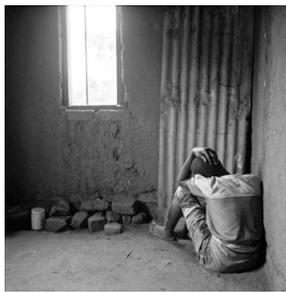


Image 22



Image 23



Image 24



Image 25



Image 26



Image 27



Image 28



Image 29



Image 30



Image 31

## CAPTIONS FOR EXHIBITION IMAGES

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1. Florence Alfonso, HIV positive. *Malawi*
2. In rural areas life saving medical treatment is often unavailable. This woman's family lacks the ability to transport her to the hospital and the nearest clinic does not have an ambulance. *Zimbabwe*
3. Godfrey (32) is too sick to work. He survives through donations from friends and family. His relatives are unable to afford the Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs required to keep him alive. Seventy percent of Zimbabweans are unemployed. *Zimbabwe*
4. Florence Alfonso nursing her son Moses. Both died in November 2006. *Malawi*
5. Joseph and Viola sit with their children. They and their son Samuel (right) are HIV positive. He died the day after this photograph was taken. *Zimbabwe*
6. Six-year-old Chipso stands by her mother, Christina, as she lies dying of AIDS. In Zimbabwe, a projected 160,000 children will experience the death of a parent in 2006. *Zimbabwe*
7. Otilia Taskani (38) and Nigel (9) are HIV positive. Otilia is unable to afford ARV drugs to treat Nigel who suffers from Cryptococcus Meningitis, a life-threatening virus that will kill him if left untreated. *Zimbabwe*
8. Over one hundred babies become HIV-positive every day in Zimbabwe. Joyce Madnviko moved from her families' rural homestead to Harare, Zimbabwe to find work. She was selling eggs to support herself when she met her boyfriend who offered to help take care of her. He broke it off when he found out she was pregnant. Joyce learned of her HIV positive status during a pre-natal check-up. Her child was born HIV negative due to participation in a mother to child transmission program. Joyce died in December 2003 at the age of twenty- two. *Zimbabwe*

9. Caroline Mudzti (10) is in the last stages of AIDS. She has suffered from opportunistic infections such as TB for over three years. Her parents both died of AIDS, the father in 1998 and mother in 1999. Caroline and her three siblings are taken care of by their unemployed aunt.  
*Zimbabwe*
10. Esnath Chinaka gives care to her grandson Herbert (9) who is dying of AIDS. His mother died in 1999 and his father is terminally ill with AIDS. Esnath pension is not enough to provide sufficient medical care or food for Herbert. *Zimbabwe*
11. Stella Forte in last stages of AIDS. *Malawi*
12. An HIV positive mother bathes her son (19) who is dying of AIDS. *Zimbabwe*
13. Maria Vindi prays with her mother and Home Based Care volunteer, Forget Gutuza. *Zimbabwe*
14. This businessman is too weak to continue working and struggles to keep up with medical bills.  
*Zimbabwe*
15. Maria Vindi (32) worked as a nurse in South Africa before falling ill. Her savings were spent on treating opportunistic infections and her family lacks the resources to buy ARV drugs to keep her alive. *Zimbabwe*
16. HIV positive patient at Mashambanzou Care Trust. *Zimbabwe*
17. An HIV positive sex worker with client. *Zimbabwe*
18. Kudzanayi Maekera (30) is dying of multiple opportunistic diseases including Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia. *Zimbabwe*
19. Grace Chiriponyanga was abandoned by her husband and his family when she became ill. Her five-year-old son takes care of her. *Zimbabwe*
20. Valentine died of HIV/AIDS. He was sick throughout his life. After suffering with prolonged illness he died in December 2004. *Zimbabwe*
21. Funji, a patient at Mashambanzou hospice asks to see her family. They were unable to visit her because transportation was difficult for them to afford. *Zimbabwe*

22. Mourner at the funeral of Stella Forte who died of AIDS. *Malawi*
23. Stella Forte who died of AIDS. *Malawi*
24. After caring for her sister who died of HIV, Grace breaks down at the funeral of her sister's son who she also cared for while dying of AIDS. *Zimbabwe*
25. Graves are prepared eight at a time in most cemeteries in Zimbabwe and are quickly reaching capacity. *Zimbabwe*
26. Mourners take shelter from the rain at a funeral. There are over 2,500 AIDS related deaths per week in Zimbabwe. *Zimbabwe*
27. Family carrying casket. *Zimbabwe*
28. Charismatic Catholics gather in a prayer group to pray for the sick and needy of Zimbabwe. They practice hands on healing, which they believe channels the Holy Spirit and healing for those infected with AIDS. *Zimbabwe*
29. Many of the men have died in this rural village leaving the women to care for children left behind and family members who are dying of AIDS. *Zimbabwe*
30. Women gather the morning of a funeral to cut intricate designs in a white sheet used to wrap the corpse and coffin. Families often are unable to provide a decent burial for their loved ones because of the high cost of funerals. *Zimbabwe*
31. In Zimbabwe, a child dies every 15 minutes from HIV/AIDS. Andrew Kabiohi died of AIDS at twelve years old after being sick for five years. His mother died in 1993 and his father in 1999. His maternal grandmother looks after his two brothers. *Zimbabwe*

PREMIERE EXHIBITION, WORLD AIDS DAY DEC. 1<sup>ST</sup> 2006 NEW YORK

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Exhibition Reception



Iman, Kristen Ashburn, Elisabeth Biondi



Event host: Iman



Event host: Lenny Kravitz



Public Announcement