

Photography as an echo of one's own self

It is fantastically peaceful. There was plenty of rain this year and the grass is high. It is not an ideal time for watching the animals... the savanna is an open space with vast dimensions, which makes me feel incredibly free. Here I feel at peace".

During the long Night of the Arts, the Nit del Art, photographer **Lisette Pons** opened her exhibition at the Lifestyle Store **Rialto Living** in Palma: African impressions depicting ten days at Elsa's Kopje, a retreat in Kenya's Meru National Park. The photographer shows the beauty, the great dignity of the continent; here is "nothing less and nothing no longer worth something, but everything is a part of the whole, whose harmony I want to emphasize". Using a silver solution, a chemical process captures her special black and white photographs, which seem like etchings, on dipped paper. **Lisette Pons'** life is photography - and travelling. Six times already has she been in Africa, predominantly in Tanzania and Kenya; Indonesia will be explored in November. "It was my husband who got me into travelling", says Lisette and adds: "I am interested who lives on this planet at the same time as I do because our own world is only very small." And of course she wouldn't go without her camera. She does not distinguish between pleasure and work, because photography has been her language for 33 years and the evolution of her photos has been her own development. "I only really see through my photos". She doesn't mind taking hundreds of photos showing one and the same motif if it helps getting closer to the essence of what is felt. "I've seen the most beautiful smile in the so-called Third World, on a face from a boy in Tanzania". She herself would be rather more serious and reflective, however: "When I'm not serious, I like to laugh". Born in Barcelona in 1955, she was only a teenager when she became fascinated by black and white photography. The French photographer Roger Bovis taught her techniques and what a camera can do as well as the nuances of the development process. At first, she specialized on portraits, in particular of babies and children. And she also drew on colour, however, without ever forgetting the black and white roots of photography. After a career as a photo journalist and director of an advertising agency, the autodidact is now focussed on the artistic aspect and in particular on the look into the inner soul. Having lost the youngest of her three daughters to a terrible illness, the grieving photographer and her family moved from Barcelona to Mallorca. Lisette finds comfort and strength in her work, on her travels and in her laboratory in Palma, which at the same time acts as a beautiful. Now she wants to dedicate a new project to the island: a homage to the light, the sea and to Mallorca's plurality. To symbolize her own emotions is, however, closest to her heart.

