

May agenda 2015

What we do...



AtWork_workshop_Firenze by Ou Ning @ IFFTI Conference 2015

May 13-16th | Florence, Italy

The [IFFTI Conference](#) is an international forum dedicated to the exchange of experiences, ideas and research in fashion and other creative contemporary fields. It's an annual event organized by [Polimoda](#), a center of Italian excellence in fashion, with an international scope. One of the guests of honour of the 2015 edition is the multidisciplinary artist Ou Ning, with his retrospective *The New Rural Reconstruction Movement* taking place at the National Library. At the center of the exhibition is "Bishan Commune", a utopian community that the artist started to conceive in 2010 on a [notebook](#) donated to [lettera27's artist notebook collection](#) and currently exhibited as one of the main artworks of the show. For the event, the artist goes back to work with the pages of the notebook, this time to inspire the creative process of 12 fashion students during an AtWork workshop. "How to make ideas happen" is the theme of the workshop that Ou Ning will explore in conversation with Maria Sebrgondi, the original creator of Moleskine brand and its philosophy. AtWork Firenze is organized by Polimoda in partnership with [Moleskine](#) and [lettera27](#).



Lecture by Dagmawi Yimer at San Diego University

May 3d | San Diego University, San Diego, USA

The director talks about his personal experience to open the debate on migration during his talk titled [Names and Bodies: Tales from the Other Side of the Sea](#) and the screening of his latest work

“Asmat”. The event revolves around the question: how much does the colonial past influence the way the migration is perceived and represented, thus determining the destiny of all the people crossing the territories and borders?



Afrophobia or Xenophobia? The philosopher Achille Mbembe on Why Africa?

In the next issue of Why Africa? we are honoured to host the contribution from one of the most prominent names of the contemporary African thought: Achille Mbembe. Philosopher, political scientist and intellectual, he gives a critical analysis of the recent violent acts in South Africa, opening the perspective on the recent past of the country through the question: what does it mean to be a foreigner in South Africa?

What we suggest...



William Kentridge @ EYE

April 25th- August 30th | EYE Filmmuseum Amsterdam, Holland

Amsterdam museum of cinema dedicates an extensive retrospective to the works of the South African artist, who is one of the most famous names of the contemporary African art scene. The exhibition is called *If We Ever Get to Heaven* and is accompanied by a program of screenings, talks and lectures.



Asixoxe – Let’s Talk! Conference

May 1-2 | SOAS University of London

In South African languages Ndebele and Zulu the expression [Asixoxe](#) means “let’s talk” and through the succession of two click sounds, iconically represents the way human speech adds a specific rhythm to time and to thought. The purpose of the conference is to bring together all those who are passionate about philosophy and about Africa. The goal - to create a platform for their exchanges and to nurture the growth of the discipline of African Philosophy.



Finissage of the Body Talks exhibition

May 3d | Wiels, Bruxelles, Belgium

This [exhibition](#) curated by Koyo Kouoh presents work from the current generation of female African artists who come from various regions of the continent, addressing questions such as feminism, the body and its political dimension in the contemporary art practice. The exhibition is also at the center of the [latest contribution](#) to our *Why Africa?* column, reviewed by Maria Elena Minuto.



Focus on Africa at PEN Word Voices Festival 2015

May 4-10th | PEN AMERICAN CENTER, New York, USA

The new edition of the international PEN festival is solely dedicated to the continent and brings the best of the narrative literature from Africa and the Diaspora to NYC. The selected featured authors include: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Teju Cole, Edwidge Danticat, Mona Eltahawy, Richard Flanagan, Aminatta Forna, Yahya Hassan, Rachel Kushner, Alain Mabanckou, Achille Mbembe, Michael Ondaatje, Tracy K. Smith, Tom Stoppard, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Binyavanga Wainaina.



**FILMS
THAT
FEED**

25th edition of the Festival of African, Asian and Latin American Cinema

May 4-10th | Milan, Italy

Celebrating its 25th Edition in 2015, 'Films that feed' is one of the key Italian events for professionals and lovers of world cinema. It is set to screen around 60 films in 7 categories, selected from over 800 submissions. The edition hosts 30 national premieres, 3 European premieres and 1 world premiere.



56th Venice Biennale opening

May 9th- November 22d | Venice, Italy

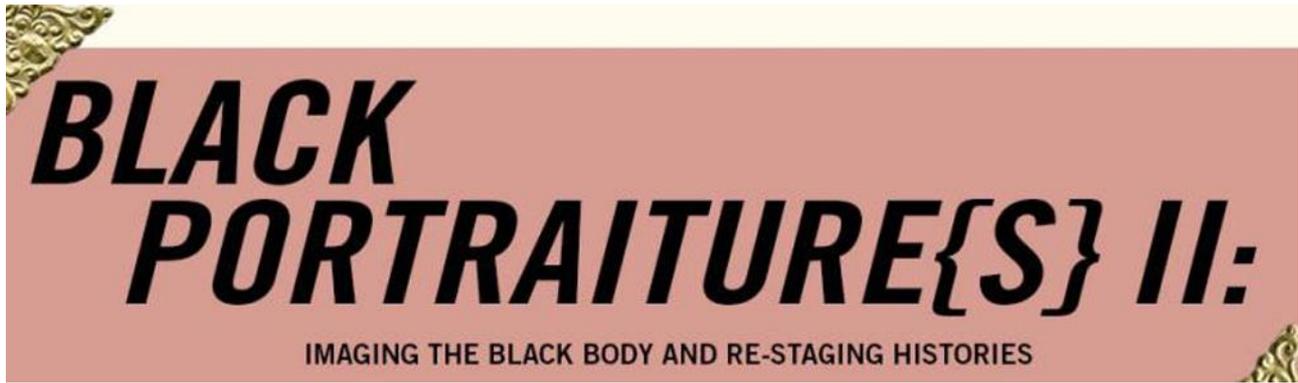
One of the main events of the world cultural agenda has two important authors of African origin at the forefront. The upcoming edition's director is Okwui Enwezor- art curator and critic, journalist and writer, director of the Haus der Kunst in Munich from 2011. The second, from Ghana, is artist El Anatsui, who was awarded a Golden Lion for his life's work. Among the 136 artists from 53 countries, are some of the most interesting names in the African contemporary art scene, such as Invisible Borders, Samson Kambalu, Wangechi Mutu, Emeka Ogboh, Ibrahim Mahama, Sammy Baloji and many others.



1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair comes to New York

May 15-17th | Pioneer Works, New York, USA

After its second London edition this last fall, the contemporary African arts fair has its first overseas edition, affirming itself as the point of reference for Africa and the platform for cultural practices revolving around the continent. The event takes place in parallel with the New York edition of Frieze, celebrating both established and emerging artists that use heterogeneous media and languages, from video to painting, to photography and sculpture.



Simon Njami participates in the Black Portraits II

May 31st | Villa Sasseti, Florence, Italy

The *Black Portraits II: Imaging the Black Body and Re-staging Histories* conference endeavours to offer a comparative perspective on the historical and contemporary role of various artistic languages in the representation of the black body in the West. With this intention it puts together artists, curators and scholars of various disciplines, among which our advisor, Simon Njami, will sit on the panel titled *Policing the Black Body: Blackness in France & its Post colony in Film and Images*.