

IN FLIGHT

FOR THE LOVE OF FLYING

04/19 **FlySafair**
For the love of flying

WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM

SA's Comedy Clubs

YOUR COPY TO KEEP



109



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FIRE THROUGH THE LENS

THE GIFTED PORTRAITS OF AFRIKABURN

For more than 10 years, the AfrikaBurn Festival has lived up a patch of the desolate Karoo for a week every year.



The artwork SKOP 4 from Sutherland Kuns Opvoeding Projekt was an arched, domed timber structure which created an interior space with a central sphere. The build included a significant social development and skillsshare component. The artwork was burnt at the end of the festival.



"AfrikaBurn, with all of its wonderful and weird experiences, is possibly a more real experience than what society would like to label as normal. In that way, the dream has become more real than reality. Giving freely with no expectation of getting anything in return, volunteering, being in touch with others by being in touch with yourself, dropping the mask by donning a costume, helps to drop the mask overa." – Marais

The event provides a space where people can freely create, connect and express themselves. AfrikaBurn's aim is to be inclusive and accessible to everyone, and people from all over the world come together to create temporary art works and enjoy a week of sharing, inspiring and creating. Sometimes, massive wooden art constructions are set up which are burnt towards the end of this week. People wear elaborate costumes and drive around in decorated mutant vehicles, while music and boats are heard all day long until late at night.

Photographer Isabel Corthier wanted to find out more about how the event helps to overcome differences, and how people connect with each other here in a different way than they would in their daily lives.

Since "the burn" is all about giving, Isabel's gift was a portrait. For four days she walked around the festival with her small Fujifilm X100F camera, asking people if she could give them a portrait right on the spot. No preparation – just pure, right there, who they are. In return, her gifts from them were their answers to her questions. Through this project, Isabel discovered that by eliminating prejudices and individualism

and unburdening ourselves from too many responsibilities, we find the freedom to be our "real" selves and the desire to connect.

Wearing different clothes helps people to break out of their comfort zones and discover their real selves. As one "burner" said: "Dropping the mask by donning a costume, helps to drop the mask overa."

The fact that there's no cellphone coverage also makes people connect again, face to face. In the desert they depend on each other, especially because there's nothing for sale at the festival other than ice. AfrikaBurn is based purely on a "gifting" economy.

One woman said that she felt that everybody there had the desire to be there and wanted the same thing: to connect and to create, which then makes them want to connect more than in real life.

One young man summed it up perfectly: "AfrikaBurn becomes a story: a play that we all co-create in time and space, and through this creation we are joined in love, growth and enjoyment."

This year's AfrikaBurn festival will take place from 29th April to 5th May in the Tankwa Karoo National Park. ✕



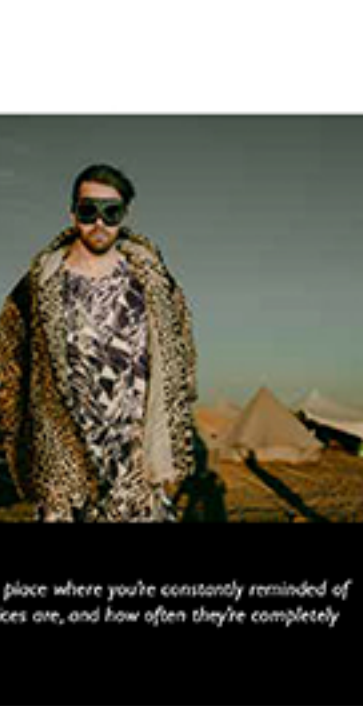
Michael in the sky at AfrikaBurn 2018, Karoo, South Africa



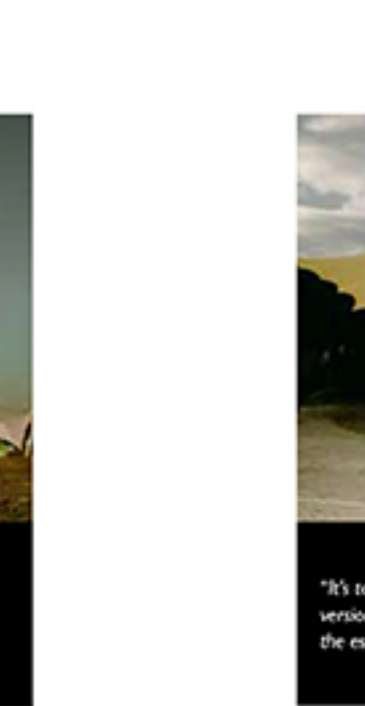
"To me, AfrikaBurn is a place where you're constantly reminded of how strong your prejudices are, and how often they're completely false." – Jonas



"It's so disconnect to connect. It is being able to be you – the best version of yourself – without face, and being open-minded to discover the essence that each one carries within themselves." – Leo



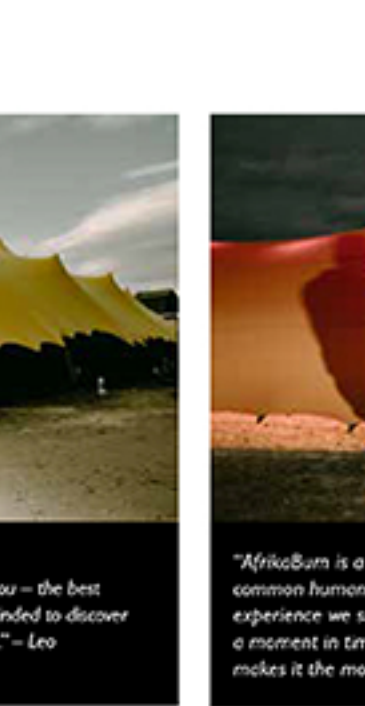
"AfrikaBurn is a celebration of life, of our authentic selves, of our common humanity and diversity. It's where we come home to. It's an experience we share with our friends, our family, our neighbours. It's a moment in time to just be who we are. For all that we are. And that makes it the most special place in the world." – Josh & John



"You get to connect with all that is and still is to become, and intertwine with different beings and states. The impact it has once you have experienced it, is that your perspective shifts to a broader spectrum and life seemingly unfolds in front of your eyes. Even though there may be challenges, one can still breathe with ease." – Phobie



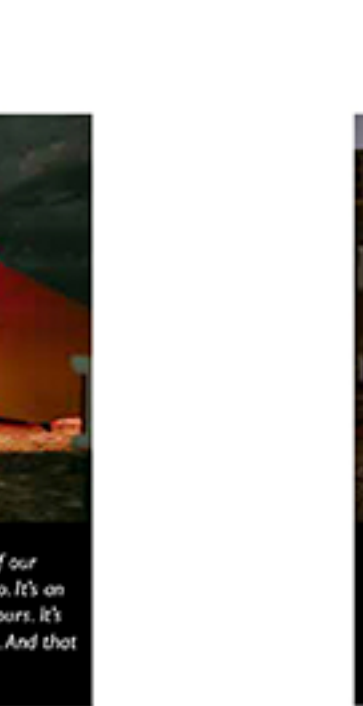
"AfrikaBurn is one of the only places on Earth where I can truly learn how to be myself in every single way – it's the place where I can be me without any worry about being judged. This also carries over after the festival, as it makes me more comfortable with myself in the real world as well." – Morgan



"You have all made this incredibly long voyage into such a dry and desolate environment, to be all together in a dusty, self-sustainable, interconnected, pulsing pop-up, funk town – if we were not all prepared and united, we would not easily survive long at all. This makes it much easier to connect on a very real and meaningful level, with every kind of person, from all walks of life, right from the get-go." – Helen



"AfrikaBurn makes me happy, grateful and present. Connecting becomes easier, because we are all there to have a good time, enjoy art, new friends, slow down, be disconnected from the real world. The main difference with daily life for me is that I have no responsibilities here. It's an amazing opportunity to be in the here and now, to take time to live in the moment and just focus on being happy, finding your creative self, sharing your joy with others, giving something from yourself and getting to know yourself in a different way." – Vibese



"Firstly, there's no cellphone coverage. This means that people communicate like God intended: face to face. Secondly, the desert is a hostile place. So, working together is a necessity for survival. Suddenly race, ethnicity, nationality, gender and just arrogance are swept away. And lastly, it is a default world – I shall enjoy all people with a whole new appreciation. I hope the magic lasts a long time." – Rannie aka Solar Santa



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