

CYRUS KABIRU

CURRICULUM VITAE

smac

BIOGRAPHY

Born 1984, Nairobi, Kenya.
Lives and works in Nairobi, Kenya.

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- 2019** Africa First Residency by Serge Tiroche in collaboration with START Incubator Project, Israel.
- 2018** Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA) Artist in Residence Programme, Segera Retreat, Laikipia, Kenya.
- 2016** Fundació Han Nefkens Artist in Residence, Barcelona, Spain.
Quartz Africa Innovators recognition, Quartz Africa's Innovators Summit, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2013** TED Fellowship Residency, TED Talks Conference: *The Young. The Wise. The Undiscovered*, Los Angeles, USA.
- 2010** Maker Faire Africa Award: Best Artist Innovation – *Thinking Outside the Box*, New York City, USA.
- 2007** Young Innovator Award, Sandbox Network, London, UK.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2020** *Taarifa Kamili*, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2018** ART X Lagos (SMAC Gallery), The Civic Centre, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2017** *Pandashuka*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
Macho Mbadala, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2016** *Njia Ya Maisha*, The ARMORY SHOW: African Perspectives (SMAC Gallery), Pier 92 & 94, New York City, USA.
- 2015** *Black Mamba*, FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Johannesburg, South Africa.
The End of The Black Mamba, LOOP Fair, (SMAC Gallery), Barcelona, Spain.
C-Stunners and Black Mamba, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2014** *Cyrus Kabiru & Timothy Prus*, African Art Foundation Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2013** *Cyrus Kabiru: C-Stunners*, Frank Picture Gallery in association with the Ed Cross Fine Arts Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.
- 2011** *Cyrus Kabiru*, Kuntspodium T Gallery, Tilburg, Netherlands.
- 2010** *Upcoming*, Kuona Trust, Nairobi, Kenya.
The C-Stunner, Kuona Trust, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2009** *Cyrus Kabiru*, Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Arts (RaMoMA), Nairobi, Kenya.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2021** Indian Ocean Craft Triennial (SMAC Gallery), Western Australia.
The Pandemic Is a Portal, curated by Daniel S. Palmer, The Armory, OVR.
- 2020** Paris Photo (Braverman Gallery), Grand Palais, Paris, France.
Matereality, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2019** *That Was Then*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
Paris Photo (Braverman Gallery), Grand Palais, Paris, France.
MACHO NNE Afro-futurist visions of CYRUS KABIRU, The African Museum of Verona, Italy, Verona.
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Somerset House, London, UK.
FNB Art Joburg (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
KUBATANA, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Vestfossen, Norway.
Material Insanity, Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL), Marrakech, Morocco.
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2018** Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi, India.
Wish You Were Here, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design curated by Amelie Klein & Okwui Enwezor, [Travelling Exhibition], Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, USA, Albuquerque Museum, USA.
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2017** *All Things Being Equal*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA), Cape Town, South Africa.
X: Part III, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
AFRICAN VOICES: Confronting Frontiers of Reality, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.

- FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- X: Part I*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design* curated by Amelie Klein & Okwui Enwezor, [Travelling Exhibition], High Museum of Art, Atlanta, USA.
- The ARMORY SHOW (SMAC Gallery), Pier 92 & 94, New York City, USA.
- 2016** SUMMER SHOW '16, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- ARTISSIMA Fair, (SMAC Gallery), Torino Oval Lingotto, Turin, Italy.
- FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Climactic: Post Normal Design Exhibition*, Carnegie Mellon University School of Design, Pittsburgh, USA.
- UPSTART/STARTUP, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Brutal Beauty: Violence and Contemporary Design*, in collaboration with Max Borka, Marta Herford Museum for Art, Architecture & Design, Herford, Germany.
- Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design* curated by Amelie Klein & Okwui Enwezor, [Travelling Exhibition], Kunsthal, Rotterdam, Netherlands; Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.
- Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CIICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2015** *Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design* curated by Amelie Klein & Okwui Enwezor, [Travelling Exhibition], Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain; Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rein, Germany.
- Lumières d'Afriques*, (coinciding with COP21 International Conference), National Theatre of Chaillot, Paris, France.
- Unorthodox*, curated by Jens Hoffmann, The Jewish Museum, New York City, USA.
- CPH:MARKET, curated by LOOP Barcelona and The Why Foundation, for CPH:DOX, Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- ARTISSIMA, (SMAC Gallery), Oval Lingotto, Turin, Italy.
- Beyond Borders*, 5th Beaufort Triennial, West Flanders Province, Belgium.
- AFRICA: *Architecture, Culture & Identity* curated by Kjeld Kjeldsen and Mathias Ussing Seeberg, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark.
- Towards Intersections: Negotiating Subjects, Objects and Contexts*, [Travelling Exhibition], UNISA Space at the University of South Africa, Pretoria; and MuseuMAfricA, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Concealed: Selections from the Permanent Collection*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York City, USA.
- Africa Design Days*, Villa des Arts, Rabat, Morocco.
- Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), The Avenue - V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2014** MORE MATERIAL, curated by Duro Olowu, Bowery Gallery, New York City, USA.
- FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Kenya Art Fair, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2013** *The Shadows Took Shape*, Studio Museum Harlem, New York City, USA.
- AFROFUTURE: *Adventure with Makers, Thinkers and Dreamers*, collaboration with La Rinascente, Milan Design Week, Milan, Italy.
- Museum of Architecture (Arkitekturmuseet), Stockholm, Sweden.
- Lagos Photo Festival, Lagos, Nigeria.
- Phantasms of the Non-City / Lagos Photo Festival*, FNB Joburg Art Fair, Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2012** *Visiones Africanas*, Perimeter Art & Design, Paris, France.
- The Space We Live In*, Rosetta Arts, London, UK.
- Framed! Contemporary Eyewear in Fashion*, Fashion Space Gallery and London College of Fashion, London, UK.
- Istanbul Design Biennale, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2010** *C-Stunners*, Maker Faire Africa, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Mwangali Tofauti: Nine Photographic Perspectives from Kenya*, Portraits of Cyrus Kabiru by Barbara Minishi, Nairobi Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya.
- TALKS & WORKSHOPS**
- 2021** *Owning our Stories: Creative Media and the Strength of the African Arts Industry* [talk], as part of Africa Together Virtual Conference hosted by the University of Cambridge.
- 2019** *Comparative Futurisms | Afro-Asian Perspectives* [talk], as part of Art Basel, Hong Kong, China.
- The Gaze of the Apprentice* [workshop], Museum of Contemporary Art of Serralves, Porto, Portugal.
- Artworld Talk | Comparative Futurisms: Afro-Asian Perspectives* [talk], Art Basel, Convention & Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong, China.
- 2018** *Re-Visioning Africa Through the Creative Lens with Cyrus Kabiru* [workshop], Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA.
- 2016** *FLOW series 01: CYRUS KABIRU with Blanca Callén*, presented by Fundació Han Nefkens & the Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2013** *The Young, The Wise, The Undiscovered*, TED talk Conference, Los Angeles, USA.
- No Art, No Life: Fellows Friday with Cyrus Kabiru*, TEDTalks, Long Beach, USA.
- 2012** *Found in Deptford: An Afternoon with Cyrus Kabiru*, experimental workshop with Richard Parry, V22 Summer Club, London, UK.

Cyrus Kabiru, International School of Kenya, organized by Friends of the Arts, Nairobi, Kenya.

Cyrus Kabiru, outreach project and workshop, Kitui and Kisumu, Kenya.

SELECTED PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Fox, K. 2018. *The artist putting rubbish to visionary use - in pictures*. The Guardian [online]. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2018/nov/03/the-artist-putting-rubbish-to-visionary-use-in-pictures>. 3 Nov 2018. [Accessed 17.01.19].

Kermeliotis, T. 2017. *Artist's spectacular glasses 'give trash a second chance'*. CNN [online]. Available at: <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/04/23/world/africa/cyrus-kabiru-glasses-kenya/index.html>. 11 Dec 2017. [Accessed 17.01.19].

Leiman, L. 2014. *Rubbish puts art in its place*. Mail & Guardian [online]. Available at: <https://mg.co.za/article/2014-08-22-00-cyrus-kabiru-rubbish-puts-art-in-its-place>. 22 Aug 2014. [Accessed 17.01.19].

Kuo, L. 2016. *An artist remembers Africa's disappearing "Black Mamba" bicycles with his own whimsical designs*. Quartz Africa [online]. Available at: <https://qz.com/africa/731916/an-artist-remembers-africas-disappearing-black-mamba-bicycles-with-his-own-whimsical-designs/>. 19 Jul 2016. [Accessed 17.01.19].

O'Toole, S. 2016. *Armory Show shines its spotlight on Africa*. Wanted [online]. Available at: <http://wantedonline.co.za/2016-10-06-nyc-does-africa/>. March 2016. [Accessed 17.01.19].

COLLECTIONS

Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA), Cape Town, South Africa.

Tiroche Deleon Collection, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Studio Museum in Harlem, New York City, USA.

Lemaître Collection, Paris, France.

Han Nefkens H+F Collection, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Helena Fernandino & Emilio Pi Collection, Madrid, Spain.

Kuano Trust – (patronage of Robert Deveroux), Nairobi, Kenya.

Scheryn Art Fund, Cape Town, South Africa.

Saatchi & Abel Collection, Cape Town, South Africa.

The Royal Portfolio Collection, Cape Town, South Africa.

Ekhard Foundation, Wassenaar, Netherlands.

The Met Museum, New York, USA.

Galila's P.O.C, Brussels, Belgium.

UNISA Art Collection, Pretoria, South Africa.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact SMAC Gallery for more information or any other queries.

CAPE TOWN

1st Floor, The Palms
145 Sir Lowry Road
Woodstock, 7925
T +27 (0)21 461 1029

JOHANNESBURG

25 7th Street,
Parkhurst,
2196
T +27 (0)10 900 2131

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre
Church Street
Stellenbosch, 7600
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

www.smacgallery.com
info@smacgallery.com

RegNo: 2007/043038/23
VATNo: 4850246721