

PRESS RELEASE

SEVEN

HILLS

03 SEP - 02 OCT 2016

KAMPALA ART BIENNALE

[KAMPALABIENNALE.ORG](http://KAMPALABIENNALE.ORG)

KAMPALA UGANDA MUSEUM | MAKERERE ART GALLERY | NOMMO GALLERY

NATIONAL THEATER | KAMPALA RAILWAY STATION | AFRIART GALLERY

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**“The second edition of the Kampala Art Biennale, titled “Seven Hills” and conceived by Elise Atangana, will be held from September 3rd to October 2nd, with a preview on September 2nd, 2016. The Kampala Art Biennale, KAB16, is organized and produced by the Kampala Arts Trust, a private initiative. We are happy to be offering Ugandan audiences exhibitions, screenings, talks, performances, meetings with the invited artists and enhanced educational programme for young people.”**

Daudi Karungi, Director of Kampala Art Biennale



Founded in 2014, Kampala Art Biennale’s vision is to create equilibrium among the four corners of the African continent and to continue to solidify the position of contemporary African art on the global art stage. We thought to strategically position the biennale in Kampala city because of its potential to become the next contemporary art destination on the African continent. Despite the growing interest in contemporary African art, very little attention has been placed on the East African region. The few events that exist only focus on traditional art forms and give a less comprehensive view of contemporary art forms.

Thus, the biennale is established to recognise, and integrate African contemporary art that is being created on the periphery of mainstream information avenues.

Kampala is Uganda’s capital city and economic centre. It is also the largest urban centre in Uganda, with a population of four million people. Endowed with a diversity of ethnic groups, a blossoming economy, and its warm and friendly people, Kampala offers a wonderful introduction to Uganda.

In the last decade, Kampala’s art scene has seen the establishment of several art organisations (32°East,

Bayimba Festival, Maisha Garden), events (Laba Arts Festival, Klaart, Kampala Biennale), commercial galleries (Afriart Gallery, AKA Gallery, Nommo Gallery), art spaces (Makerere Art Gallery, Weaverbird foundation), programmes (Atwork, Art at Work), critical contemporary local artists and an emerging art-aware middle class.

Given the political, economic and social situation in Africa, Kampala Biennale provides the platform for freedom of expression, social cohesion, and representation of cultural identity. This is especially important given the ongoing need for regional integration of the East African community. The people in Kampala are leading in the creative cultural renaissance and this was evident at the inaugural KAB14 when over 7,000 visitors attended the 6 exhibitions, showing works by 45 artists from 13 African countries.

Kampala Art Biennale 2016 will add another goal of international exposure. This second edition intends to invite renowned international artists to exchange with local artists while working in Kampala. KAB16 will also bring together key speakers including leading artists, gallerists, art historians, curators, museum directors, critics, and collectors from across the world to discuss a diverse range of topics.

## SEVEN HILLS PROJECT BY ELISE ATANGANA



### THE THEME

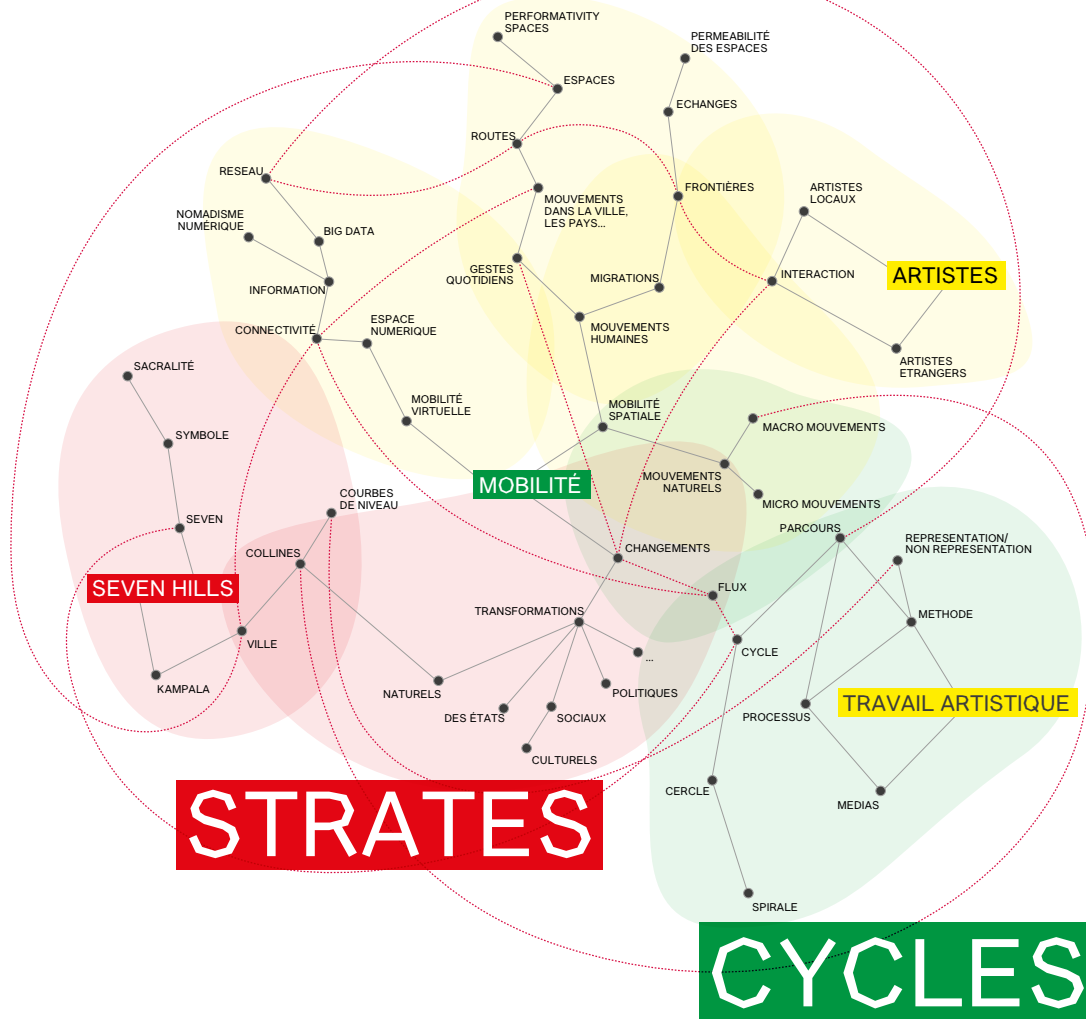
“Seven Hills” refers to Kampala’s historical city when the Kingdom of Buganda was built on seven hills, in a similar way as other famous cities like Rome, Lisbon and Athens, Yaoundé, San Francisco. The holy number 7 represents “the whole” in movement. Seven is universally known as a dynamic totality. Pythagoras called it the “life vehicle”. Nowadays, Kampala is spread out over 24 hills. One could question which stories, myths and founding legends are still harboured by the Seven Hills of Kampala? What is their current meaning? Are they still symbolic? Which representations are shared today by the inhabitants’ daily lives? How do evolutions of the landscape – either urban, natural and the potential conflict between human beings and their environment - influence daily habits? What gestures, attitudes and practices inhabit the public space, both as a physical and now virtual (co)presence? How do they circulate, how do they stay still? How is this controlled?

Emerging and international artists will take on the role of investigators by intervening in situ, within the urban fabric of Kampala on the various phenomena of urban mobility observed locally.

The most of important is to be part of a conversation about the main transformations that are present within the mobility paradigm, but on a smaller scale, a specific context. This will to avoid any generalisation of a phenomenon that concerns everyone, individually and collectively. A plural perspective can open up a dialogue at different level and bring a critical debate that can resonate at the same time locally and globally.

Seven Hills is an organic project that focuses on concepts of Mobility Studies which includes the movement of people, objects, services or digital/virtual travel and how it affects us in our day lives. The researches explore “mobilities futures”, the links between physical and virtual mobilities (movement, representation, practice), and consider their relation with contemporary art practice.

# INTERACTION



## SEVEN HILLS PROCESS

The project is organized as an organic strategy that associates all the local cultural operators in an artistic project built around an open, mutual exchange. Thanks to their knowledge of the country and cultural landscape, the dynamism of their initiatives, their ability to mobilise the public and support the artists locally, they are a key driving force in the project's success.

The Ugandan contemporary art scene is slowly building structure, with a network of promising and accomplished artists who are increasingly gaining attention. It reveals itself today as an emerging artistic territory, which needs to be encouraged and supported. Indeed, a country that creates is one that is capable of reinventing itself, while analysing its past, in order to project itself into the future.

In contributing to the production process and structure, the project aims to empower the second edition of Kampala Art Biennale to another level and create conditions of sustainability.

### Elise Atangana, Artistic Director of the second edition of Kampala Art Biennale

*Elise Atangana is an independent curator and producer. She defines her experience in the art field as collective and laboratory adventures. Her research focuses on the links between physical and virtual mobilities/immobilities (movement, representation, practice), and consider their relation with contemporary art practice.*

*Recently, she curated "Entry Prohibited to Foreigner", Havremagasinet art center (Boden), Sweden 2015, with Abdelkader Damani and Smooth Ugochukwu, « Producing The Commun » at 11th Dakar Biennale, 2014.*

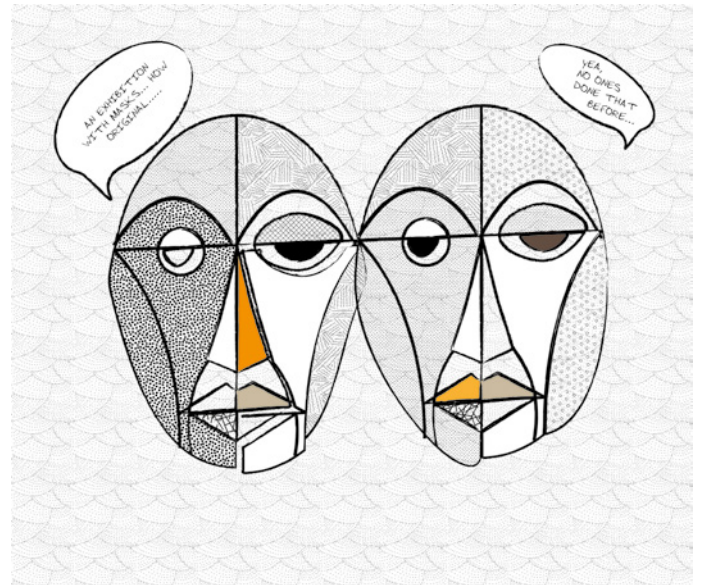
## THE ARTISTS

Elise Atangana selected 25 artists to show their work at KAB16.

### THE RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

11 artists are invited to participate in a residency programme to explore mobilities in its dynamic dimension in Kampala. Taking on the role of researchers, they will be intervening in situ and will interact with the urban fabric on the various phenomena of urban mobility observed locally. Why and how does one move in the city of Seven Hills? What is the meaning of “being on the move” in this territory and more generally, Uganda? How does the interaction with space bring out the question of time and gestures? Their searches will be based on multiple layers of information related to a diversity of contexts such as historical monuments, new infrastructures and architectural interventions yet to come, referring to Uganda’s past and present story and expanding to the sub-region but also the cultural moves of Kampala’s population: sport, social life, love, languages, etc. These aspects also bring a reflection on spiritual traditions, the syncretism of religions (Protestantism, Catholicism, Islam, Hinduism) and the influence of colonisation as felt until today.

- **Charity Atukunda, Uganda**
- **Julien Creuzet, France/Martinique**
- **Isaac Kariuki, Kenya**
- **Wolf von Kries, Germany**
- **Immaculate Mali, Uganda**
- **Sajan Mani, India**
- **Elsadig Mohammed, Sudan**
- **Kibuuka Mukisa Oscar, Uganda**
- **Bogosi Sekhukhuni, South Africa**
- **Virginie Yassef, France**
- **Xenson Znja, Uganda**



Charity Atukunda, *Twakoowa (Fed up)*, 2016



Julien Creuzet, *LOVA LOVA SAFARI GO*, 2016



Isaac Kariuki, *SIM Card Project*, 2015-Ongoing



Wolf von Kries, *Walks Slideshow*, project in progress



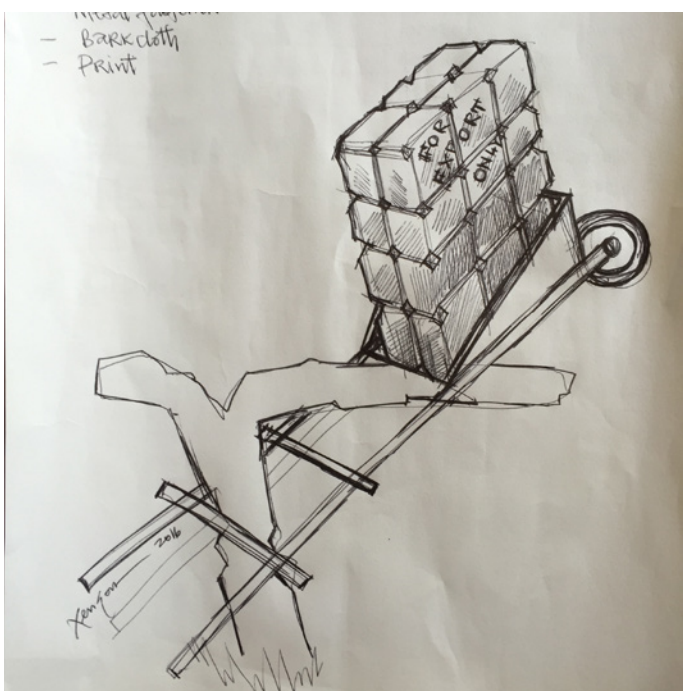
Kibuuka Mukisa Oscar, *Breaking Uganda*, 2015-Ongoing Project



Sajan Mani, *Beef Project*, 5 hours, Mumbai, 2014



Bogosi Sekhukhuni, *A Spirit of God*, 2016



Xenson Znja, *NDIBOOTA XPORTERS*, 2016



Virginie Yassef, *Falls are barriers to fish movement*, (detail) photos, 2016, Courtesy Galerie G-P & N Vallois, Paris



Mohammed Elsadig, *Visions and dreams*, 2016



Immaculate Mali, *Safe here*, 2016

## VIRTUAL MOBILITIES OPEN CALL

Opened on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April and closed on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2016, the open call challenged artists who are interested in how digital era impacts our daily lives. 7 artists were selected by Elise Atangana to show their work in Kampala. With reference to the definition of mobility by the sociologist John Urry<sup>1</sup>, Virtual Mobilities are related to: imaginative travel in images and media; communication and virtual travel through connected technologies. Regarding Tim Cresswell, mobilities depends also on resources accessed. How movement in virtual sphere and its distribution (technology, network, devices, etc.), narrative and experience practice operate? The last angle can be the formation of new habits and interactions in virtual space in an Eastern African context or elsewhere.

- Stacey Abe Gillian, Uganda
- Matt Kayem, Uganda
- Gosette Diakota Lubondo, DRC
- Sheila Nakitende, Uganda
- Ronex, Uganda
- Alden Paul Mvoutoukoulou, Congo
- Canon Rumanzi, Uganda



Stacey Abe Gillian, *Unknown*, 2016



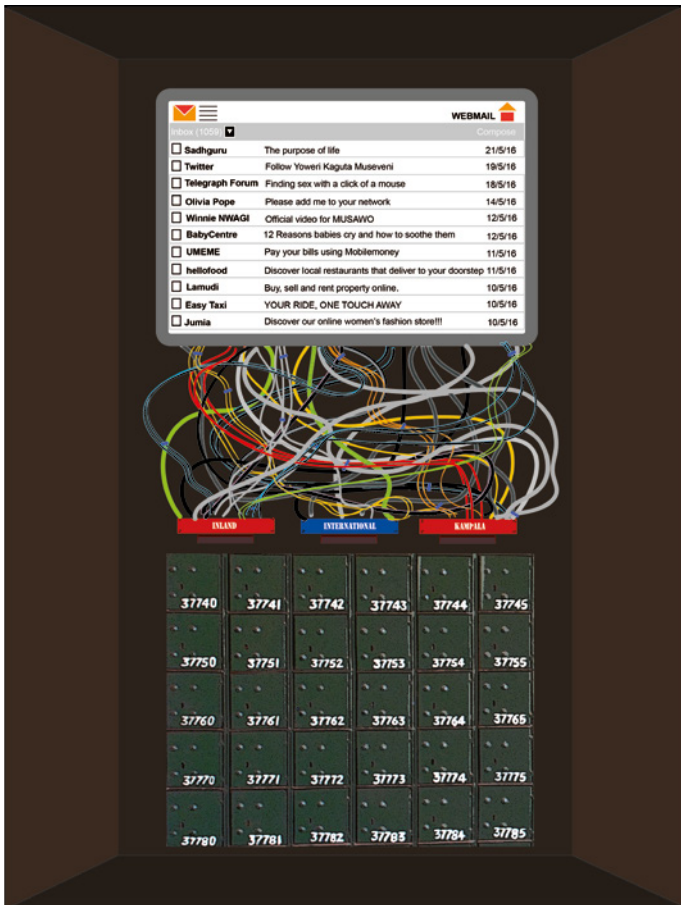
Matt Kayem, *Stuck traveller*, 2016



Gosette Diakota Lubondo, *Imaginary Trip*, 2016

<sup>1</sup> Mobility and immobility refer to the physical movement of goods, objects and services; the travel of people for work, leisure, migration and escape; imaginative travel in images and media; and communication and virtual travel through connected technologies.





Sheila Nakitende, *The deliverables remain physical*, 2016



Ronex, *Rx2...wireless*, 2016



Paul Alden Mvoutoukoulou, *En-vi-ron-ne-ment connecté*, 2016



Canon Rumanzi, *Cure for existantial itch*, 2016

## FOCUS ON SELECTED VIDEOS

In addition to that programme, Elise Atangana also selected 6 videos and a photographs series, from 7 artists, which interrogate how this medium translates today the new mobilities.

- Thomas Aquillina & Alex Lyons, Uganda/UK
- Megan-Leigh Heilig, South Africa
- Louis Henderson, UK
- Kitso Lynn Lelliott, Botswana
- Charlotte Mano, France
- Phumulani Ntuli, South Africa
- Stéphanie Roland, Belgium



Thomas Aquillina & Alex Lyons, *The Arcades Project 2.0*, 2015



Megan-Leigh Heilig, *The Road to Nowhere in Particular*, 2016



Louis Henderson, *All that is Solid*, 2014



Kitso Lynn Lelliott,  
*Was her and she was me and those we might become*,  
August 2015 and ongoing



Stéphanie Roland, *A moment of clarity\**, 2009



Charlotte Mano, *Aires (Areas)*



Phumulani Ntuli,  
*Lefu lahau Lamphidisa/Your death emancipates me*, 2016

## THE ART EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The KAB16 Art Education Programme focuses on the 25 Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) Funded Primary Schools in Kampala which will each send 10 representative students to participate in the « Seven Hills Art Challenge »; an art contest that is aimed to sensitise both educators, parents and children to the power of arts in society and how it can contribute to a dialogue about the implications of 'Kampala as a city in motion'.



During the workshops held in the 5 respective Kampala Divisions, students will explore the KAB16 theme and how it relates to Kampala City. Taking on the role of investigators, they will debate about various phenomena of urban mobility observed locally. Why and how does one move in the city of Seven Hills? What is the meaning of “being on the move” within their community, Kampala, Uganda or even in a larger international context? Students are invited to investigate issues that are significant to them within the scope of the theme and to propose possible solutions, illustrated through their artwork, which might resolve these issues.

Keywords of the KAB16 theme are:

- Topography
- Urban Mobility / Immobility
- Motion & Transition
- Transformation
- Interconnections
- Future



After the workshops, studio/gallery visits will be organised for the school teams: they will have the opportunity to see the creative process as it unfolds. For children, this will not only be a memorable experience, it is the best way to introduce them to art and the creative process that they will engage in during the art challenge. This will also help shape their views of the world, and help them become better citizens with an awareness and appreciation for culture.



## PROGRAMME AND EVENTS

### VENUES

Uganda Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Stacey Abe Gillian, Uganda</li><li>– Kitso Lynn Lelliott, Botswana</li><li>– Sajan Mani, India</li><li>– Kibuuka Mukisa Oscar, Uganda</li><li>– Alden Paul Mvoutoukoulou, Congo</li><li>– Sheila Nakitende, Uganda</li><li>– Xenson Znja, Uganda</li></ul>
Makerere Art Gallery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Julien Creuzet, France/Martinique</li><li>– Isaac Kariuki, Kenya</li><li>– Matt Kayem, Uganda</li><li>– Wolf von Kries, Germany</li><li>– Ronex, Uganda</li><li>– Virginie Yassef, France</li></ul>
Nommo Gallery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Charity Atukunda, Uganda</li><li>– Louis Henderson, UK</li><li>– Wolf von Kries, Germany</li><li>– Charlotte Mano, France</li><li>– Canon Rumanzi, Uganda</li></ul>
Afriart Gallery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Megan-Leigh Heilig, South Africa</li><li>– Elsadig Mohammed, Sudan</li><li>– Phumulani Ntuli, South Africa</li><li>– Stéphanie Roland, Belgium</li></ul>
Kampala Railway Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Thomas Aquillina &amp; Alex Lyons, Uganda/UK</li><li>– Gosette Diakota Lubondo, DRC</li><li>– Immaculate Mali, Uganda</li><li>– Bogosi Sekhukhuni, South Africa</li></ul>
National Theater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Julien Creuzet, France/Martinique</li></ul>

## OPENING WEEK

### Friday 2 September 2016

**10:00 a.m.**

**Uganda National Museum**

OFFICIAL VIP/PRESS OPENING

Exhibition opening

**11:00 a.m.**

**Uganda National Museum**

Performance:

*liquidity Ar* by Sajan Mani, a 50 hours performance

**2:00 p.m.**

**Makerere Art Gallery**

Exhibition opening

**3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

**Makerere Art University Tennis Court**

Performance:

*Ace*, by Virginie Yassef

**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Alliance Française**

CURATORIAL TALK WITH ELISE ATANGANA:  
SEVEN HILLS

Located between seven hills on the shores of Lake Victoria, Kampala's topography is rich with trails to explore. At the heart of the artistic project of the Biennale, one finds the fast development of African cities, along with what this brings in terms of urban planning, traffic, modes of transportation and the mobile lifestyles of their users and operators. By tackling the subject of motion transitions and the social changes they imply, the Biennale will be firmly grounded in the metropolis. By questioning the transformations observed in terms of movement, interactions and landscape, we project possible mobilities and futures, whether physical, virtual or imaginary.

19.30-22.00h Cash bar on the rooftop

### Saturday, 3 September 2016

**10:00 a.m.**

**Nommo Gallery**

Exhibition opening

**12:00 p.m.**

**Afriart Gallery**

Exhibition opening

**2:00 p.m.**

**Kampala Railway Station**

Exhibition opening

Performance:

*Safe here*, by Immaculate Mali

**4:00 p.m.**

**National Theater**

Exhibition opening & Performance

**4:30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.**

**National Theater/ CICIP room**

DISCUSSION BY ARTISTS OF THE KAMPALA ART BIENNALE

With participating artists of the Kampala Art Biennale 2016

Moderated by Elise Atangana

The artists' discussion offers an insight into the experience artists made in Kampala during the setup of the exhibition, the challenges they met and the encounters they made. They will speak about the process of the creation of their work and their concepts and ideas regarding mobilities in general and specifically in Kampala. They discuss the impact of mobility in their own life and about how their subjective approach speaks to cultural narratives in the particular context of Kampala and beyond.

**7:00 p.m. till late**

KAB opening party

## Sunday, 4 September 2016

**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

### **Uganda National Museum**

SYMPOSIUM: (HI)STORIES OF EXHIBITION MAKING / 1960 – 1990 \*

With George Kyeyune, Katrin Peters-Klaphake, Sidney Kasfir, Ozioma Onuzulike, Katharina Greven, Ugochukwu-Smooth Nzewi, Nadine Siegert and Moses Serubiri

Organiser: IWALEWAHAUS, Bayreuth

The public symposium “(Hi)Stories of Exhibition Making / 1960 – 1990” is part of the research project „African Art History and the Formation of a Modern Aesthetic“ at Iwalewahaus, University of Bayreuth in cooperation with the Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt a. M. and Makerere Art Gallery (IHCR) in Kampala. This research project seeks to examine not only the singular collections of African Modernisms that are housed today in the collections but also to look at past, present and future connections between them. In the symposium, we share recent research on the history of exhibitions of African Modernisms.

Website: <https://coamoweb.com/2016/07/13/workshop-2-and-public-symposium/>

## Monday, 5 September 2016

**10:00 a.m. – 12 noon**

### **Alliance Française, Plot 52, Bukoto street, Kamwokya, Kampala**

ROUND TABLE: KAMPALA MOBILITIES AND FUTURES  
Conference room, 3rd floor

With Jacob Byamukama (Department for Urban Engineering, KCCA); Mark Bwambale (Department for Architecture and Urban Planning, KCCA); Katrin Peters-Klaphake (Makerere Art Gallery/Institute for Heritage Conservation and Restoration, Makerere University); Dr. Allan Birabi (Dept. of Architecture and Physical Planning, CEDAT, Makerere University), Evelyn Namara (ICT Association of Uganda; !INNOVATE Uganda).

Moderation: Elise Atangana

Like every urban global agglomeration today, Kampala is subject to phenomenal change in its modes of

transportation and communication. The matatus, as are called the small buses that one finds in virtually every city in the Eastern African region, will compete with new bus services in the future. Furthermore, one notes the launch of an Uber-inspired model for the boda-bodas, the local motor-taxis, while established forms of transport continue. From these shifts, we can foresee important changes in daily habits of the local population. Which challenges does Kampala face with its current precarious traffic situation and which scenarios are envisioned for the future? What will be the impact on habits of the population? How does their practice link to cultural narratives and shape Kampala's current mobilities and futures? What impact will ICT innovation have in this process? How is the future city ?

## Friday 9 September, 2016

**4:00 p.m. – 9 a.m.**

### **32° East, plot 2239, Ggaba Road, Kansanga, Kampala**

OPEN LAB & POP UP EXHIBITION:

(RE)THINKING FEMINISM AND BLACK WOMANHOOD \*

With Sonia Barrett (Germany), Jessica Buhlmann (Germany), Nancy Mteki (Zimbabwe), Syowia Kyambi (Kenya), Immy Mali (Uganda), Abe Stacey Gillian (Uganda), Sheila Nakitende (Uganda).

Organizer: Goethe-Zentrum Kampala/ UGCS, Iwalewahaus (University of Bayreuth)

An exhibition and performances will present the results of the workshop and open laboratory “(Re)Thinking Feminism and Black Womanhood” that will run for ten days in Kampala with participating female visual artists from four different countries. Acknowledging that female artists – in particular women with an African or African diasporian background – still remain largely invisible and their works less distributed among the networks of the globalized art world, the workshop focuses on synergies between feminist theories and alternative artistic/ curatorial practices and collaborations.

Facebook:

<https://web.facebook.com/events/158290064607222/>

**Saturday 10 September, 2016**

**9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Uganda Museum (Education Hall), Kira Road,  
Kampala**

**SYMPOSIUM: (RE)THINKING FEMINISM AND BLACK  
WOMANHOOD \***

With: Dr. Natasha A Kelly (Germany), Hon Miria Matembe, Godiva Akullo, Dr. Zahara Nampewo, Prof. Ben Twinomughisha, Hon. Angeline Osegge, Justice Kenneth Kakuru, Sheila Nduhukire, James Onen, Amanda Tumusiime (TBC), Syowia Kyambi, Dr. Donald Rukare

Organizer: Goethe-Zentrum Kampala/ UGCS, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

This symposium will offer a platform for women and men from academia, the visual arts, politics, the judiciary, media and activists from the African continent and beyond. The meaning of feminism will be explored and stripped of preconceptions and prejudice and grounded in the African and especially Ugandan context in theory and practice. Women and men from different spheres of life will debate the differences of being a woman or a man in the professional world. Especially in the art world, male artists continue to dominate the local and global scene while women, especially of African descent, are less visible and their works less distributed, indicating that deliberations on feminist perspectives from the Global South are highly topical.

For registration please email to:

feminismug@fes-uganda.org

Facebook:

<https://web.facebook.com/events/1817761658453923/>

*\* Those events are organized by our partners.*



## PARTNERS OF KAB16

### FINANCIAL SPONSORS

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Kampala City Council Authority, Uganda Museum, Uganda National Cultural Centre, Makerere Art Gallery, 32 Degrees East, Goethe Zentrum Kampala, Alliance Française in Kampala, Rift Valley Railways, Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU), Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU) Les Ateliers Sahn Brazzaville, Afriart Gallery Kampala, l'Agence à Paris, and GraphicaParis.

### MEDIA PARTNERS

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## CREDITS & CONTACTS

Kampala Art Biennale is a showcase of contemporary art from Africa with the goal to display, educate and create debate about the value of art in society.

Kampala Art Biennale was established by Kampala Arts Trust, a collective of visual and performance art practitioners living and working in public and private spaces within the precinct of Kampala City. It was born out of the need for inclusion faced by artists working on the African continent trying to reach the global art scene.  
[www.kampalabiennale.org](http://www.kampalabiennale.org)

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