jamesmuriuki

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Artist CV

EXHIBITIONS

- **Brussels Non European Art Fair (BRUNEAF)** - January 18th - 22nd. Galerie ABC, Sablon in Brussels.
- **The Urban Cultures of Global Prayers** – 12th November 2011 – 8th January 2012, Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst (NGBK) in Berlin, Germany. A collaborative installation with *Rika Collective* for the research project Global Prayers. Through science and art, the project *global prayers • redemption and liberation in the city* investigates new manifestations of the religious in urban space and the influence of urban cultures on the religious.
- **In TRANSITION** – 24th October 2011 – 22nd January 2012, Roots Contemporary, Brussels, Belgium. A solo exhibition presenting recent works that are in progress – looking at the transitions in which Kenya finds itself.
- **PhotoAfrica** – 6th- 19th June 2011, an annual exhibition held during the Taarifa Africa Film Festival in Spain organised by Al Tarab and the Andalusian Photography Centre. The photo "44" in this exhibition won a prize in the pan-Africa photography contest.
- **Conversations in Silence** – 18th February – 11th March 2011, an exhibition researching issues of memory and commemoration within the Kenyan context. It is a collaborative project with the Polish artist Karolina Freino, alumnus of The Bauhaus University Weimar.
- **Rear View**, November 2010, a solo exhibition at **Goethe Institut**, Nairobi. The exhibition focused on past works.
- **NotAboutKarenBlixen**, as part of ***images of my world festival***, Copenhagen, Denmark September 2010 at Karen Blixen Museum, Denmark. Curated by Minto Brooke, director, Miami Art Museum & Michelle Eistrup, Denmark. Screenings that followed included
    - TOO LONG ARE OUR MEMORIES, and Generous Gestures, Den Frie Udstillingsbygning
    - TOO LONG ARE OUR MEMORIES, The 3rd All ArtNow New Media Art Festival 2011, Syria
- **Mwangalio Tofauti,** a group photographic installation at the Nairobi Gallery (National Museums of Kenya)
- **sustain-ability** June 4th – June 30th 1010 at Alliance Française, Nairobi. A developmental photographic exhibition looking at the issue of sustainable futures. Also travelled to RaMoMA, Museum of Modern Art, Nairobi.
- **SPace: Currencies in Contemporary African Art** at Museum Africa **11th May - 11th July 2010** at **Museum Africa**, Newtown, Johannesburg, South Africa. Curated by Thembinkosi Goniwe and Melissa Mboweni of South Africa
- ***24 Nairobi*** Exhibition Curator: Gonda Geets/ Nick Ysenberg – a project showcasing a modern African city through the eyes of its own photographers Showing at the **Nairobi National Museum** from November 26 2008 – February 28 2009
- ***Africa.dot.Com*: *Drums 2 Digital***, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco February 7, 2008 – June 1, 2008, Curator: Deborah Stokes.

- **In Passing**, an exhibition of "***A cross-cultural view of Nairobi and its inhabitants***". **Alliance Française de Nairobi** from 7th - 30th June 2007. A two-man exhibition with Madagascar's award winning photographer, Pierrot Men.
- **Contemporary Video Art and Photography from Kenya**, **Kennesaw University, Fine Arts Gallery**, in **Atlanta Georgia**. This exhibition was mounted to commemorate **Year of Kenya**. The exhibition ran from 18th January - 1st March 2007. Some of the work remains in the collection of the University.
- **Kenyan photography, Fivemyles Gallery,** Brooklyn, New York May 2006.
- Exhibited in **Snap Judgements: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography**, which was first shown at the **International Centre of Photography, New York** from March 10th - May 28th 2006. Then travelled to
    - **Miami Art Central**, Florida, USA
    - **Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporaneo**, Mexico city, February – May 2007
    - **National Gallery of Canada**, Ottawa, October – January, 2007
    - **Memphis Brooks Museum**, Memphis, February – May, 2008
    - **Stedelijk Museum**, Amsterdam, 27 June – 30 September 2008

- ***"What I see in Nairobi"*, Alliance Française, Nairobi – Kenya** June – July 2006, a prelude to an exhibition in July 2007
- Exhibited at **Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Art** (RaMoMA) in Nairobi – Kenya in an un-themed exhibition by artists working at RaMoMA from October 13th to 29th 2005
- Exhibited at **Alliance Française in Madagascar** in the 1st Indian Ocean Photography Biennial from 10th March to 10th April 2005. The exhibition ***'Artistes' Portraits'*** included photographers from the Indian Ocean and in particular South Africa, Comoros, Tanzania, Seychelles, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Reunion and Madagascar
- Exhibited at the exhibition dubbed **KenyaArt** at the **Brooklyn Public Library, New York** in January – February 2004. The Exhibition featured works by a group of Kenyan Artists.

PUBLICATIONS

Events of the self : Portraiture and social identity

Contemporary African art since 1980

Snap judgements: Shifting positions in Contemporary African Photography

RESIDENCIES

2010 - DIVA, Danish Art Council and The Danish Artist Workshops

2009 – Curators residency, Project Kingston Africa, London June 2009

2008 - Curators meeting in Maputo, Mozambique (Participated as an artist)

2005 – Attended Sustainable art spaces, in Beirut, Lebanon - a workshop looking into the factors that influence sustainability of art spaces for funded projects and how to keep them reinventing their validity

Given talks on art and photography in

- Strathmore University – Nairobi, Kenya
- Iwalewa Haus, Bayreuth University – Bayreuth, Germany
- Kingston University – London, UK

CURATORIAL ENGAGEMENTS

Curating and exhibition development undertaken.

- **Documenting Living Heritage : 12 Photographers In Kenya – UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.** 16th – 29th May 2011- a re-installation of the exhibition first shown in Nairobi. Also involved production of the exhibition catalogue.

- **Documenting Living Heritage : 12 Photographers In Kenya – KICC, Nairobi.** Partnered with Dr. Alan Govenar on a **UNESCO/Japanese Funds in Trust cooperation project** *Documenting Intangible Cultural Heritage in Kenya,* October 2010. This exhibition was an outcome of a three-week capacity building workshop on photographic documentation.

- ***sustain-ability***, Alliance Française, Nairobi – from June 2010. A photographic installation of works by 12 photographers from Nairobi, tackling the issue of sustainable futures. It was a culmination of discussions, talks and videos on various issues around earth's future and diminishing resources. The exhibition also travelled to RaMoMA – Museum of Modern Art, Nairobi.

- **Permiso:Excuse me**, a solo exhibition by artist Miriam Syowia Kyambi, **National Museums of Kenya** in conjunction with the Mexican Embassy in Nairobi – from February 2010. This exhibition featured works of an artist who spent a two-month art residency and research in Mexico City and Oaxaca during July and August 2009.

- ***Heroes of AMREF*** - curated and managed the **international** exhibition for Africa Medical Research Foundation (AMREF) in commemoration of its 50th anniversary in 2007. This included selection and design of a photographic exhibition in various centres across Nairobi. The exhibition was also duplicated in other countries.

2002 – 2010 – **RaMoMA - Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Art** - began as a designer and subsequently assumed roles of gallery manager and curator of exhibitions.

- Floor design and layout of exhibitions within RaMoMA's galleries and affiliated projects
- Production of the quarterly Magazine ***Msanii***, published by RaMoMA.
- Production of promotional material for all the exhibitions undertaken by the museum and other affiliated projects.
- Administration and management of the galleries.

As a member of **3collect,** co-curated

- **05-30.05, 2012 - In Memoriam – Goethe institute, Nairobi.** An exhibition that revisits artist Mbuthia Maina's past works, providing new insight and depth. It offers a glimpse of a perceptive artist who highlights memories of life-changing encounters. The exhibition draws from early monumental works among them *Liverpool Monument*, Basement VII Residency 2001 and *Homing***,** an installation created at Cyfuniad artists' workshop in Wales. Also included are works in progress such as *Lois in Motion***,** a series of memorial exhibitions initiated in 2004.
- **07-31.08, 2010 - Constructions** - **Kuona Visual Art Centre** – an exhibition that exposed the process of creativity, exploring the artist's concepts and processes including collaboration. It explored the notion that process is not often discussed or emphasised despite being an

integral component to a society's cultural fabric. It emphasised that processes are fundamental to development, creativity being a key component to collective existence. The exhibition included a dancer, animator and a street side painter.

- **20.11-09.12, 2010 - Rear View, Goethe Institut**, Nairobi – a solo exhibition for the art photographer James Muriuki. This was an exhibition reviewing Muriuki's past photography practice and works that he has exhibited in various venues around the world.

Other roles
Ambassador, Creative Africa Network

Founder Member, **3Collect** – a three-artist collective focused on curatorial practice and art education

Founder trustee of the documentary group **Afrishot 21,** a collective of documentary photographers established to document the changing faces of Africa in the 21st century.

A member of **Photo Media Institute of East Africa** (PMI), an institute aiming to promote, develop and enhance social development thorough photojournalism, photography and the media in order to strengthen cultural, social, educational and developmental values.

Personal Information
Nationality Kenyan

Education
University of Nairobi 1998 – 2001
B.A – Design
Institute for the Management of Information Systems (IMIS) – U K 1996 – 1998
Diploma & Higher Diploma in Managing Information Systems

James N Muriuki
January 2012.