

# THE SPIRAL OF CONTAINMENT: RAPE'S AFTERMATH

Elisa Iannaccone

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SUMMARY

**THE SPIRAL OF CONTAINMENT – RAPE'S AFTERMATH ('SPIRAL')** by Mexican-born photographer, cinematographer, and foreign correspondent, **ELISA IANNAcone** resumes a global tour from South Africa in 2022 – with a double exposure in Gauteng at two heritage sites: **NIROX FOUNDATION** and **CONSTITUTION HILL**

**THE SPIRAL OF CONTAINMENT** is an immersive multi-media exhibition, and includes 24 magical-realist photographic portraits of rape survivors, including a holograph of the photographer, herself a survivor.

Following on a successful four-work preview at the **Investec Cape Town Art Fair** in February, the **SPIRAL** exhibition transfers to Gauteng from May 2022 where all 25 photographic works will be installed in the **Isolation Cells** of **Number 4 Prison** at the iconic **CONSTITUTION HILL (opening 14 May 2022)**.

The four full-size works from the NIROX/ASA booth at the Investec Cape Town Art Fair will be on view, and available for purchase at **NIROX RESIDENCY STUDIO** on the **Good Neighbours Winter Sculpture Exhibition**, at **NIROX SCULPTURE PARK** which opening **7 May 2022**, where Elisa is completing a residency. The exhibition will continue on to other global locations – art fairs and heritage sites – from late 2022.

The artist is represented by Kathryn L (Kathy) Berman of **AFRICA CONTEMPORARY ART** and **JUST ART** with funding from the **NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL**



Cover:  
Staying Afloat  
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"My career as a cinematographer and photojournalist came to a sudden halt after I was sexually assaulted in 2011.

Through art therapy, I started to process my assault creatively. I reached out to other people, who had been raped to explore the images that spiralled in their own minds.

The result became a project that aims to impact people around the world".

ELISA IANNACONE, 2018.

[www.elisaiannacone.com](http://www.elisaiannacone.com)



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## SPIRAL

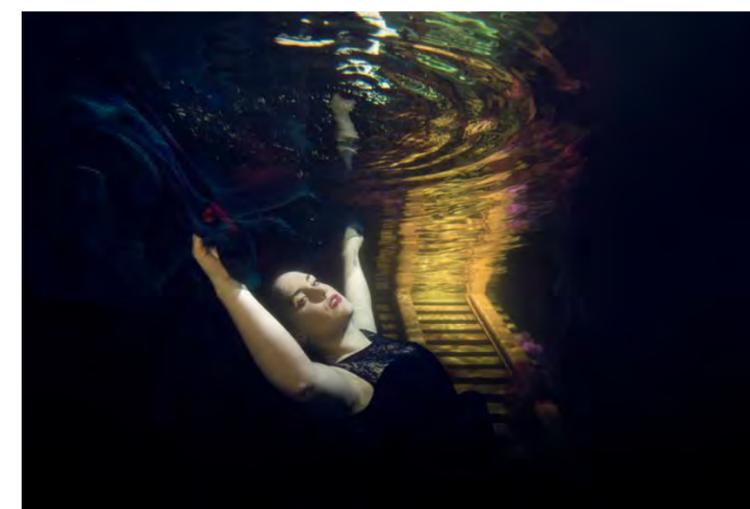
**THE SPIRAL OF CONTAINMENT: RAPE'S AFTERMATH** by Mexican-born photographer, cinematographer, and foreign correspondent **ELISA IANNACONE**, was originally launched as an experiential immersive exhibition, running across 5 floors of the **OXO Tower Bargehouse Gallery** in London in March 2018, and included 24 photographic portraits (1500mm x 1000mm), autobiographical testimonies, soundscapes and one holographic presentation.

The exhibition will be adapted for installation at the **Isolation Cells** in **Number 4 Prison** at the iconic **CONSTITUTION HILL** in **Johannesburg** from **14 May 2022**.

Each of the portraits features a single rape survivor, in a fictionally-constructed portrait - magical-realist in style. The works were created by the photographer, in collaboration with each subject, from their recollections of their experiences - each one reconstructed and reframed into a layered statement of empowerment, agency, and renewed identity - hauntingly beautiful.

The Spiral project, and method, emerged from Iannacone's own experience of rape. Her autobiographical image was included as a hologram. The portraits were photographed in a range of locations and countries, including seven in South Africa.

This is the first time that SPIRAL will be available for viewing in South Africa by both survivors and public alike. The exhibition continues to tour, with each exhibition scaled to suit each venue.



Top to Bottom The Sands of Time; Normal; Tracks



Caged  
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ELISA

**Elisa Iannacone** was born and raised in Mexico, and studied BFA Film Production (York University, Canada, 2010) and MA International Journalism (City University London, 2013).

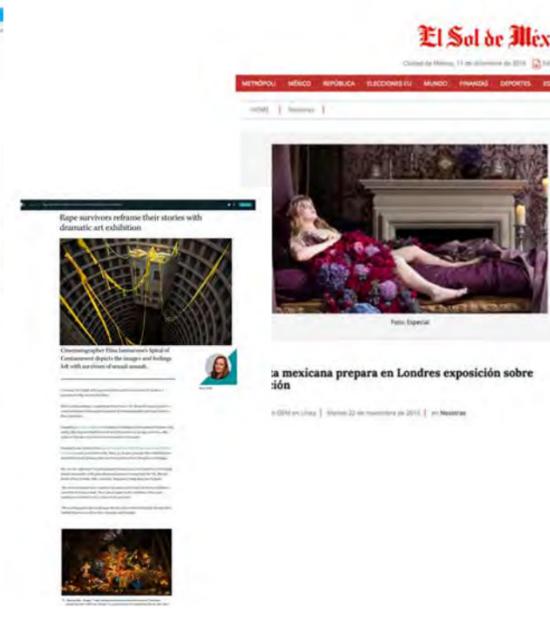
As a photographer, film-maker, and journalist, she has worked on six continents, working for **BBC, Newsweek, and National Geographic**, among others, covering conflict zones and humanitarian crises such as the Rabaa massacre, domestic violence in Syrian refugee camps in Iraq, and Cyclone Idai in Mozambique.

Also a keynote speaker, lecturer and moderator on human rights and sexual violence, Elisa was recently nominated as a **2022 ambassador for the UK, Europe, Middle East and Africa** for a notable multi-media company.

The **London exhibition of SPIRAL** was covered in 10 languages by international media outlets such as **Reuters, Newsweek, Mashable, and Huffington Post**.

A recent assignment, on Cameroonian refugees, shot at Constitution Hill prior to lockdown is featured in **Newsweek** and **BBC** – June 2021.

Elisa lives in London and is married to a South African.



See: DAILY MAVERICK article by Kathy Berman.



Power  
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## **SPIRAL OF CONTAINMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA 2022** **Exhibition, Residency, Workshops & Social Impact Legacy Project.**

Following on a successful four-work preview at the **NIROX/ACA** booth at the **Investec Cape Town Art Fair** in February, the **SPIRAL** exhibition transfers to Gauteng from May 2022 for a "double exposure": 25 photographic works will be installed with a soundscape in the **Isolation Cells of Number 4 Prison** at the iconic **CONSTITUTION HILL** (opening 14 May 2022).

### **Prior to that from 7 May 2022:**

The four full-size works from the **NIROX/ASA** booth at the **Investec Cape Town Art Fair** will be on view, and available for purchase at **NIROX FOUNDATION RESIDENCY STUDIO** during the **Good Neighbours Winter Sculpture Exhibition**, at **NIROX SCULPTURE PARK** opening **7 May 2022**, accompanied by workshops, talks and panel discussions. This follows on a 2-month residency at **NIROX FOUNDATION**. The exhibition will continue on to other global locations – art fairs and heritage sites – from late 2022.

**17 February 2022: INVESTEC CAPE TOWN ART FAIR**, in association with **NIROX**:

**15 March 2022 – May 2022: NIROX residency.**

**7 May – August 2022: NIROX GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCULPTURE EXHIBITION.**

**14 May 2022 – 30 June 2022: CONSTITUTION HILL: SOLO SPIRAL EXHIBITION**

**April to June 2022:** Walkabouts; Community events; Social Justice Programme: Workshops and talks

**May 2022 on: SPIRAL LEGACY PROJECT.**

**From Q3, SPIRAL** commences touring the **Global art circuit**



Top to bottom: Followed; Abandoned; Broken Cactus



Strength and Beauty  
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## IMPACT

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH / INCLUSION :**

The original OXO outreach programme, included lectures, discussions and therapeutic workshops facilitated by Elisa and professional psychotherapists. It resulted in both a therapeutic method as well as a PhD in Law focusing on the interface of art and law in the pursuit of social justice for sexual violence prosecution.

### **SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL IMPACT LEGACY PROGRAMME**

While the South African programme will include workshops and discussions, It is intended that the **SPIRAL PROJECT** in South Africa will evolve into a **sustainable legacy impact project**, in partnership with a selection of **community-based organisations** and environmental and social rights practitioners.

It is envisaged that a **multi-disciplinary team of architectural, environmental and digital designers, and community and cultural catalysts** will work together on innovating a **physical** legacy component

This project should only come on-line late in 2022.



Top to bottom: Mannequin; Firdaus; Frozen



The Climb  
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## ART SALES

### AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE – BENEFITTING COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- A limited edition of **5 archival prints** are available for purchase – either as a complete edition, or as individual works.
- Printed on: **Hahnemuhle Photo Rag Baryta**
- 1500mm x 1000mm are available
- Works can be framed, or mounted on **Dibond or Diasec**

In addition:

- **A limited boxed edition** including the portfolio of 24 works (A3) will be available for purchase. Only 10 sets will be printed

Kindly contact Kathy on  
art@acaza.co.za or  
kathyb@spaceconsulting.co.za  
+27 82 808 3712

As of December 2022, ACA for the SPIRAL project was a recipient of NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL support for 2022.

Additional support from SOCIAL JUSTICE, COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL institutions and organisations is welcome – sponsorship, grants or donations (tax deductible)

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Exhibitions
- Panel discussions
- **Community outreach and workshops**
- **Legacy project structures**



Top to bottom: Present; Big Bonnie Bicycle Thief; The Poet

## SPONSORS



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### INVESTEC CAPE TOWN ART FAIR

We were honoured to participate with NIROX in the 9th Investec Cape Town Art Fair. Four works from the suite of 24 were on exhibit. The works are part of a suite of 5 available for purchase 1500mmx1000mm printed on Hahnemule Photo Rag Baryta and mounted on Dibond. Please contact Kathy for purchases



### NIROX FOUNDATION & RESIDENCY

NIROX Sculpture Park consists of 30ha of sculpted lawns, waterways, and wetlands, adjoining a Private Nature Reserve in the Cradle of Humankind in Gauteng. The Park is home to the annual NIROX WINTER SCULPTURE EXHIBITION, which in 2022 is titled GOOD NEIGHBOURS.

Elisa will be both an artist in residence and an exhibitor.

Since its inception, NIROX has hosted more than 300 artists in residence.

During residency, artists are encouraged to interact with each other, and local communities, and to collaborate and create compelling experiences. At the conclusion of their residency, Residents are required to leave an artwork or other suitable record for lodging in the NIROX FOUNDATION archives. Elisa will be photographing a new series of works at Nirox.

### CONSTITUTION HILL

Home of South Africa's CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, CONSTITUTION HILL is situated on the original British Fort which later served as a jail during the Apartheid era, incarcerating men, women and even children within its walls. Its long-standing history of incarceration and abuse is today laid bare for all to see - in a series of permanent and temporary exhibition in the Old Fort, the Women's Jail and Number Four. Juxtaposed with profound symbols of human rights, democracy and constitutionalism, CONSTITUTION HILL a place of remembrance and redemption - and, in recent years, a space for innovation, creativity and growth. The full SPIRAL exhibition will be on show in the ISOLATION CELLS of NUMBER FOUR from May 2022



Top to bottom: Fiesta; The Puppet; Sleeping Beauty



The Eye of the Storm  
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## **AFRICA CONTEMPORARY ART (ACA)**

Africa Contemporary Art is dedicated to promoting and celebrating the ingenuity, resilience and creativity of contemporary artists from the continent - in all formats and across all platforms. We curate permanent, temporary, and pop-up exhibitions and installations - online and physical, commercial, corporate and non-profit.

### **ACA CURATORIAL APPROACH: CREATIVITY, IDENTITY & JUSTICE**

Africa Contemporary Art works with a select stable of artists, with a **strong focus on human rights**. The key **curatorial approach** focuses on **contemporary identities, and geographies** (Africa, the global South, and the creative intersection with the global North traditions). Inevitably, **social justice** is an overriding concern (serious, ironic but also fantastical and whimsical in expression).

## **JUST ART INTERNATIONAL**

Just Art International, the non-profit entity, focuses exclusively on the intersection of art and impact, social justice, and human rights, and has developed a reputation for implementing large-scale multi-disciplinary art projects - with the expressed intention of leaving behind a legacy of sustainable community interventions. **THE SPIRAL PROJECT, And its associated social impact legacy projects has been in incubation since 2018.**

## **FOUNDER**

ACA and JUST.ART are the culmination of over four decades of commitment to the cultural industries by our founder, Kathryn L. (Kathy) Berman, whose focus on the intersection of creative expression and social justice dates back to the dark days of Apartheid, where art, journalism, television and festivals were the primary media of social access and dissent. Kathy has combined a life-time of art and social justice, cultural curation, research, lecturing, journalism and television with a consulting career in corporate finance and strategy, innovation, incubation, and impact - corporate and community. Kathy continues to write on art, design and culture. She serves on the board of BASA. And lectures and workshops in art, strategy, innovation, incubation, acceleration and impact. Kathy remains invested in a portfolio of entities that focus on strategy, innovation and impact.

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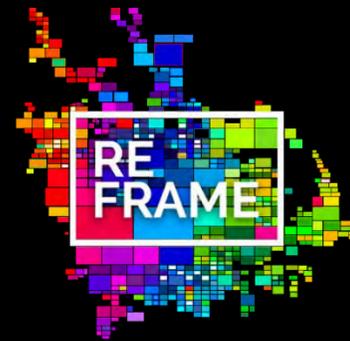
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