

# TRACKING GANDHI

ANJA BOHNHOF



India | Bangladesh | Africa | Europe, 2014-2019  
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Assistants: Lea Lemmermöhle, Tobi Nzuzo,  
Swantje Wehr, Emine Bielemeier

78 photographs, 65 x 50 / 90 x 70 / 130 x 100 cm

## PROJECT GRANTS

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### *My life is my message. (M. K. Gandhi)*

As a political and spiritual leader of the Indian independence movement, and through his steadfast commitment to human rights, Mahatma Gandhi is regarded as one of the most influential figures of the twentieth century. His practice of radical non-violent resistance – both an ethical stance and a political method – proved inspirational to figures such as Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, and continues to shape social movements worldwide.

Despite his historical impact, Gandhi remained ahead of his time in key aspects of his political agenda. Goals such as social equality, interreligious understanding, and securing the means of subsistence for all – for example through an economy grounded in self-restraint, vegetarianism, and regionally accountable production – remain globally contested or only partially realised.

The project *Tracking Gandhi* leads to sites in India, Africa, and Europe that mark key stages and turning points in Gandhi's life. Between 2014 and 2019, an extensive body of photographic work was produced, partly at previously inaccessible locations or at sites rarely considered in connection with Gandhi. The results open up new perspectives on historically charged spaces.

Arranged chronologically, the images trace Gandhi's complex and not uncontradictory life journey. They reveal the tension between the present-day use of these places and their historical significance: some photographs document forms of commemoration or political appropriation of history, while others show functional continuities, transformations, or only fragmentary traces.

In this way, a multi-layered field of meaning emerges, in which past, present, and future are visually intertwined.

Gandhi himself rejected personalisation, heroisation, and simplistic categorisation. *Tracking Gandhi* follows this stance both formally and conceptually, inviting a nuanced and open engagement.

The project consists of 78 photographs, accompanied by contextual texts and selected quotations from Gandhi.