

Agenda October 2015

What we do...



Ashoka and *lettera27* partner for the first Youth Storytelling for Changemakers Workshop and South African Regional Changemakers Summit October 19-23d, Johannesburg, October 29-31st, Cape Town, South Africa

Storytelling is one of the fundamental elements of today's world, and not only in communication. Being able to tell one's stories is one of the key skills of a changemaker, or in other words, a person who initiates social change. Storytelling facilitates empathy, improves teamwork and stimulates leadership qualities. That's one of the reasons why *lettera27* and Ashoka want to support storytelling skills development at [Ashoka's Changemaker Schools](#), schools selected by Ashoka in Africa and beyond over the last year because of their innovative educational methods. During the 5-day storytelling workshop at the African School of Excellence (ASE) in Johannesburg, students will learn the basic techniques of script writing, storyboarding, video making, vlogging, and video interviewing in order to be able to tell the changemaker stories of their school and their community. The October workshop is a pilot for launching a number of schools in Africa as "storytelling hubs". Therefore, in addition to the workshop at ASE, there will be storytelling panels and workshops held for educators from across South Africa during [South African Regional Summit](#) in Cape Town. These educators will return home with the necessary skills to develop storytelling courses at their respective schools.



lettera27 and Lagos Photo Festival collaborate for a new Lagos AtWork Lab October 26-29, Lagos, Nigeria

The [Lagos Photo Festival](#) is perhaps the main festival of international photography in Africa. After having established itself on the continent, in the recent years it has also been under the spotlight of the international scene. This year it is taking place from October 24th to November 21st under the theme of “Designing Futures”, presenting a series of exhibitions, laboratories, screenings, performances and installations in the Lagos public spaces. That is why we are very proud to announce this new destination of AtWork’s journey in the world of creativity and culture. The festival, in partnership with the [African Artists Foundation](#) has in fact adopted our format: during the festival they will hold a 4 day workshop on the theme “Do you know who I am?” open to the students of various art forms from photography to video, writing and visual arts. The workshop will be conducted by Lagos Photo Festival’s Creative Director Alafuro Sikoki-Coleman facilitated by the curators of African Artists Foundation, Martina Olivetti and Maria Pia Bernandoni, and will host a series of guest speakers such as artists, designers and protagonists of the main cultural institutions in Lagos. The notebooks produced during the AtWork Lab will be exhibited during the festival.



Reading Africa of today through art and literature on *Why Africa?*

In our [column](#) we share knowledge on Africa often using the language of art. This month we do it through a new chapter of the series re-published from our partner [Another Africa](#) and titled *Tracing Emerging Contemporary Art Practice*. This time the focus is on Nigeria that we will explore through a number of names, authors and cultural protagonists that have already influenced and are still shaping the artistic discourse and Nigerian local culture in general. The second piece is dedicated to publishing the work of one of the most interesting African writers of the recent months, the Italian edition of *Tram 83*, the first time novel of the Congolese Fiston Mwanza Mujila, who has already received the Gran Premio of SGDL (Société des gens de lettres, Paris) for the first novel and the Literature Prize of Graz. The novel will be [presented in Milan on October 24th](#) on the occasion of Book City. "A frenetic writing style, like that of a jazz musician, gives this Africa-set novel an enthusiastic, adventurous energy . . . *Tram 83* isn't for the faint of heart, but rather, it's for those that have a sense of humor, an interest in seedy underbellies, and a willingness to, at times, feel a little lost in the haze of biblical imagery, flippant debauchery, free sex, and anarchy. Ezra Pound would be proud; Mujila 'made it new.'" — **Josh Cook, *Foreword Reviews***

Cosa vi suggeriamo...



Marco Belpoliti presents his latest book on Primo Levi

October 1st, Gogol & Co bookstore, Milan, Italy

Marco Belpoliti is one of the most eclectic and original writers and scholars of the Italian cultural scene and is also the editor in chief of Doppiozero, *lettera27's* media partner. Among his latest intellectual productions is the portrait of Primo Levi titled *Primo Levi di fronte e di profile*, the result of 20 years of work, a universal book, "the definitive portrait of Primo Levi. If you are in Milan don't miss the meeting with the author in dialogue with Francesco M. Cataluccio.



Art and fashion on the catwalk of the first edition of IAM&FASHION

October 2-9th, Douala, Cameroon

IAM, the on-line magazine dedicated to contemporary art from and in Africa presents the first edition of the festival that celebrates the creative and imaginative contaminations between art and fashion in Cameroon. Exhibitions, panels and contests for new talents will put together designers and artists to confront topics of production and education in order to find common grounds and points of view.



The first edition of migrant literature Festival

October 8-11th, Palermo, Italy

A festival that talks about mass migration and individual relocation through literature, tracing the profiles of those who have brought the stories of sudden cultural mutations into the narrative languages. Palermo welcomes the *Festival delle Letterature migranti – Palermo arabo-normanna*, an international literature event that will be held there for the first time. The protagonists of the festival are Italian and foreign authors that tell stories of their migrant experiences and use writing as a way to elaborate the most difficult aspects of their lives marked by persecutions, escapes and submission.



Chimurenga Library goes to London

October 8th- November 21st, London, England

The art center The Show Room and Otolithgroup Collective present Chimurenga project to the London audiences. For their first UK presentation, Chimurenga will infiltrate The Showroom's building in the form of The Chimurenga Library, inserting themselves into the existing frameworks, functions and structures of the space without displacing its everyday activities. This dislocation will inspire new contacts, ideas and contents. Additionally, during this UK experience, Chimurenga will host PASS, a live radiophonic program with music, interviews and events with Chimurenga partners from London, such as musicians, journalists, writers, curators and film directors. Stay tuned!



The annual conference on cultural economies in Africa

October 9-10th, Yaoundé, Cameroon

The Arterial Network African Creative Economy Conference (ACEC) is an occasion to reflect on the state and the growth of African creative economy and its contribution to the development of the continent. Every year it brings together hundreds of delegates and offers a unique opportunity to explore the state of the sector in a larger geopolitical and economic context. Throughout the years the conference became a benchmark for the cultural operators, policy makers, philanthropists, academics and other key protagonists that meet to interact and face the critical challenges and possible innovative solutions, which are part of the Africa's creative sector growth.



Contemporary African art at the new edition of 1:54 in London

October 15-18th, Somerset House, London, England

After the successful New York debut this year 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair continues with its annual edition at Somerset House in London. 37 exhibitors have been called to present the best works of over 150 contemporary artists from African and the diaspora. The event will also host a FORUM dedicated this year to North Africa: talks with the artists, round tables and film screenings curated by Koyo Kouoh, Artistic Director of Raw Material Company.



Après Eden. Artur Walther collection exhibition at La Maison Rouge

October 17th – January 17th, Paris, France

Since its opening, every autumn [La Maison Rouge](#) has shown a major international collection. This year it's the turn of the exceptional [Artur Walther's](#) collection. Over twenty years, Artur Walther has assembled significant and cohesive ensembles, beginning with German photography, then American, and later African and Asian photography. The exhibition [Après Eden](#), curated by our advisor Simon Njami, will present a selection of over 900 works by some fifty artists. Historical photography, daguerreotypes, contemporary photography, video works, journals and late nineteenth-century albums have been chosen by the curator to form an itinerary which takes in landscapes, faces, performance, portraiture, and anthropometric and ethnographic essays.



Rencontres de Bamako celebrates 10 year anniversary

October 31-Dicember 31, Bamako, Mali

This edition of [Bamako Photography Biennial](#), curated by Bisi Silva, marks its tenth anniversary and celebrates a positive trend in Mali's economic growth and general image improvement. The photographers participating to the special project linked to the anniversary and dedicated to time will be invited to create a narrative on Africa not through the things seen on the surface, but rather through their personal way to use the image for the in-depth exploration of the reality of their time. The approach has been conceived to create the connection between the past, the present and the future of the continent.