

Agenda February 2016

What we do...



AtWork Cairo: exhibition of the produced notebooks

Week of February 29th, 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!



“The aesthetics and the politics”: new articles on *Why Africa?*

The readings that we suggest you this month in our column start with the article inspired by the latest AtWork chapter in Cairo and written by the artist, scholar and activist Heba Amin. We have asked Heba to share her thoughts on the situation of artistic and creative expression in Egypt and on AtWork workshop within its context. The next piece is a contribution by Achille Mbembe, who became one of the most regular and most read guests of *Why Africa?* This month the philosopher is back on doppiozero to reflect on the issue of racism in South Africa and the new forms it acquired in post-apartheid period, the forms that make it deviously rooted in a “structural, cultural and systemic” manner.

Cosa vi suggeriamo...



Bank or Economy: a new exhibition by Meschac Gaba

Until February 27th, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Stevenson Cape Town, one of the main contemporary art galleries in Africa, is proud to announce the fourth solo show of Meschac Gaba. The artist will present three new works for this upcoming exhibition, each resembling a market stall stocked with tokens of symbolic value plus a fourth installation also related to trade and exchange. Using found materials like bank notes, coins and semi-precious stones, Gaba will create an environment that plays with the perceptions of value inherent to conventional belief systems of cultural and economic exchange.



Lucy's Iris. Contemporary African Women Artists

Fino al 12 Giugno, MUSAC, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, León, Spagna

The exhibition Lucy's Iris, curated by Orlando Britto, explores various fields of contemporary African creation through the selection of works and the proposals of about twenty female artists from Africa and the diaspora, all of them active protagonists of the contemporary artistic scene, both in Africa and internationally. Among them, various artists of *The Divine Comedy* itinerant exhibition, which we support since 2014 together with Moleskine, such as Pélégie Gbaguidi, Jane Alexander, Zoulikha Bouabdellah, Aida Muluneh, Wangechi Mutu, Sue Williamson, Mwangi Hutter. Sue Williamson was one of the first ones to donate her artist notebook to lettera27's collection, while Pélégie Gbaguidi graced us with her notebook last year. The notebook of the duo Mwangi Hutter is the latest precious addition to our collection.



**Kabo Ka Muwala/The girl's Basket: Migration and mobility in contemporary art
February 4th-April 4th, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe**

The exhibition is the itinerant project between Zimbabwe, Uganda and Germany, presenting its first leg here. *Kabo Ka Muwala* artistically explores perspectives on the multitude of migration processes in and from southern and eastern Africa primarily through the eyes of artists from these regions. The title of the exhibition is an idiom in Luganda, a widely spoken language in central Uganda. The expression refers to a tradition known throughout East Africa in which a bride transports presents in a basket to her new family and her parents in turn. Metaphorically the basket represents expectations and hopes, but also disappointments and setbacks, which come with marriage and also with processes of migration. In reversing the usual pattern, where exhibitions are first shown in Europe and only then travel to Africa, *Kabbo ka Muwala* will begin at two traditional exhibition venues in Zimbabwe and Uganda before arriving at the port city of Bremen. The project's aim is to suggest an alternative point of view in contrast to the cliché representation of the migration processes towards the North of the world.



**Welcome to Applied Fiction: the film director Jean-Pierre Bekolo at SAVVY
February 10-25th, SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin**

SAVVY inaugurates its new space in the Wedding neighbourhood with a big opening dedicated to Bekolo, a filmmaker, writer and critic of Cameroonian origins, an important figure of the contemporary international culture. By dissecting, unpacking or dismantling the concepts of cinema and exhibition into their singular units and by displaying them, Bekolo engages in a pathological inquest, an autopsy of the arts of film- and exhibition-making. "If cinema is made of things and of people, it is important that we revisit what we make cinema with; the tools, the language and the process through which we capture and organize this second life we call cinema that we can see outside of ourselves like radiologists and that is a narrative speculation on our lives," says Bekolo.



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FEB 16
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Cape Town Art Week: sharing art in the city

February 16-21st, Cape Town, South Africa

In 2016 ART WEEK aims to develop a new audience and to educate the public opinion on the vibrant contemporary art scene of the South African cities, starting from Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban, as well as to promote the artists, curators and other innovators that live in the cities and suburbs. It's important to stress that Art Week also seeks to regenerate the commercial side of the sector, boosting work opportunities. Similar to the other successful models around the world, Art Week in Cape Town and Johannesburg creates an annual program for a short period of time, when the galleries, museums, creative platforms, artistic organizations and artists have the opportunity to share their knowledge and practices with the audiences.



Design Indaba Conference & Festival 2016

February 11-19th, Cape Town, South Africa

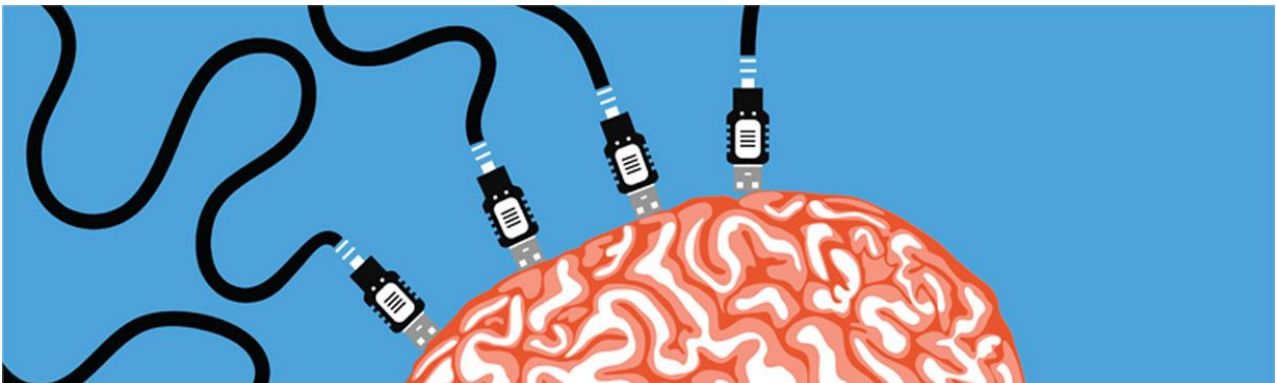
Launched in 1995 Design Indaba was created to promote design as a key form of communication and as an indispensable tool in the industry and commerce. In 2016 for the first time the festival moves its annual conference to Artspace Theatre and renews the overall format of the event. Besides the main conference there will be a rich program of exhibitions, screenings, concerts and other special events. The 2016 visitors will be welcomed by a real theater of creativity.



Decolonizing the Academy

February 24-26th, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland

The Global Development Academy of the University of Edinburgh in collaboration with the Centre for Contemporary Latin Studies is developing a series of activities and initiatives that engage with questions of decolonization and decoloniality. Among these is a two-day course by a prominent scholar Ramón Grosfoguel of UC Berkeley, held at the end of February. The main aims of the program are to support individuals, communities and social movements engaged in decolonial struggles through the teaching, research and networking activities and at the same time to contribute to efforts to decolonize the westernized academy and to create spaces for theoretical and methodological approaches that are relevant for indigenous, Afro-descended and colonized populations.



South African PhD Project Regional Conference 2016

February 25-26, Bloemfontein, South Africa

The National Research Foundation (NRF) will be hosting the SA PhD Regional Conference focusing on Higher Education Institutions in the Free State Province. The South African PhD Project is an initiative of the NRF endorsed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) that strives to increase the number of qualified South African research doctoral graduates. The long-term target is to increase the annual production of research doctoral graduates from the baseline of 1 200 in 2005 to 6 000 by 2025.



Submission Call for Online Exhibition: *Science of the Unseen*

Deadline: February 29th 2016

Art can be both inspired by and resistant to accepted scientific practices for visualizing the world. Artworks in *Science of the Unseen: Digital Art Perspectives* experiment with innovative research methods that also critically examine what drives the disciplines of art and science. How does art represent and empower the relationships between micro and macro, unseen and seen, situated and global, that would otherwise be invisible? What can art see that science cannot see alone? This call for submissions welcomes artistic interpretation and collaborations working from any discipline within art and science.