

Agenda March 2016

What we do...



AtWork Modena Chapter 05

March 4-6th, Fondazione Fotografia Modena, Italy

A three-day workshop that will involve 25 students from the first and second year of the photography and curatorial masters. For this new AtWork chapter the curator 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. On March 6th [Fondazione Fotografia Modena](#) will also announce the winner of the International Photography Prize 2016 and will inaugurate the winner’s solo exhibition at Foro Boario Modena. The exhibition, also curated by Simon Njami, will remain open until May 8th.



AtWork Cairo Chapter 04: the notebooks exhibition

March 6th, Darb 1718, Cairo, Egypt

After the December workshop conducted by Simon Njami within the Cairo Biennale Off *Something Else*, which involved 16 local art students and young creative talents, AtWork Cairo proceeds with the exhibition of the notebooks created by the participants. The exhibition, hosted at [Darb 1718](#) artistic center and co-curated by Heba Amin and the students, represents the moment of storytelling and restitution of the workshop’s educational process. But AtWork Cairo doesn’t stop here: the assistant professor Heba Amin is already planning to insert the workshop format into her class curriculum and involve new students from the [American University](#) of Cairo into the AtWork experience. Stay tuned!



Why Africa? Next issues

This month Lettera27's column presents two new pieces. The first one is a review of the last novel by the Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, written by Daniela Brogi. The novel accompanies the reader to discover prejudices and actions that fill the Western culture and that manifest themselves every time there is a relationship with an “other” culture. It's followed by a new chapter of our collaboration with Another Africa: a contribution from the curator Houghton Kinsman who presents 3 artists from the new Ghana art scene. Even if each of them operates in a personal and unique style, the presented artists Kwame Asante Agyare, Larry Achiampong and Kwasi Ohene-Ayeh, show, in many features of their artworks, a common idea of collaboration and multidisciplinary, a peculiarity that is becoming the distinctive feature of the emerging art in Ghana.



Blaxploitalian: 100 years of Afrostories in the Italian cinema

Documentary made by Fred Kuwornu

“Blaxploitalian: 100 years of Afrostories in the Italian cinema” is a documentary that discusses the representations of African descendants in the Italian cinema, realized with the support of lettera27 and Open Society Foundations. The film tells the stories of Afro-Italian, African and Afro-American actors who worked in a century of Italian cinema, but also opens up to the needs of a new generation of Afro-Italian actors who often have to play immigrants stereotyped roles in the Italian cinema. These days the Italian-Ghanaian filmmaker Fred Kuwornu is testing the film before the official release scheduled in September during various conferences in American Universities where he conducts the debate on Diversity and Media, the topic which is also quite hot in the US where for the Oscar 2016 ceremony many celebrities have highlighted the absence of minorities in Hollywood industry. A similar initiative is currently being waged by the actor Idris Elba in the U.K. It is possible to support the social campaign DiversityMediaMatter at the link www.blaxploitalian.com.

What we suggest...



Vincent Meessen: Sire, je suis de l'otre pais

February 19th - April 24th, Wiels contemporary Art Centre, Bruxelles

In his WIELS exhibition Vincent Meessen proposes an expanded setting for One.Two.Three, the filmic, musical and performative installation created for the Belgian Pavilion at the latest Venice Biennial. Starting from an insurrectionary song written in May '68 this work reveals an unknown connection between the Situationist International and the Congo. Through collaboration with young female musicians from Kinshasa, the rumba as a transcultural form serves as a vehicle for a meditation on emancipation, an undertaking that is fundamentally unresolved and condemned to repetition.



Grigri Pixel workshop: makers e l'energia nella città africane

February 23rd - March 4th, Madrid

The Grigri Pixel workshop is organized with the intention of learning to produce and store sustainable energy, made of waste and discarded materials. Grigri Pixel invites four African makers from Bamako (Mali), Dakar (Senegal), Lomé (Togo) and Casablanca (Morocco) to search for innovative and creative proposals to develop a prototype that offers solutions to the lack of lighting and autonomous energy in African cities. The prototype made during Grigri Pixel will contribute to reflecting on ways to make our cities more inhabitable through the technological devices. The prototype will be used to light up Ker Thioissane's Jet d'Eau Garden in Dakar, during the Afropixel#5 Festival and the Dak'Art Biennial, both held next May, and to create synergies with other places where the prototype will be repeated.

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Marrakech Biennale 6: “Not new now”

February 24th - May 8th, Marrakech

Reflecting on the territorial specificities of Marrakech which is a crossroads where the African Arabian and Western cultures meet and condition each other, the curator Reem Fadda, developed, for the [Marrakech Biennale 2016](#), a multicultural and multidisciplinary itinerary to reflect the intellectual variety that characterizes the Moroccan city. Performances, displays of archives, film programs, seminars, lectures and even conferences will provide for a dynamic structure that looks at and cements these cultural commonalities and relationships. The artists involved are mostly from the Arab World, the Mediterranean region and Sub-Saharan Africa to demonstrate that art can and must be a tool for a socio-cultural investigation capable to magnify both differences and common values of the different cultural backgrounds. We would like to highlight the presence of the artist [Megumi Matsubara](#) with the performance “Toi, un coquelicot—Un coquelicot, moi aussi” created starting from the previous installation “[A proposal for a textbook to learn Braille, English, and other languages](#)” that she presented in Milan in July 2015, and [Heba Amin](#) who is going to present the photographic project “The Earth is an Imperfect Ellipsoid” for the “[Parallel Projects](#)” section.



The Hand of Fashion

February 24th - May 11th, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, USA

Simone Cipriani, the founder of EFI, presents the various aspects of sustainability in fashion through conversations with a number of key industry experts, managers, and designers. The series of discussions are intended to widen the understanding of sustainability in fashion design and to enable and encourage sustainable thinking as part of fashion, which will help establish a new norm in the industry. The EFI, “[Ethical Fashion Initiative](#)”, is a program that connects and enables artisans in developing countries, especially designers from Africa, to work directly with top fashion brands on an ongoing basis. Africa has been very present in these conferences during February with “[Couture from Africa](#)”, a meeting with Omoyemi Akerele, who is the creator of [Lagos Fashion Week](#), and “[Making in NYC Versus Africa](#)” with Bob Blend, founder of [Manufacture New York](#). The themes discussed until now will be also the topic of the next conferences which are going on until May 11th.



Paul Onditi for ArtLabAfrica

March 2nd - 6th, Volta, New York, United States

The cultural platform [ArtLabAfrica](#) presents the personal exhibition of the artist [Paul Onditi](#) at the art space [Volta](#) in New York. After finishing his artistic studies in Germany, Paul Onditi returned to Nairobi where he is currently living and practicing. Onditi's paintings explore richly layered images and contemporary global issues through the use of highly experimental, labour intensive techniques like filmstrips and caustic acid. His pictures create imaginary worlds crossed by isolated and anonymous figures. Onditi has participated in many shows in Kenya and Europe and his work has been included in Bonham's Africa Now auction in London in 2014.



2016 Armory Focus: African Perspectives

March 3rd - 6th, New York, USA

Within the framework of Contemporary art fair "[Armory Show](#)", this year the section "[Focus](#)", now in its 7th edition, is entirely dedicated to Africa. "[Focus: African Perspectives – Spotlighting Artistic Practices of Global Contemporaries](#)" is curated by Julia Grosse and Yvette Mutumba, founders of "[Contemporary And](#)". Moving beyond conventional ideas of the African continent and its "counterpart," "the Western hemisphere," this year's Focus will provide a glimpse of international artistic production from contemporary African viewpoints: emerging curators, artists, galleries and art spaces that connect scenes and markets through global networks. From Lagos to London to Luanda – and presented together for the first time in one location – this year's Focus will examine the artistic developments and manifold narratives arising from African and African Diasporic artists, emphasizing geographic fluidity and global connections. During the fair there will also be several conferences facilitated by the curators Elvira Dyangani Ose, Yves Makongo and Bisi Silva in conversation with El Anatsui and Sam Nhlengethwa.



Luxor African Film Festival

March 17th - 23rd, Luxor, Egypt

Luxor African Film Festival, now in its 5th edition, is an annual event organized in the city of Luxor by Independent Shabab Foundation. The festival will screen long and short films produced in African countries, made by African filmmakers on the African subjects, 2015 production. Luxor African Film Festival consists of 4 competitions: Long Narratives, Long Documentaries, Short Films (Narratives and Documentaries) and The International Competition of Freedom Films.



Cinema: iREP International Documentary Film Festival

March 24th-27th, Broad Street, Lagos, Nigeria

iREP film festival is known, amongst other things, for constantly taking on socio-realistic issues affecting Africa. The overarching framework of the festival is to engage Africans in self-conversations that can bring about a better understanding of the African situation and possibly find solutions to them. The theme of the 2016 festival is #CHANGE – Documentary Film as Agent Provocateur. This theme wants to celebrate documentary films as a way to explore the issues of our time, offering different perspectives and detailed analysis to examine the complexities of each situation, thus becoming the agents of change.