**Roger Ballen**

(1950, United States)

His mother Adrienne worked with Magnum Agency in New York and in 1968 he opened the Photography House gallery with Inge Bondi. In 1972 he obtained the degree at the Berkeley University in California. The year later he travelled and crossed Asia by land. In 1974 he reached Cape Town in South Africa starting from Cairo. In 1975 he realised his first photos belonging to *Byhood* (adolescence) project which was edited in 1977. In 1981 he got the philosophy Ph.D. Roger Ballen set up in South Africa in 1982 and he covered more than 100.000 Kilometre to realise the photos of *Dorps*, focused on small villages. This work was published in 1985. Between 1986 and 1993 he worked at the *Platteland* project. In 2001 he edited *Outland*, a collection of different photographic projects. In 2005 he edited *Shadow Chamber*. Ballen has received lots of awards and prizes: : Art Directors Club Award Photography , 2006; Selma Blair Witch Project - New York Times Magazine, 2005; Photographer of the Year, Rencontres d' Arles, 2002; PhotoEspana, Best Photographic Book of the Year, Spain, 2001; Sani Festival, Best Solo Exhibition, Greece, 2000; Special mention: UNICEF Photo of the Year 2001.