



Press release

Roger Ballen – Gabriele Tinti  
THE EARTH WILL COME TO LAUGH AND FEAST

*Why do you write poetry? To defend myself against the power of death.* Gabriele Tinti  
*Why do you take photographs? To better understand who the person called Roger Ballen is....*  
Roger Ballen

On Friday 19th November 2021 at 6.30 pm, on the occasion of the book publication "The Earth Will Come to Laugh and Feast" edit by powerHouse Books, a meeting will be held at the Fondazione Sozzani bookshop, together with the photographer Roger Ballen and writer Gabriele Tinti.

"The Earth Will Come to Laugh and Feast" is a poetic journey of Roger Ballen's images that Gabriele Tinti has composed in the form of elegies, prayers, laments. The book evokes the strong bond between art and literature, and of ekphrastic writing that evokes images by highlighting hidden relationships and implied mysteries. The result is a moving collection of poems and short stories revealing the profound state of existence.

In this book, art and literature are sisters. Each needs the other. Poetry distills many of the essences of my imagery and at the same time creates other interpretations that relate in some unexplainable way to the work of Roger Ballen.

ROGER BALLEEN born in New York in 1950, has lived and worked in South Africa for over 30 years. Over the past fifty years his distinctive photographic style has evolved using a simple square format based on crisp black and white. In his early works the link with the tradition of documentary photography is clear, developing in the 90s a style that the author himself describes as "ballenico".

Roger Ballen's work is featured in major institutions around the world and his photographs are included in many public collections including New York's Museum of Modern Art; Center Georges Pompidou, Paris; Victoria & Albert Museum, London; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Louisiana Museum, Denmark; Lacma, Los Angeles County Museum of Art. [www.rogerballen.com](http://www.rogerballen.com)

GABRIELE TINTI Italian writer, critic and poet, winner of the Eugenio Montale International Award in 2018. Born in 1979, he collaborated with J. Paul Getty Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, British Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, National Roman Museum, Capitoline Museums, Archaeological Museum of Naples, Ara Pacis Museums of Rome and with the Glyptothek of Munich, composing poems for ancient works of art. He has published "New York Shots" (Allemandi & C. 2011), "The Way of The Cross" (Allemandi & C. 2012), "All over" (Mimesis Publishing, 2013) and "Last Words" (Skira Rizzoli, 2015). His poems have been interpreted by actors such as Abel Ferrara, Malcolm McDowell, Kevin Spacey, Stephen Fry. [www.gabrieletinti.com](http://www.gabrieletinti.com)

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The Earth Will Come to Laugh and Feast  
Photographs by Roger Ballen Texts by Gabriele Tinti, interview by Louise Salter  
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