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“
The concept of culture is not well defined, and probably it's all right. There are “umbrella” concepts that embrace many interrelated notions, and this relative laxity allows on the one hand to explore the edges of the concept, trying to find new possibilities of understanding the reality that surrounds us, and on the other hand to keep track of what the others before us or away from us have discovered in their explorations.

— **Roberto Casati**

from *The culture and its value – The culture in transformation*, edited by [cheFare](#).

Published by Minimum Fax



The 2016 was an emblematic year for *lettera27*: its 10th anniversary, first of all. 2006–2016, 10 years of explorations, trials, failures, as well as resounding satisfactions and epic challenges. I don't use the superlative by chance. In each adventure, in our case culture and knowledge — related, there are extraordinary moments — for better or for worse. From my personal point of view, you don't have to be a superhero to do something epic. On the contrary, mere mortals often do impossible things without knowing it. Alice in wonderland suggests us to believe in 6 impos-

sible things before breakfast... and I think that the emphasis should go to the word “believe”. If I believe something is possible, there is a good probability that it will become possible... As with the crowdfunding campaign that allowed us to take AtWork

to Addis Ababa. In this case an entire community believed in it. Each one donated its own piece of the puzzle: artists, curators, friends, the audience of our events, the readers of our *Why Africa?* column on Doppiozero.com, our historical partners from Africa and around the world. As well as common people, but brave and resolute, that strive for a different education

for their children: something that can engage, motivate, encourage them with passion. Because the leitmotiv of our work is the access to knowledge and the sharing of this knowledge. The way we choose to do it: the approach, the attention, the awareness. For this reason we have designed and implemented an educational format. Simple guidelines, user friendly, open source (CC BY-SA). A tool box at hand, to be integrated, adapted or transgressed depending on the case.

With each chapter the format is enriched, taking new shapes according to the leader and to who adopts it and implements it. In 2016 a new *lettera27* website was born as well as a new online catalogue that displays the notebooks' collection. By now it has reached more than 1000 notebooks and it's an extraordinary asset, eclectic and multifaceted.

We are really grateful for this heritage at each step of our work, widespread and constant.

Moreover, the project Sustain-Ability is on its way to the conclusion. Still at an experimental phase of discussion and analysis. In the nearest future we will know if this is a useful tool, if and how we have to modify it and if we will find new allies in this research. Sometimes it seems aleatory and elusive, and other times it is certainly concrete, tangible. As to us, we keep blazing the trail, towards new possible horizons.

During 2016 we have also strengthened and consolidated our relationship with our historical partner Moleskine spa. During the acquisition process the new owners of Moleskine, D'Ieteren Group, wanted to underline the importance of their social commitment with the extraordinary donation to *lettera27* that opens new scenarios of collaboration and synergies.

Tania Silvia Giancesin
 President



lettera27

“

The right to education, free access to information, and sharing of knowledge should be some of the fundamental and undeniable principles for planetary citizenship.

—

lettera27

”

Our mission

lettera27 is a non-profit foundation born in July 2006. The foundation's mission is to support the right to literacy and education, and promote access to knowledge across the world, with a specific focus on the African continent.

To this end, *lettera27* raises funds to support education and research projects that rely on locally based resources and organisations. This co-funding is intended to strengthen such resources and support its agents acknowledging diverse value systems, and triggering an interactive dialogue with cultural and social actors. Integral to our mission and methodology is the search for projects that are in line with these prerequisites. The foundation researches, documents and divulges information related to advocating for the right to literacy and improved access to knowledge. Accordingly, *lettera27* provides the tools necessary to produce ad hoc studies that can encourage an informed open debate, in particular on topics related to stereotypes and African common places, as well as migration.

Our three main areas of intervention are:

- ART AND CULTURE FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION
- INNOVATIVE EDUCATION
- SUSTAINABLE CULTURE

The simplicity of intent coupled with the complexity of thought and design are, in brief, the spirit and the style of Foundation *lettera27*.

In the process of developing and carrying out our work, we collaborate with other institutions, organizations, and individuals who are pursuing compatible goals.

Initiatives in 2016

2016 has been the year of innovation

A new *lettera27* website, the work that we have defined as “monumental”, as it gathers 10 years of the foundation’s history. A new AtWork on-line platform that tells the story of all the AtWork chapters through words, images, videos and notebooks. A new on-line catalogue that gathers today more than a thousand artist notebooks.

AtWork has been implemented in 6 different contexts and cities: Modena, Basel, Dakar, Athens, Milan and Addis Ababa, during which more than 80 participants could experience the format through the creative process that stimulates critical thinking and debate on the suggested topics. New 80 notebooks have been created and donated to the foundation to become part of the artist notebooks’ collection. More than 40 notebooks have been exhibited in Cairo, Dak’Art Biennale, Art Basel, Addis Foto Fest in Addis Ababa. Other highlights:

- the exponential growth of Why Afirca? Column curated by *lettera27* on Doppiozero.com. In 2016 19 contributions were published, both by renowned and emerging authors of the cultural and artistic scene of the African Continent
- the contributions to 5 cultural organizations through the OSF fund managed by *lettera27*
- realization of the first prototype of Balanced Score Card for culture within the frame of the Sustain-Ability project, co-financed by Fondazione Cariplo
- realization of the TANDEM Europe project in Athens that will conclude with a symposium in 2017
- realization of the AtWork Corporate pilot workshop in collaboration with Leo Burnett Milan.

Strategic Plan

The 2014-2016 Strategic Plan of *lettera27* seeks to integrate our programme goals, policies and actions, rendering them coherent and translating them into specified objectives. In particular, the Plan facilitates the decision taking process, allowing for the best use of the Foundation’s resources, in line with its efficiency standards and integrity. This means on the one hand, placing more emphasis on increased efficiency through implementation of programmes, while on the other hand increased efficiency of the internal use of resources. In order to better define the market and product, the Deming method (a PDCA - Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle) has been selected as an approach.

The Strategic Plan entails **4 KEY ELEMENTS**:



USE OF OUTSOURCING – externalising resources in order to increase efficiency of actions while reducing operational cost.



PARTNERSHIP – having networks, partners and co-creation as a basis of all activities.



IMPROVING ACCOUNTANCY – through monitoring and evaluation, continuous collection of data and opinions regarding programmes and initiatives of the Foundation.



DEVELOPING ANALYSIS – through both activation of ad hoc instruments and application of internal methodologies for work.

2

Initiatives

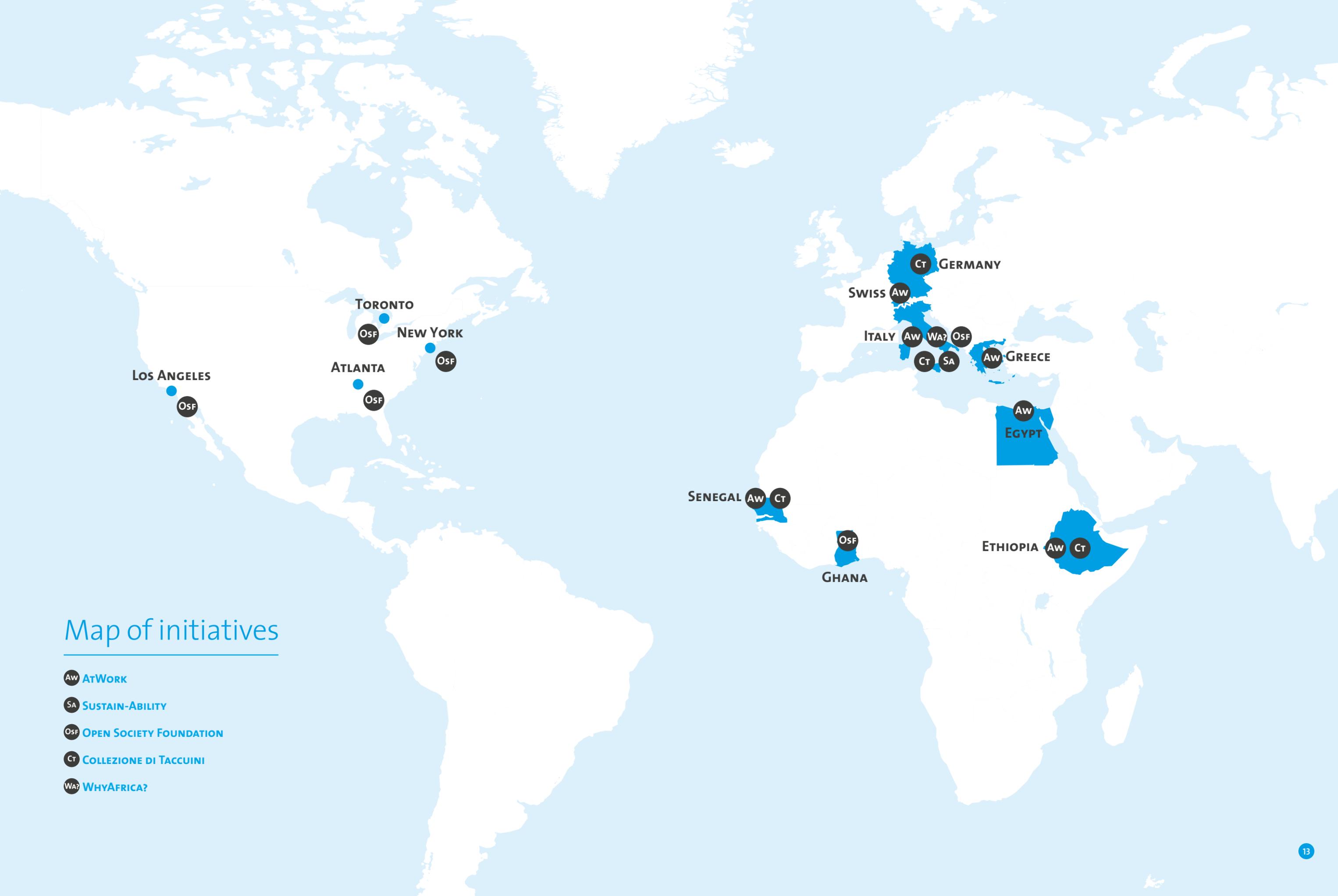
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*The simplicity
of intent coupled with
the complexity of thought
and design are, in brief,
our spirit and our style.*

—
lettera27

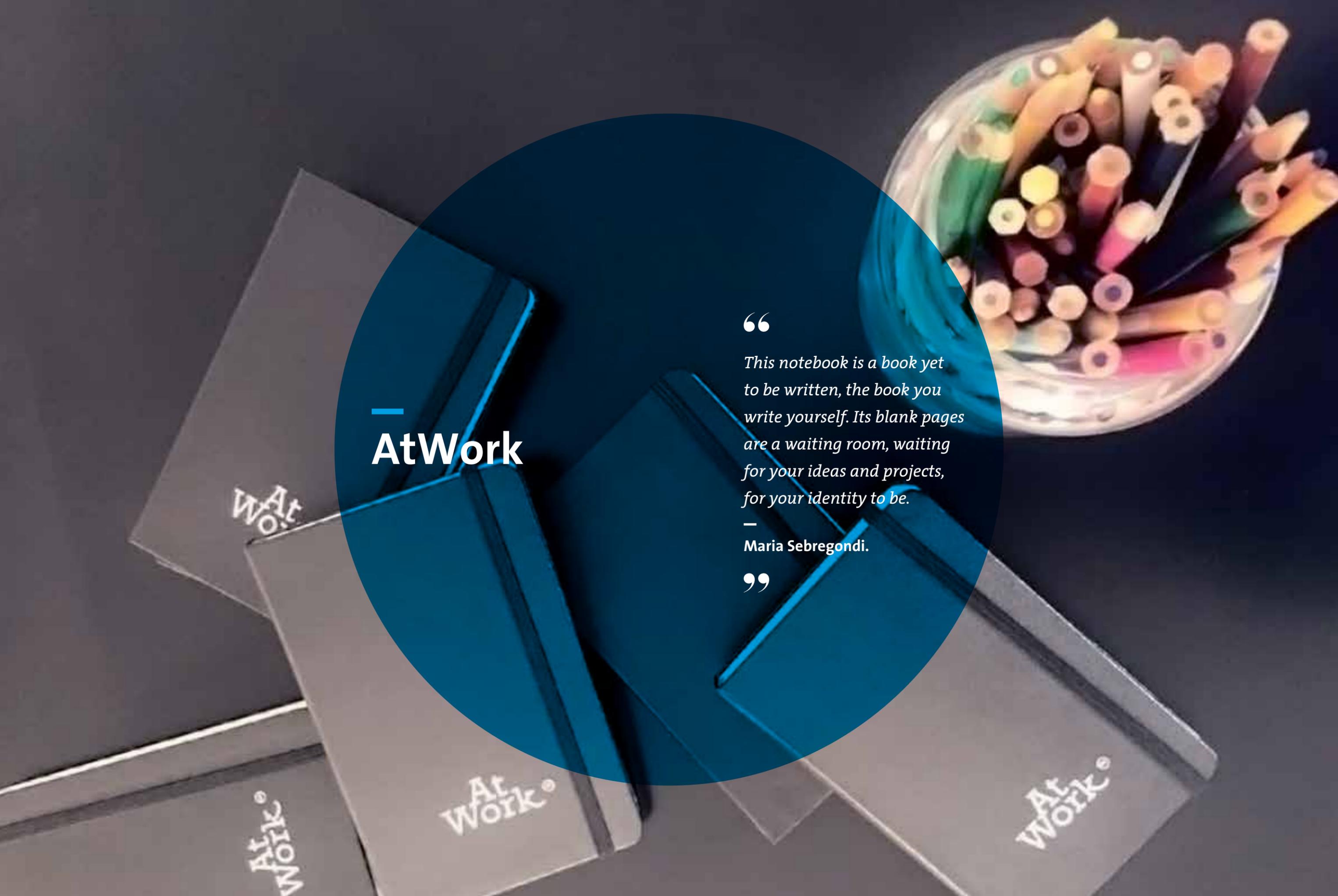
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3



Map of initiatives

- AW** AtWork
- SA** SUSTAIN-ABILITY
- OSF** OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION
- CT** COLLEZIONE DI TACCUINI
- WA?** WHYAFRICA?



AtWork

“

This notebook is a book yet to be written, the book you write yourself. Its blank pages are a waiting room, waiting for your ideas and projects, for your identity to be.

—

Maria Sebregondi.

”

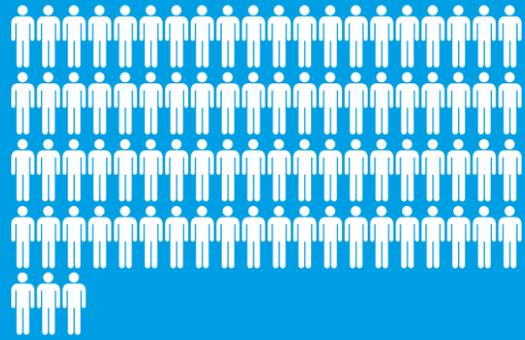
OBJECTIVE

To stimulate critical debate, empathy and creativity through the use of art as educational tool and the creative process.

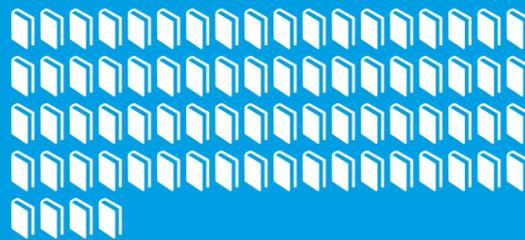
RESULTS

80 young creative talents went through AtWork experience and joined the AtWork global community online on FB and on at-work.org platform.

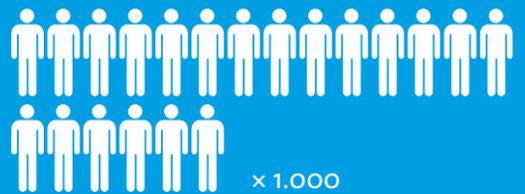
FACTS



83 participants



75 notebooks created



2,000 c.a. of visitors attending AtWork exhibitions

26,717 €
Programme value

What is AtWork

AtWork is an itinerant educational format, conceived by *lettera27* and Simon Njami, that uses the creative process to stimulate critical thinking and debate among the participants. It contributes to build a new generation of thinkers. The key element of AtWork is a workshop conducted by an artist or a curator on the chosen topic. The topic stimulates the collective discussion and a personal self-reflection on issues such as identity, culture, community, etc. As a final output of the workshop each student produces a personalised notebook, which fixes the process of self-reflection triggered by the workshop. Each notebook takes on its own character and is the reflection of a thought at work. The produced notebooks are exhibited in an art show, co-curated by the students themselves. All the workshop participants become part of the AtWork Community, a group of international artists, students, curators, cultural organisations, intellectuals, who believe that art can be a tool for social transformation.

lettera27's role

- **FORMAT PROVISION** – delivery of guidelines, good practices and methodology to the partner organisations
- **FORMAT IMPLEMENTATION** – direct, on-site facilitation.
- **COMMUNICATIONS** – sharing and promoting AtWork events through *lettera27's* channels of communication, building cross-border AtWork community.
- **RESOURCES MOBILISATION** – in-kind contribution (human resources) and notebooks donation.

What we have done in 2016



In 2016 we have added 4 new AtWork experiences to our map in 3 different countries: Modena and Milan – Italy, Athens – Greece, Addis Ababa – Ethiopia.

These experiences have been accompanied by new exhibitions, such as the one in Cairo at Darb 1718, in Basel during Art Basel, in Dakar in the frame of Afropixel festival as part of Dak'Art Biennale 2016 at the public library of Sicap Liberté II, all featured on at-work.org on-line platform. Each workshop was conducted by a single artist or an artist collective, all of whom were full of stimuli and original thinking, charged with the innovative approach to the topics and discussions.

Various themes and experiences that embrace the complexity and richness of each initiative and of the context where they take place. New opportunities to implement the format and test its efficiency from various points of view: educational, cognitive, personal and social. We have also developed a new video format that allows the local partners to produce the quality videos on the AtWork experience in a replicable and sustainable manner. The AtWork international community, launched as a Facebook group for the Kampala workshop in 2015 has grown exponentially also throughout the 2016, welcoming new active members from all the various AtWork experiences we held, reaching more than 500 members in total.



AtWork Chapter: Modena (Italy) – Heterochrony

“During the workshop all of us, the photography and videoart students, were constantly put against the wall, forced to question all our certainties and principles, goals and big loves. Urged to look deeply inside ourselves, with and without photo and video cameras, and to do what we are rarely willing to do anymore: to consider the things from other perspectives.”

— Sara Vighi, AtWork Modena participant

For the first time the AtWork workshop dealt entirely with the photographic image, involving the aspiring photographers, videoartists and curators. The workshop, full of stimuli and inspirations, engaged the students in a “critique session” of their own productions and concluded with the inauguration of the personal show of the photographer **Santu Mofokeng**, the winner of the **International Prize for Photography 2016**.

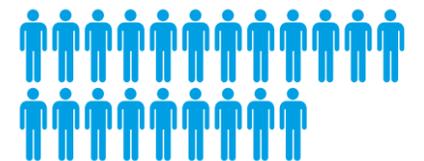
AtWork Modena workshop was implemented in partnership with **Fondazione Fotografia Modena** and involved 21 students from the first and second year of the Master in Advanced Training in Contemporary Imagery and the Curating Course students, as well as an aspiring photographer Mohamed Keita from Ivory Coast, who was invited as a guest. For this new AtWork chapter Simon Njami has chosen as main theme “Heterochrony”, or breaking the real time continuum, introducing the multiple space-time dimension through which to reconsider the artistic practice and the art fruition.

MAIN FACTS

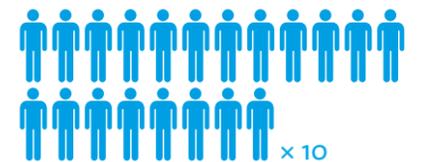
WHERE



FACTS



21 workshop participants



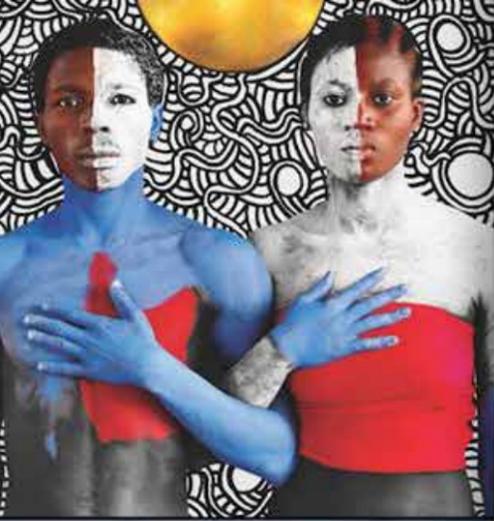
200 exhibition visitors



21 notebooks produced

PARTNER

[Fondazione Fotografia Modena](#)



**We are
At
Work[®]**



©EliseFitteDuval

OBJECTIVE

To run a crowdfunding campaign to fund AtWork Chapter 06 in Addis Ababa with a financial goal of 15.000 Euros.

RESULTS

Campaign launched on April 27th. Concluded on June 28th. Goal reached and surpassed.

FACTS



3 events realized: Art Basel/Basel, Afropixel/Dak'Art/Dakar, Appartamento LAGO, Milan



Crowdfunding campaign on Kickstarter

"It's important to create that new generation that will build the future we are all longing for. Now is the time for the new revolution in Africa. And the only weapon for this revolution is the brains we have, our ability of thinking."
— Simon Njami

April 27th, invited by **Art Basel for Non-Profit Visual Arts Organizations**, *lettera27* Foundation launched its first crowdfunding campaign on Kickstarter to implement the sixth chapter of AtWork in Addis Ababa. Addis Ababa was the sixth leg of an extraordinary four-year journey across Africa, with plans to systematically increase the interconnectivity between education, the arts and culture over the next few years on the horizon. An unshakable belief fuelled the journey: that change can be available to everyone, as long as everyone is given free access to the necessary tools for exercising their creativity. We were delighted that first to support our project were our friends at ArtBasel, hosting us on their Kickstarter profile, one of the largest and most important crowdfunding platforms for art and culture. Among the many rewards of the campaign, of particular note are a number of exclusive artworks eagerly and generously donated by prestigious artists including Erminia De Luca, Maurice Pefura, Luca Vitone, Giorgio Vigna and Enzo Umbaca. The campaign lasted nearly 2 months, from April 27th to June 28th. We have organized 3 events: 2 for the launch of the campaign, 1 at the end: Afropixel#5 on the occasion of Dak'Art Biennial in Dakar; Art Basel-Basel edition, *Appartamento LAGO* Brera, in Milan.



2 videos produced: the official campaign video and Afropixel TV video



Initial Goal: **15,000 €**
Goal Reached: **19,108 €**

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERS PRO-BONO
[Art Basel](#)
[FineMart](#)
[Indiana Production](#)
[Appartamento LAGO Brera](#)

Afropixel#5

On May 5, on the occasion of the **AfroPixel#5** Festival organized as part of the 2016 Dak'Art Biennale, AtWork was in Dakar, together with **Kër Thiossane**, to present the exhibition of Moleskine notebooks created in four years of AtWork by young creative individuals and artists who participated in the Dakar, Abidjan, Kampala and Cairo workshops. The exhibition, curated by Katrin Peters-Klaphake, was held at the renovated public library of Sicap Liberté II, Dakar.

Art Basel – crowdfunding booth

On June 16th *lettera27* was at the Crowdfunding Booth of the European edition of Art Basel to present AtWork: our educational itinerant format that aims to inspire a new generation of thinkers on the African continent and beyond.

The conversation between the team of Art Basel and Adama Sanneh and Elena Korzhenevich from *lettera27* was upon the AtWork's journey from its birth to today. Together with two special guests: the Egyptian artist Youssef Limoud, who assisted AtWork in Cairo and who won the the Grand Prix Dak'Art Du Chef De L'Etat 2016, and the Italian artist Giorgio Vigna who has supported the #AddisAtWork campaign with a generous donation of his artwork as one of the rewards.

Never Stop Learning – LAGO, Brera

Tuesday and Wednesday 21-22 June. Two days dedicated to art, education ad creativity organised by *lettera27* on the occasion of the closure of the crowdfunding campaign aimed to fund the next chapter of AtWork Addis Ababa. On 21 June a conversation “Never stop learning” between Maria Sebregondi and Daniele Lago took place.

“The letters of the alphabet, like atoms or bits, like molecules o memes – bricks of the Babel tower where languages meet and come together in search for the twenty seventh letter, the one not yet written, the empty space, the window to the future. On its windowsill an open notebook: its blank pages to be covered with experiences of AtWork protagonists...”
An incipit by Maria Sebregondi.

The conversation was focused on sharing and analysing experiences which are dedicated to the creativity of the young artists, with AtWork being the main example. We live in a world in which fragmentation of competences and relations is also causing fragmentation of the outlook. That's where the role of the artist might once again become key. Therefore, nourishing creativity, stimulating it, providing it with space for growth, constitutes a necessary act in preparation for this change.

The exhibition of the selected notebooks from *lettera27*'s art collection accompanied the conversation and remained opened to public on June 22d.



AtWork Lab Athens – Openground – Heatwave

“Absorbing from other people’s creativity to manifest raw thoughts on a shared theme, at the same time and place, can be a very affective experience of the unconscious.”

— Iasonas Kampanis, artista

OpenGround, a workshop for young artists and curators realized as part of Tandem Europe 2014-17 program, was born out of the idea to create a replicable educational model for the professional development of artists and curators. For 5 days, a team of professionals led 21 participants from Cipro, Greece, Italy, Swizerland, England and Netherlands through a creative and innovative process made up of various appointments. Among these, two full days have been dedicated to AtWork Lab.

Led by an artistic collective from Athens 3 137, AtWork Lab Athens has tackled the theme of “Heatwave” as both concrete and metaphysical experience. Greece is a country known for its extremely high temperatures and scorching summers. But what happens when the heatwave is present? Is heatwave a worldwide situation? What are the consequences of the heat that is out of control? The heat in a city like Athens, becomes therefore a metaphor through which to explore Greece in many different ways. The workshop focused on discussing, sharing and further elaborating our individual and common ideas while using the material boundaries of the notebook as an everyday instrument of keeping thoughts and ideas.

MAIN FACTS

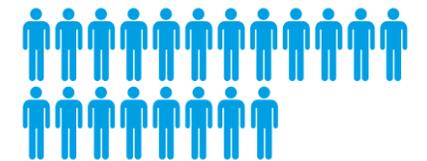
WHERE



WHEN

October 31st – November 5th

FACTS



21 participants



300 exhibition visitors



21 Notebooks produced

PARTNERS

State of Concept,

3137



AtWork Lab Milano – The Group Show

“Concept vs slogan, I tried to give a visual definition to those ideas and I realized they are the same. Referring to Bili’s artwork *Ecriture Infinie*, I used my notebook as a support where the concept and the slogan live together, in the same exact form, but in different colors. To my mind, slogan is the punctual action that comes from a process defined by time, concentration, effort, study, repetition, collection, experience. It is clear and decoded summary. Such as handwriting is the concrete form of thoughts and cannot overlook practice. In my opinion, visual art moves the same steps. Letting other people ‘complete’ our notebooks has put all this in a new and undefined prospective.”

— Carlotta Boattini, AtWork participant

Two new AtWork workshops took place in Milan. The first one, on November 24–25th at Frigoriferi Milanesi in collaboration with FARE, and the second one on November 29–30th in collaboration with Leo Burnett agency at Primo Marella Gallery in Milan. Both workshops were conducted by an exceptional artist Bili Bidjocka. Cameroonian by origin and Parisian by choice, Bili is a long-time friend and partner of *lettera27*. An alliance born out of elective affinities through his work of art *Ecriture Infinie*. The inspiration for this “double date” was *Cadavre Exquis*: the collective game by surrealists that gave birth to the idea of infinite writing as a creative form to produce shared meanings as opposed to the individual ones. It is with this spirit that the two workshops titled “Concept vs Slogan. The Group Show. *Ecriture Infinie/Cadavre Exquis*” have put together a group of young creative talents studying various art forms and a group of young advertising professionals. Their experiences took place in two different moments, but were strictly connected.

As a result of the discussion the participants of the first workshop started their artwork on the Moleskine notebooks which were then finished by the participants of the second workshop from Leo Burnett agency.

The two workshops had a double meaning: to implement the AtWork format in Milan, with new partners and to launch AtWork Corporate, which we hope can become a new fundraising model for *lettera27*.

MAIN FACTS

WHERE



WHEN

November 24th and 25th, at FARE, residence for artists

November 29th and 30th at Primo Marella Gallery.

FACTS



13 at the first workshop in collaboration with FARE



10 at the second workshop in collaboration with Leo Burnett



11 Notebooks produced

PARTNERS

FARE, Milano
Leo Burnett Milano, Italia



AtWork Chapter 06: Addis Ababa Ethiopia – What is home?

“Every day we allowed the dialogue on home run through us, affecting each individual’s wish and purpose for their craft, and, for their home... Then began a fluid metamorphosis into how the movement of people in and out of their loves mold our physical and emotional homes; how geopolitics, religion and socioeconomics are both real and surreal homes.”

— Hanna Minaye, AtWork Addis Ababa participant

Focusing on the theme “What is home?,” this new AtWork experience was brought to life by 21 architecture, photography and visual arts students. The workshop has been conducted by Simon Njami. Addis Ababa is the sixth chapter of an extraordinary Pan-African journey started four years ago, which will hopefully be enriched with many other chapters. The main purpose of this network of participatory workshops is to support education, art and culture, promoting new forms of access to knowledge. The meeting point between the workshop and the Festival has been an “AtWork Public Lecture” held by Simon Njami and Elena Korzhenevich on December 16 at the Italian Cultural Institute of Addis Ababa. On December 17, the notebooks created during the workshop were exhibited at the DinQ Art Gallery, in the context of Addis Foto Fest, which this year involved 132 international photographers from more than 40 countries. This exhibition was an opportunity to bring the debates and themes of AtWork to the Festival’s international audience. We believe that bringing AtWork in such complex context as today’s Ethiopia is an integral part of our constant commitment to art and culture as vehicles for social change.

MAIN FACTS

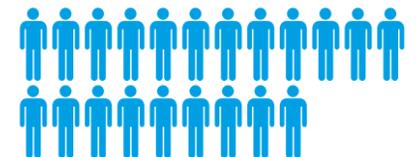
WHERE



WHEN

December 9-18, 2016

FACTS



21 participants



21 notebooks produced



132 international photographers from more than 40 countries participating at Addis Foto Fest



Audience: more than 500 people

PARTNERS

[Desta – Addis Foto Fest](#)
[Istituto Italiano di Cultura](#)
[Ambasciata Italiana di Addis Abeba](#)
[DinQ Art Gallery](#)

Sustain-Ability

“

What does sustainability mean for you?

It's difficult to define precisely a concept that represents a process in itself, a tension towards a permanent objective. Our approach does not foresee finding a solution to the generation of the sustainability for the cultural organizations, but starting a process of self-analysis, which can help to move forward and explore in-depth in order to find the answers that are born out of the contextual necessities.

The sustainability is the process that adapts to the organization itself.

—
from the interview by **Neve Mazzoleni** with *lettera27* and Kwantis for the Giornale delle Fondazioni

”

OBJECTIVE

To render *lettera27* sustainable by increasing the scope of its economic resources and improving its organisational performance.

RESULTS

Comprehensive performance monitoring and evaluation tool (Balanced Scorecard) has been developed and put in practice.

FACTS



Balanced Scorecard with 35 Key Performance Indicators developed



Final plan edited

235,504.25 €

Annual budget

What is Sustain-Ability

Sustain-Ability is a three-year project, which aims to strengthen organisational capacity of *lettera27*. In collaboration with project partners (Kwantis - a consultancy specialised in performance optimisation and Doppiozero - web magazine focused on culture), *lettera27* is conducting a complex analysis of the internal working processes, including strategic management, communications and fundraising practices, and developing toolkits necessary for improvement of our performance. The project is co-funded by Fondazione Cariplo.

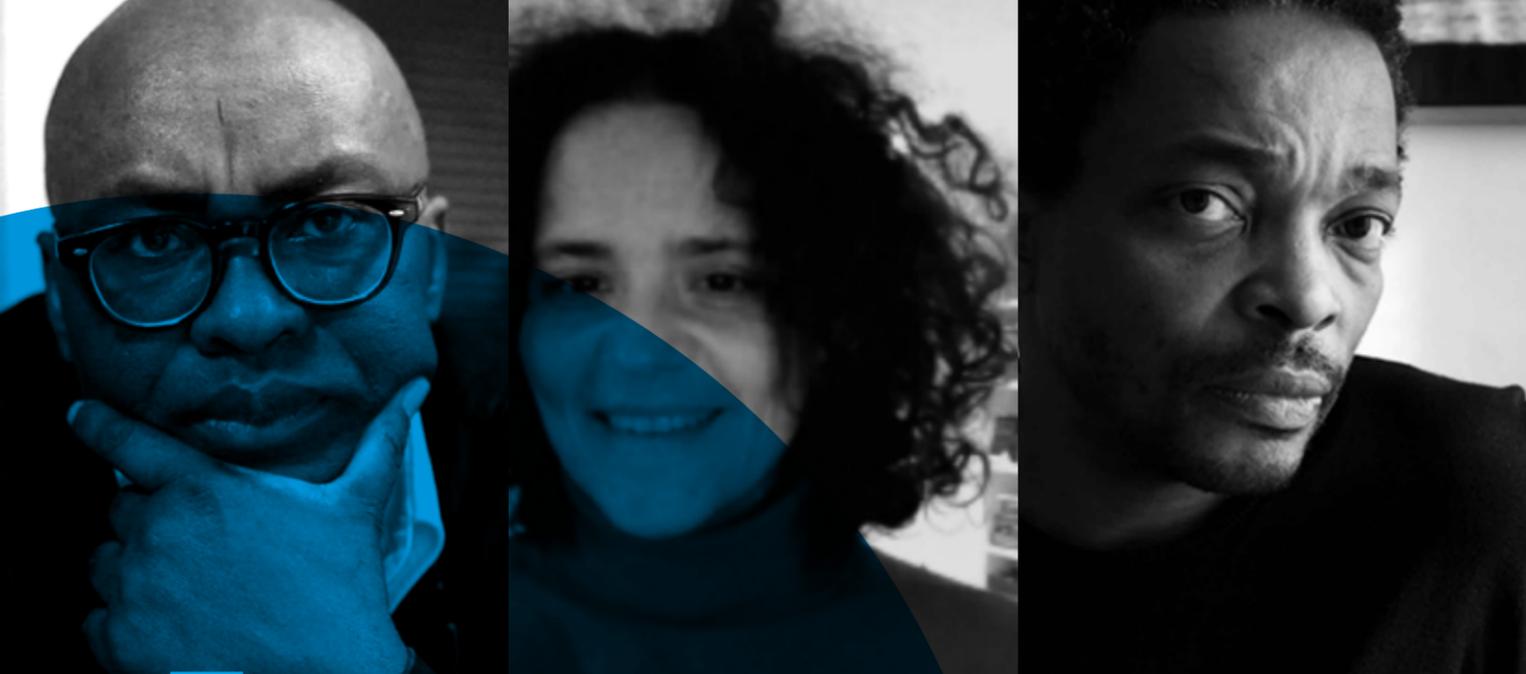
Lettera27's role

- **PROJECT COORDINATION** – leading the implementation of project activities in collaboration with project partners
- **COMMUNICATION** – promoting the project toolkit and guidelines through *lettera27*'s channels of communication
- **FUNDING SUPPORT** – covering 60% of the project cost.

What we have done in 2016

It has been an intense year for the Sustain-Ability project, as we have been developing and testing our performance monitoring and evaluation tool – the Balanced Scorecard for Culture (BSCC). 3 case studies have been produced and published online: ATIR-Teatro Ringhiera, Connecting Culture, WikiMedia Italia. Published under the Creative Commons license, the documents are free for download, broad use and sharing.

Some 35 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been identified and organised into 11 organisational performance areas, such as Management, Communication, Administration, Finance, Fundraising, R&D etc. A pilot in-house evaluation test has been conducted and based on this, a comprehensive Performance Monitoring Plan, including timeline starting from 2011 and lessons learnt, has been developed.



Why Africa?

“
*I can suggest that Africa is a shadow.
An invention that we invest with our
emotions, ideas and preconceptions.*

—
Simon Njami

”



What is Why Africa?

Launched in October 2014, Why Africa? is an editorial column curated by *lettera27* and hosted by our media partner *doppiozero.com*. The column is dedicated to exploring various issues and debates around the African continent. It is a stage for the cultural protagonists to express their opinions, tell their stories, stimulate critical debate and subvert multiple stereotypes surrounding the topic.

lettera27's role

- **CURATORIAL WORK** – curating the column contents and work in collaboration with Doppiozero editor-in-chief to determine the editorial guidelines.

What we have done in 2016

From January to December 2016 *Why Africa?* column has hosted 19 pieces dedicated to African art and culture. Among the authors Achille Mbembe, philosopher and one of the most prominent theorists of post-colonialism, Cristina Ali Farah, Italian writer of Somali origins, as well as Simon Njami, curator, critic and writer, *lettera27* advisor and the column's faithful contributor. Among others, Awam Amkpa with a piece on the decorative arts and African identity, Silvia Mazzuccheli with the review of Santu Mofokeng's exhibition in Modena, Marco Maggi on the contemporary photography in Benin, Camilla Hawthorn with pieces on the postcolonial heritage and an interview with Fred Kuwornu, the director of *Blaxploitalian*; a conversation between *lettera27* and Mugendi K. M'Rithaa of Indaaba Design, a continuous collaboration with Another Africa on the series by Houghton Kinsman *Tracing Emerging Contemporary Art Practice* in Ghana and on the new series *Invisible Voices of Women*. A new partnership with Art Africa was also born that will fully unfold in 2017.

The general impact of the column has substantially grown in 2016. With 11.000 unique visitors and more than 4000 likes, *Why Africa?* is becoming an important point of reference for the communities that deal with art and culture on and around the African continent. For *lettera27* the column is also important in order to consolidate its partners' network, such as Another Africa, Art Africa, Contemporary&, 1:54, Art Basel as well as the AtWork format participant that contribute to the column.

OBJECTIVE

To create a virtual laboratory where the potential impact of channeling *lettera27's* contents on an external platform can be studied and evaluated.

RESULTS

Strengthened dialogue with cultural protagonists and opinion leaders focused on Africa.

FACTS



14 contributors activated



19 bi-lingual articles
(English/Italian) released between
January and December 2016



11.000 unique visitors
between January and December
2016



4.000 likes

The value of the project is intrinsic with the value of content. Contributors provide their input on a voluntary basis, in line with nature of *doppiozero.com*. The total cost of translation per year: €3.000.

PARTNERS

Doppiozero,
Another Africa,
Art Africa,
Contemporary And

Partnership with Open Society Foundations (OSF)

“

Artistic and cultural initiatives can be pivotal in bringing societal transformations and facilitating process of intercultural exchange. Art and cultural projects have the capacity to build a new language, to connect with audience in profound way, to envision that change that is yet to come.

”

VA' PENSIERO

STORIE AMBULANTI

un film di
Dagmawi Yimer

OBJECTIVE

To support art and culture initiatives related to migration and integration in Italy.

RESULTS

Increased intercultural exchange, critical debate and sensitisation. Cross-pollination of artistic, cultural and educational initiatives related to migrants, asylum seekers, ethnic minorities and new citizens living in Italy.

FACTS



5 organizations selected



5 projects implemented



2 docufilms produced



More than 30 educational activities implemented by the sub-grantees in collaboration with various educational and cultural experts.

69,037.82 €

Budget

PARTNER

OSF – Open Society Foundations

Partnership with Open Society Foundations (OSF)

The partnership agreement is a fruit of a long-term collaboration between OSF and *lettera27*, who have collaborated for the last 4 years within the Lampedusa Film Festival (2012), AMM docu-film productions, Benvenuti in Italia; Premio Mutti in Bologna and Venice venues (2014-2015). Shared vision, mission values, goals, tone of voice and in general a very compatible strategic approach. Our shared experience can bring an added value in the identification and the selection of initiative to support, able to inspire and activate a systemic change in the Italian society.

lettera27's role

- **RESOURCE ALLOCATION** – co-participation with OSF on identification of grantees and managing the selection process
- **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** – overseeing the grant implementation by the partners and accounting for the expenditures
- **COMMUNICATION** – leveraging visibility of the projects funded.

What we have done in 2016

“The Italian society only recently has started to experience demographic, social and cultural transformation. Beside new policies and laws, Italy needs a cultural shift. In this context art and culture can play a crucial role in facilitating this passage.”

— Partnership Agreement, *lettera27* e OSF

In 2016 *lettera27* has supported the projects previously selected in 2015, sharing point of view and information on communication, managing the intermediate and final reports, reflecting together on future plans of each candidate.

AMM — Educational

Some 14 educational activities around the topic of migration and eradication of racial discrimination have been conducted by AMM. Educational days, workshops, panel discussions, film screenings etc. have been conducted in 8 locations across Italy (Turin, Rome, Florence, Padova,



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN

BLAXPLOITALIAN

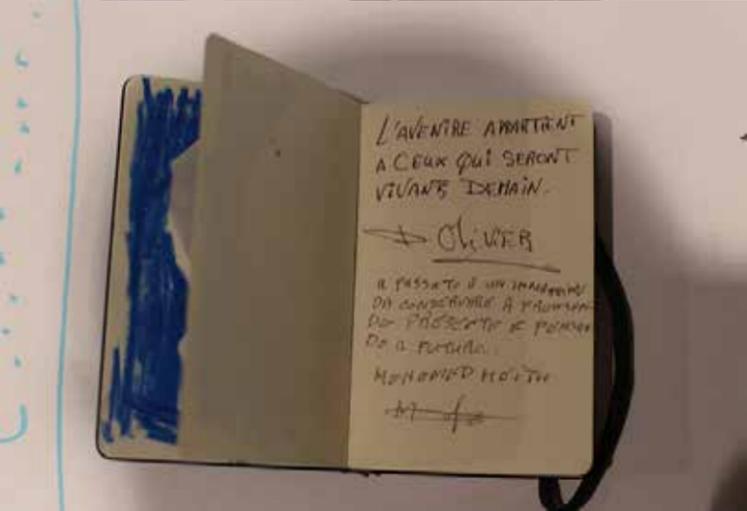
100 YEARS OF BLACKNESS IN ITALIAN CINEMA

FILM SCREENING AND Q&A
WITH FILMMAKER-ACTIVIST FRED KUWORNU
FOLLOWING THE FILM

FILM IS IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES.

UNIVERSITY-IN-MEDIA-MATTERS IS A TRANSNATIONAL DIALOGUE FORMAT LEAD BY FILMMAKER-ACTIVIST FRED KUWORNU. BASED ON THE SCREENING OF HIS DOCUMENTARY 'BLAXPLOITALIAN: 100 YEARS OF BLACKNESS IN ITALIAN CINEMA' (2016), A DIASPORIC, HYBRID, CRITICAL, AND COSMOPOLITAN DIMENSION DOCUMENTARY THAT UNCOVERS THE CAREERS OF A POPULATION OF ENTERTAINERS SELDOM HEARD FROM BEFORE: BLACK ACTORS IN ITALIAN CINEMA. BLAXPLOITALIAN CLEVERLY DISCLOSES THE PERSONAL STRUGGLES CLASSIC AFRO-ITALIAN AND AFRICAN DIASPORIC ACTORS FACED, CORRELATING IT WITH THE CONTEMPORARY ACTORS WHO WORK DILIGENTLY TO FIND RESPECTABLE AND SIGNIFICANT ROLES, MORE THAN AN UNVEILING OF HISTORY, IT IS A CALL-TO-ACTION FOR INCREASED DIVERSITY AND ESTEEM IN INTERNATIONAL CINEMA.

FEBRUARY 9, 2017 AT 7:30PM
Princeton Garden Theatre, 160 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08542



Palermo, Brescia, Napoli, Val d'Orcia). A wide range of local partners were involved in the initiatives, incl. schools, universities, MIUR (Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research), local administration, museums, cultural and educational associations. In addition to public audience, more than 500 students, 30 teachers/educators and 11 schools participated in the migrant story-sharing events across Italy.

AMM — Premio Mutti

A number of networking and advocacy meetings resulted in building new institutional partnerships in support to Premio Mutti (a prize for the best migrant filmmakers based in Italy awarded annually by AMM). AMM has been able to involve new partners (Italian Ministry of Culture, Italian Ministry of Education, Fondazione Pianoterra, Civico Zero, Cinémathèque Royale de Belgique) and increase the funding amount awarded to the winners by €10.000 (thanks to the partnership with Fondazione Pianoterra). New partnerships built within the project enabled AMM to win a MigrArti 2016 call for proposal by MiBACT.

Maxman Coop — Gitanistan

A series of Roma-Italian cultural integration events were organised in Rome, Bari and Lecce by the Maxman Cooperative: music concerts and workshops, cooking show, artistic residences, panel discussions with participation of various cultural experts, storytelling by Anina Ciuciu (a Roma girl who made a journey from the shanty town to Sorbonne University). The events were aimed at sensitizing the Italian communities about the Roma culture, as well as encourage the Roma communities in Italy to come out and share their stories of origin. A special presentation of the documentary took place on 8 April in the Senate of the Republic. This event created an opportunity to strengthen advocacy effort for the Roma communities in Italy at the public administration level.

Fred Kuwornu — “Blaxploitalian”

A documentary aimed at creating a culture of diversity in the media, by the Italo-Ghanaian film maker Fred Kudjo Kuwornu, has completed the editing phase. The film underwent a series of test-screenings at the Africana Literature Association annual conference in Atlanta, Italian

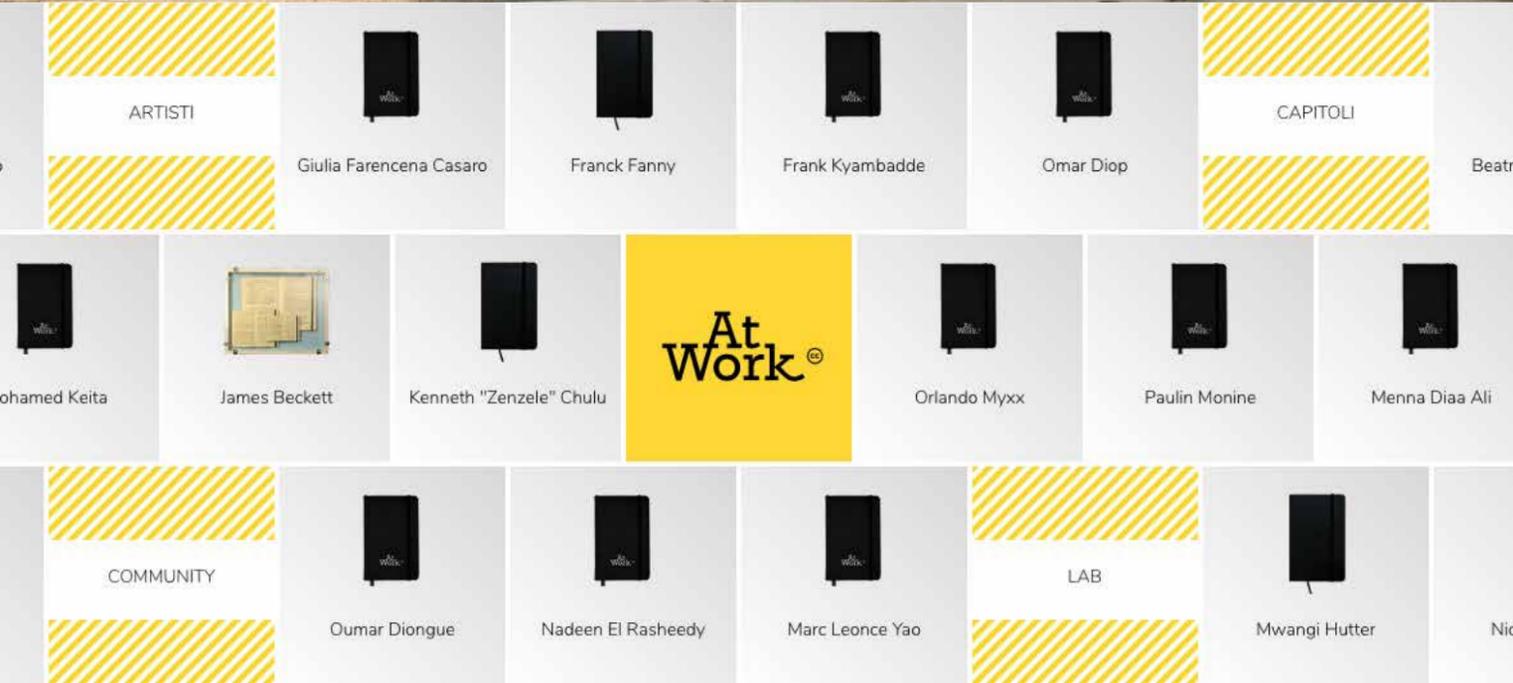
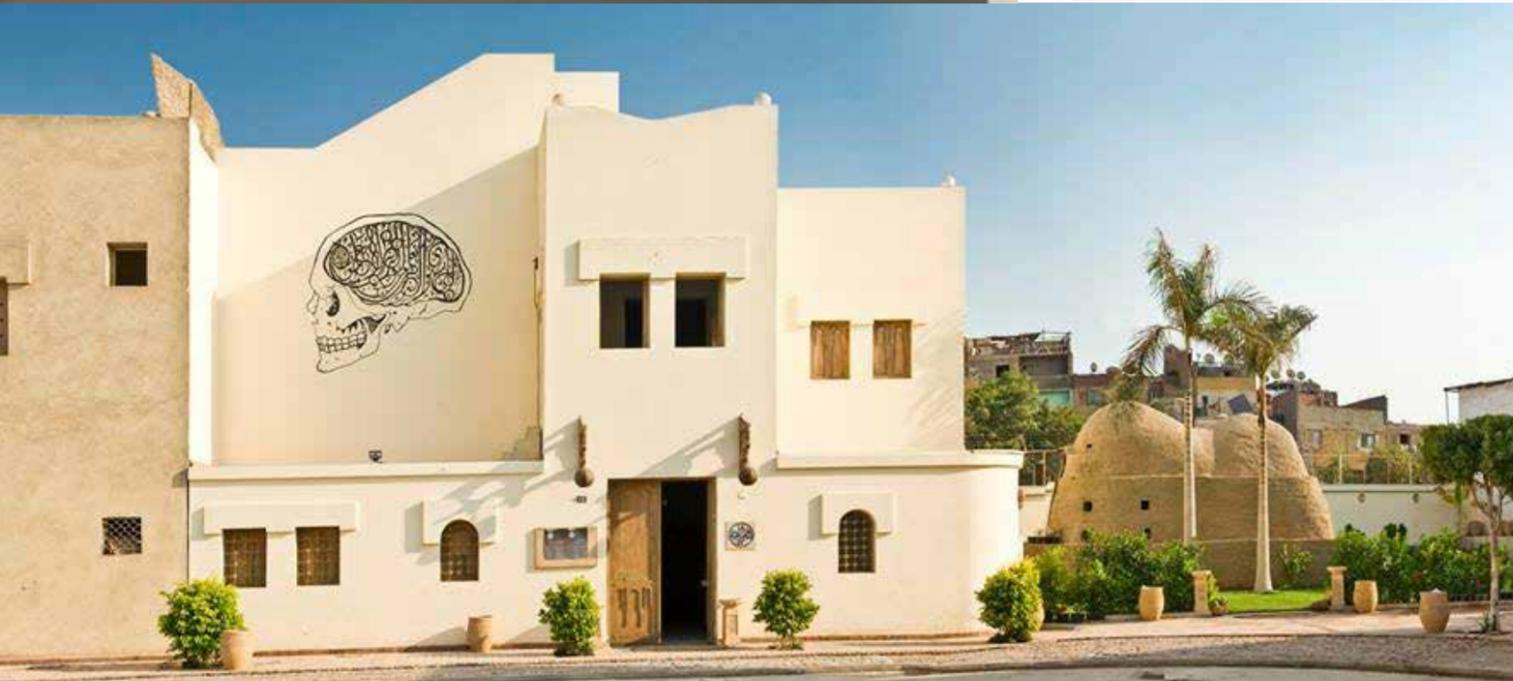
Embassy in Accra (with participation of the University of Ghana, National Film Institute and Webster University), UAL University of the Arts of London and New York University in Florence. The documentary is a great educational tool to serve as a basis for discussion on the role of diversity in the media and can be used for various social campaigns, workshops, educational events, panel discussions etc.

Nation25 — Nationless Pavilion

A series of events “Nationless Pavilion” has been organised by the Nation25 within the 56th Biennale of Venice: a roundtable discussion with participation of the refugees, migrants, artists and humanitarian workers sharing their experiences and borders, identity, belonging and exclusion, Square Tape Action (carving out a square space within each national pavilion at the Biennale to mark the symbolic presence of the refugees within their territories), three workshops for students and professional artists led by Ultra-red (Chris Jones and Elliot Perkins), Emilio Fantin and Denis Maksimov, resulting with a collective installation of a new “social apparatus” - the imaginary Nation25. The workshop led by Emilio Fantin, on the topic “Nomadism of Imagination and Nomadism of Fear”, has been implemented with AtWork format guidelines and tools and has produced one collective artistic notebook and some individual ones.

Elena Perlino — Islam in Italy: a documentary photography project

With an aim to foster mutual knowledge of the Muslim and non-Muslim cultures in Italy, the interim outcome of the photographic project by Elena Perlino includes an important breakthrough in relations with the photographed Muslim communities. Initially prejudiced and ashamed to be photographed, persons involved in the project managed to overcome the barriers and accept the presence of the photographer, which allowed for better and more realistic capturing of their the day-to-day reality and the level of their integration. Research and networking done by the photographer enabled her to get to know better the vibrant Muslim communities and delve into the cultural relations in the family and with Italian peers.



More events and initiatives

AtWork notebooks exhibition Cairo: March 6, 2016

“Something Else” was yet another unique experience. In the current socio-political context of Egypt, where the freedom of expression is being silenced on a daily basis, where censorship rules and where the society wants you to conform, AtWork provided a space where, even if only for the duration of the workshop, the students could be someone else and talk about something else. “Giving me unlimited freedom was AtWork’s strength”, commented Reem Hamed, one of the workshop participants, who is echoed by Heba Amin, the art professor who facilitated the workshop: “Therein lies the power of projects like AtWork which pinpoint the crux of the problem; they quite simply provide a reflective space for critical thinking and experimentation, one that is crucial for those societies which are increasingly being silenced.”

The results of this process were 16 art pieces: Moleskine notebooks personalized by each participant as their reflection on Something Else and their attempts to free their minds. The notebooks have been showcased at Darb 1718 artistic center in Cairo during the exhibition co-curated by the students themselves, opening on March 6th.

AtWork: the new on-line platform launch – March 30, 2016

Four years of AtWork and a new website where you can now access and enjoy new interactive contents. Starting from today you can explore stories, relations, faces, pages, traces, colors, lights and shadows of more than 200 notebooks from the artists and young creative talents collected in 4 years of encounters, international exhibitions, workshops and journeys.

Dakar, Abidjan, Kampala, Cairo, Modena have been the key chapters of this journey that started in 2012 at the intersection of art, creativity, geography and education.

It gave birth to a new world map, where the borders, instead of being the unsurmountable walls, became a space of a special encounter.

Together with Simon Njami, our partner, advisor, prominent curator and an indispensable journey companion, we have started AtWork, moved by the desire to contribute to creating a new generation of pan-African thinkers able to participate actively in building their own present.

We have created the space where a community was born, a community that continues to grow, where the young people from different cultures, together, face their contradictions, challenges, conflicts, posing questions and finding solutions, constantly evolving their attitudes, personalities and artistic practices.

AtWork notebooks exhibition at Fondazione Fotografia Modena: April 14, 2016

From April 14th to 19th Fondazione Fotografia Modena hosted an inspiring exhibition of the notebooks created during AtWork Modena Chapter 05, titled “24 Hours”.

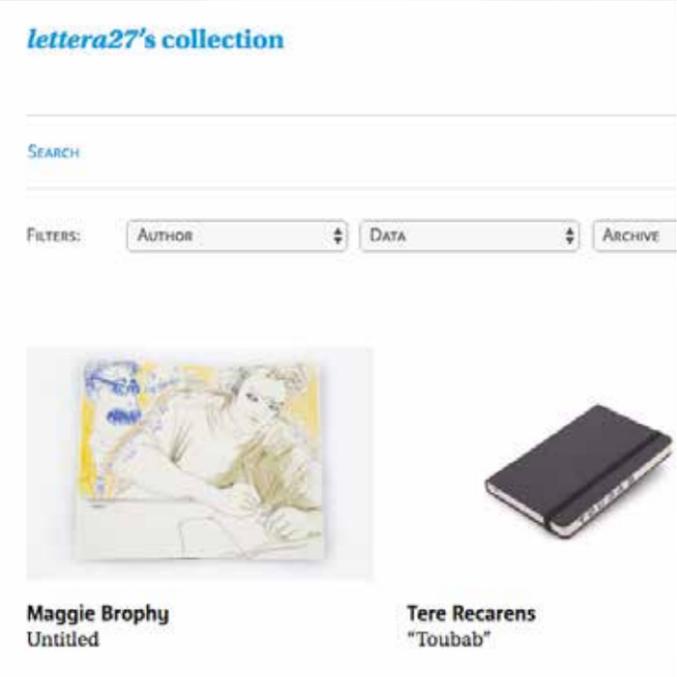
The workshop that was held in March at Fondazione Fotografia Modena and conducted by Simon Njami, our precious partner and advisor, dealt with the function of heterochrony in the image construction.



In order to learn how to be oriented in time and space one has to start by accepting the fragmented state of things. If we abandon the homogenous vision of reality, which forces the differences, the synchronicities, the diachronicities into an unnatural unity, it will be possible to discover the creative value intrinsic to the breaking the time and space continuum, which can be expressed through art.

AtWork notebooks exhibition at the new Moleskine Café in Milan

The first of the series of shows at the café that aims at becoming a hub of creativity, while mixing the elements of art gallery, store and library with a place for encounters and conversations. It will be a new important step of the journey: the Moleskine Café will become a heterochronic space, where the notebooks will offer the fragments of different geographies with no need to travel. The dimension of the international café littéraire in the heart of Milan will allow to showcase the multicultural richness of AtWork, while giving it the necessary time and breathing space to express itself fully, away from the hectic rhythms of our everyday lives. We thought that such a particular context was a perfect space to give visibility to the works of young creative talents that we have encountered during various AtWork workshops implemented during the last years. Each notebook reveals a personal story that was born during the interactions with the other students at the workshops.

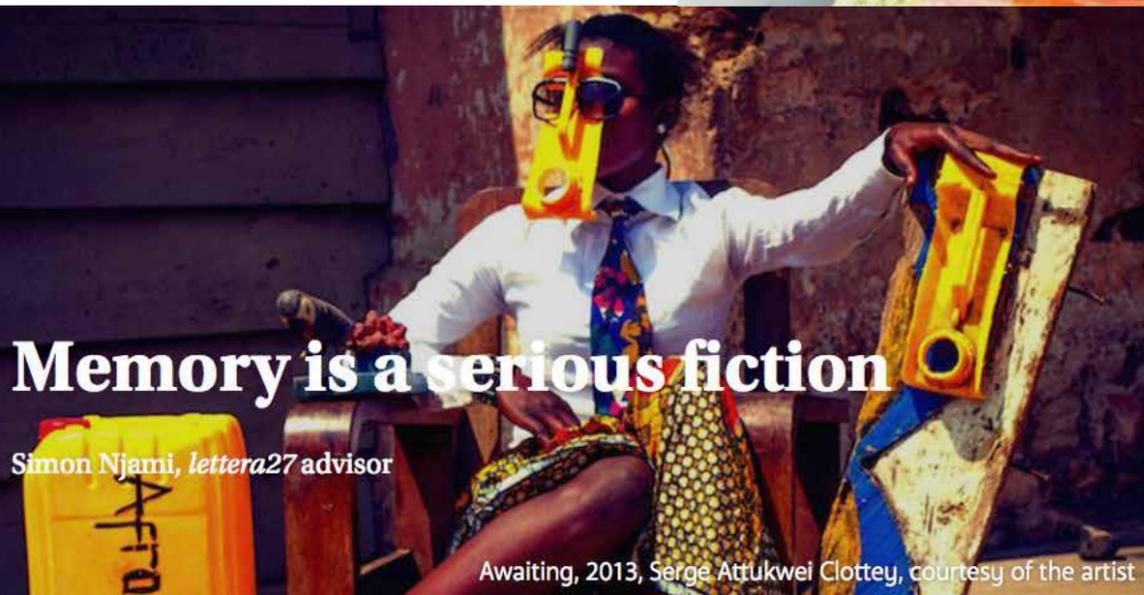


The new website of lettera27 and a new on-line catalogue of the art collection are on-line: November 23 2016

In 2016 we worked on a complete restyling of lettera27 website: a new look and feel, optimized navigation, the experience of 10 years of life, work, projects and objectives gathered in one on-line platform. The change involved a monumental amount of work, precise, meticulous in every detail. At the end of the process we saw the result: a true living archive, a well of content to draw from both for the past and present initiatives. It became a map and a guide for our everyday work, for the partners, stakeholders, our network and all the beneficiaries of our activities.

lettera27, in 10 years of activities since 2006, has built a collection of 'art notebooks', unique pieces of work created by different artists and thinkers on Moleskine notebooks and donated to lettera27 to help support its activities. The collection reflects the variety, wealth and complexity of contemporary creative thinking. Artists, designers, architects as well as musicians, film makers, illustrators, intellectuals and philosophers have enriched the collection, filling the notebook, page after page, with their thoughts, sketches, images, often transforming it into a completely different artefact, maintaining the soul and the essence. In the extreme cases the only thing left of the notebook is the skin, in other cases it has been absorbed into the work of art, it has been burnt, torn apart, rebuilt, regenerated. The notebook is the device, the limit, the origin. The collection has started with the Detour and myDetour projects in 2006 and has grown exponentially during the last years also thanks to the AtWork initiative, started in 2010 and launched in 2012 in Dakar.

Since December 2016 the whole collection is visible on the online catalogue: www.lettera27collection.org



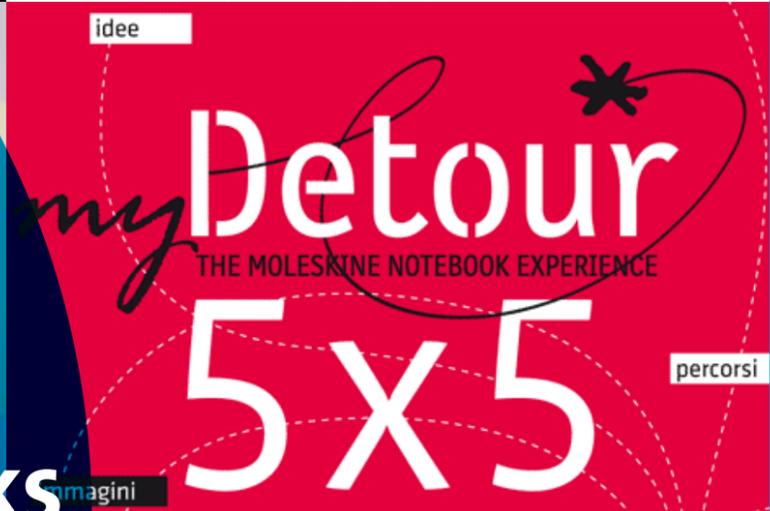
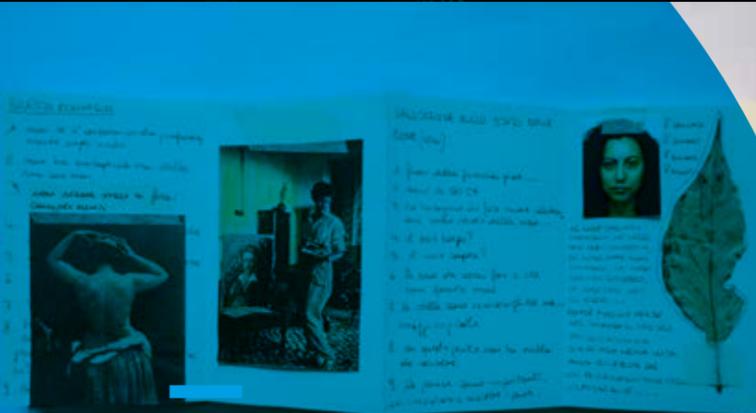
Memory is a serious fiction

Simon Njami, lettera27 advisor

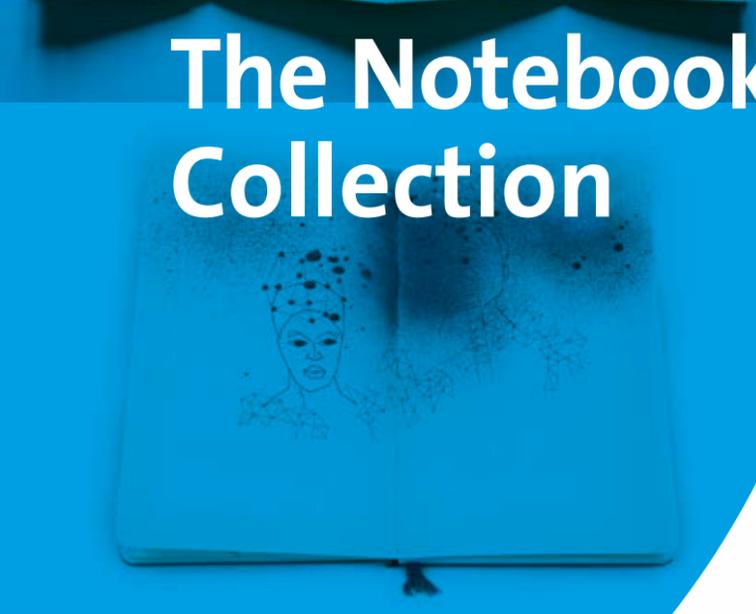
Awaiting, 2013, Serge Attukwei Clottey, courtesy of the artist

lettera 27

- ABOUT US
- WHAT WE DO
- COLLECTION
- NEWS
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- WORK WITH US
- PARTNERS
- CONTACT



The Notebooks Collection



OBJECTIVE

To preserve, develop, promote and exhibit online and offline the biggest collection of the artists' notebooks of our times.

To promote the talent of each participant to the projects that foster the collection and to disseminate the culture of sharing and gifting that distinguishes it.

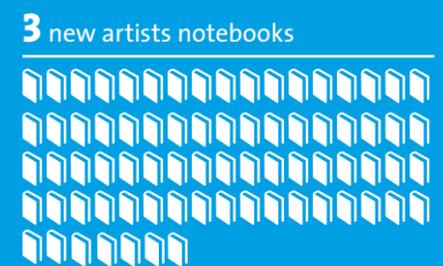
To contribute significantly to the fundraising of the Foundation through the loans, initiatives and events that can make the most of its attractive potential.

RESULTS

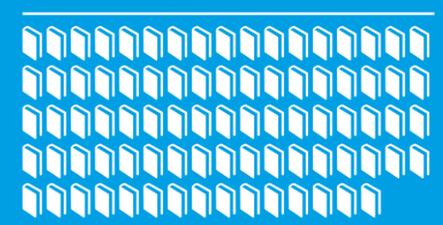
from 2006 to 2016, more than 1,000 notebooks have been collected from 3 initiatives: Detour, myDetour, AtWork

FACTS

3 new artists notebooks



73 new notebooks collected from AtWork format



83 notebooks exhibited in external events: Dakar : 22, Basel: 10, Milan: 25, Moleskine Café: 26



7 AtWork Exhibitions: AtWork Cairo, AtWork Modena, Art Basel, Afropixel#5 Dakar, Appartamento LAGO Brera Milan, AtWork Addis Ababa, Moleskine Café Milan

What is the Notebooks Collection

lettera27's artistic notebook collection was started in 2006 through a project "Detour" and "myDetour". Along the years, it grew exponentially, with 10 different chapters in 10 cities across the world: London (October 2006), New York (May-June 2007), Paris (April 2008), Berlin (October 2008), Istanbul (May 2009), Tokyo (October 2009), Venice (August 2010), Milan (April 2011), Shanghai (October 2010), Beijing (September 2013), London (September 2014).

Currently the collection holds close to 1,000 pieces, divided into 3 parts:

- **DETOUR** – notebooks produced by acclaimed artists and displayed within the Detour exhibitions by Moleskine
- **MYDETOUR** – notebooks produced by general public focused around Detour project and various other initiatives (i.e. Parson's Jam NY, The Undiscovered letter, North is up, Mapping Contemporary Venice, Moleskinabile 2013-2014, ISKO 2014/2015 edition)
- **ATWORK** – notebooks created by artists, students and creative youth in line with AtWork educational format.

All the resources are added by the same principle: authors donate their notebook to support the mission of lettera27.

What we have done in 2016

In 2016 the collection gained a total of 73 new pieces. These are partly through arrival of artistic notebooks created by AtWork participants: 19 notebooks from AtWork Chapter 05 (Modena), 11 notebooks from AtWork Lab Milano, 20 from AtWork lab in Athen and 21 from AtWork Addis Ababa Chapter06.

In addition to it, 3 new notebooks have been created and donated to lettera27 by established and recognised authors: Mwangi-Hutter; Francesca Loprieno; Jackie Karuti.

A selection of 83 notebooks was on display at Afropixel#5 during Dak'Art Biennale 2016; at Art Basel, Basel edition, at the Crowdfunding Booth devoted to non-profit artistic projects; in occasion of Never Stop Learning conversation at LAGO Apartment in Brera, Milan; at Moleskine Café, Milan, where the notebooks are continuously displayed on a rotating basis.

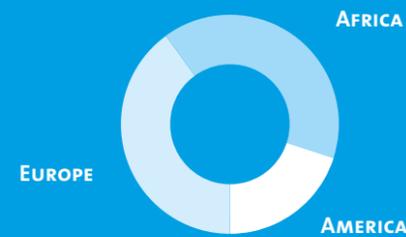
Summary

KEY FACTS AND NUMBERS IN 2016

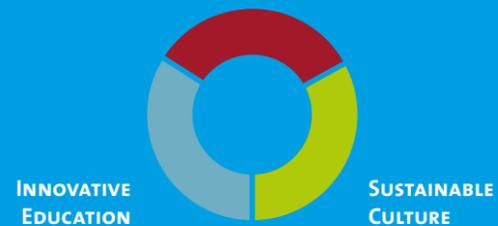
10
COUNTRIES

3
CONTINENTS

5
ACTIVITIES



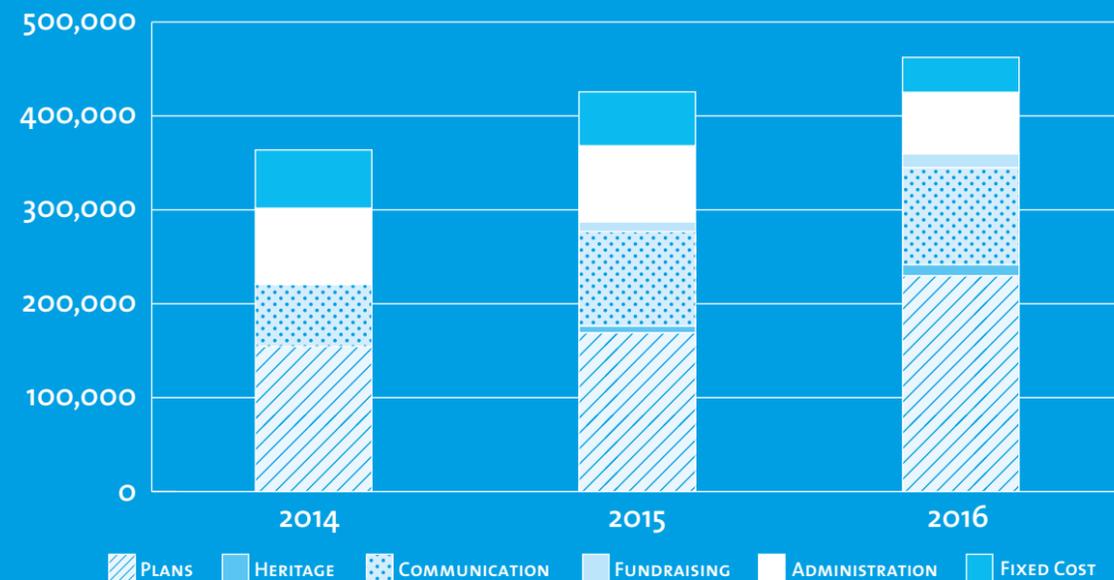
ART AND CULTURE FOR SOCIAL TRASFORMATION



Fondazione *lettera27* has contributed to knowledge sharing and facilitated access to education in **7 COUNTRIES** of **3 DIFFERENT CONTINENTS**.

The Foundation has implemented a total of **5 MAIN ACTIVITIES** focused on **ART AND CULTURE FOR SOCIAL TRASFORMATION**, **INNOVATIVE EDUCATION**, and **SUSTAINABLE CULTURE**.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION AS PER ORGANISATIONAL AREAS (2014–2016)



LOOKING INTO 2017

AtWork ART PARIS

3 NEW NOTEBOOKS EXHIBITIONS

4 NEW AtWork CHAPTERS

WIKIAFRICA



IMAGE CREDITS

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PAG. 4: **COURTESY OF LETTERA27**

PAG. 6: **SILVIA JOP**

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DAVID DAMOISON, *Simon Njami*;
Houghton Kinsman;
Mugendi K M'Rithaa;

JAN KAISER, *RFE/RL*, *Camilla Hawthorne*;

GRIOT MAGAZINE, *Fred Kuwornu*;
VALERIA VERNIZZI, *Cristina Ali Farah*;
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Valentina e Mounzer al biliardo, 2016

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PAG. 42: **FRANCESCA LOPRIENO**, **JACKIE KARUTI**,
MWANGI-HUTTER

PAG. 45: **GLORIA KICONCO**

lettera **27**

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CON IL SOSTEGNO DI



fondazione
cariplo

MOLESKINE