

Paul Ndema, Uganda

Ndema Paul was born in Uganda in 1979. He studied at the Margaret Trowell School of Industrial and Fine Arts, Makerere University from 1999-2002 where he obtained a Bachelors degree in Fine Arts.

In this latest series of work, Paul Ndema's technical proficiency together with his satirical interpretations of religious moral order gives his paintings a unique and playful insight into the meeting of tradition and modernity.

His final pieces are the result of his experiences growing up in a Catholic family together with his questioning of the ethics of those in positions of power and influence. His subjects, often self-portraits, are elevated to an iconic status yet compromised by the artist's use of irony. Ndema places his subjects on colourful, patterned and symbolic backgrounds and his use of light suggests that his subjects are both literally and figuratively in the spotlight.

Most recently he has participated in FNB Joburg Art Fair (2016); Circle Modern and Contemporary Art Auction in Nairobi (2015, 2014); Cape Town Art Fair (2015); Kampala Art Biennale (2014) and East African Encounters Exhibition, Circle Art Gallery (2014). His work is also housed in many international private collections.

Ato Malinda, Kenya

Ato Malinda (born 1981, Kenya), lives and works in Rotterdam. She has a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) from Transart Institute, New York. Her works consist of performance, drawing, painting, installation, video, and ceramic object-making. Through her diverse practice, Malinda investigates the hybrid nature of African identity, contesting notions of authenticity. She has worked with western museums to dispel notions of a Unitarian Africa, so often seen in ethnographic exhibitions. In addition to this she also focuses on gender and female sexuality. She is inspired by LGBTQ communities whose stories are rarely told.

Malinda was one of the awardees of the Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship (2015) and won the One Minutes Award (2012) for moving photography, as well as the Smithsonian African Artist Award (2016). Her solo shows include "Games" (2013) at Savvy Contemporary which centred round sexual abuse, and "Incommensurable Identities" (2011) at Aarhus Art Building which examined tenuous relations between Europe and Africa. She has exhibited in group exhibitions at Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main (2014), the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution (2015), Salon Urbain de Douala in Cameroon (2010), Brooklyn Museum (2016) and the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Copenhagen (2015), among others.

Ephrem Solomon, Ethiopia

Ephrem Solomon creates inquisitive works using wood cut panels and mixed media based on his socio-political observations of contemporary Addis Ababa. Trained in traditional printmaking, Solomon uses the carved marks to make constructed portraits informed by the people who inhabit the spaces around him, creating figures that can be recognized, but are also invisible in society. "They can be me or you. They are anyone" he says.

Solomon graduated with a diploma in Fine Art and Graphic Design from Entoto Art School in Addis Ababa. In 2014 he had his first solo exhibition in the UK at Tiwani Contemporary, London. Group exhibitions include *Pangaea II: New art from Africa and Latin America*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK, 2015 and *Contemporary African Art and its Caricature*, Japan, 2012. His work is in private collections in Dubai, UAE, Kenya, South Africa and the UK, including the Saatchi Collection.

Shabu Mwangi, Kenya

Shabu Mwangi was born in 1985 and began practicing art in 2003. He lives and works in Mukuru slum where he established the Wajukuu Art Project in 2013 with a deep conviction that his work could highlight the lives of the disadvantaged minorities in his community. Deeply concerned by society's inequality and our lack of empathy for people with different social, political, ethnic and religious beliefs, his work seeks to examine human behaviour and our collective amnesia.

His inspiration is derived from the view that a lot of inequities and frustration deeply affects his society and the actions that is taken especially during highly sensitive political time can give insight to who they are and how they are influenced politically and how they are divided culturally and socially.

In his work, Shabu strive to examine the human behavior and interaction with each-other and what really drives us to a point of losing the sense of oneness and reaching a point where more focus is always on our ego. He constantly reflects on the quest as human being: the acceptance of our condition and at the same time the view that we are forgetful, a kind of collective amnesia, that why I say wealth will never describe a rich man or poverty a poor man in the eyes of a deeper observer.

He has worked with art2be and Hope Worldwide and exhibitions include Pop-Up Africa, 2014, GAFRA, London; Out of the Slum, 2012 Essen, Germany and various group and solo exhibitions in Nairobi, Kenya.