

ART OPENING:

Portraits in Disneyland - Stories from Mugunga III

Aubrey Graham



**Thursday Jan. 29, 2015
7-9 PM**

Emory Center for Ethics
(exhibition will hang until May 2015)

Aubrey Graham is the artist in residence at the Emory Center for Ethics for Spring 2015. She is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at Emory University and a photographer who has worked in freelance photojournalism as well as in marketing and advertising for a number of aid / development agencies across Africa for over a decade. Her research employs photography as both method and theory, as she explores the politics, imagination, and implications of humanitarian and local photography in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Disneyland is an exhibition of portraits from Mugunga III, North Kivu's most popular internally displaced peoples' camp. Set just outside of the provincial capital of Goma, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mugunga III has a long history of visits and errant (though often predictably cliché) photography by humanitarians, VIPs, and journalists.

Each image in this exhibition was consciously co-created - merging the anticipations, hopes, and desires of the subject and the photographer. The result is a set of photographs that engage and challenge the politics of humanitarian depictions of displacement and regional styles of studio photography. Equally the exhibition strives to question the value of the supposed 'objective' nature of photography - especially in spaces of humanitarian aid.