

What we do...



New pieces on *Why Africa?*

This month *lettera27's* column on Doppiozero features two pieces dedicated to African art and culture. We start with the collective interview of some of *The Divine Comedy* artists, made in collaboration with Contemporary And (C&), our editorial partner that was also the media partner of the MMK Frankfurt exhibition's leg. The second piece is an in-depth interview with Marion Louisgrand, the founder of Kër Thiossane, the center for cross-disciplinary research on new technology and open source artistic practices that *lettera27* has helped sustain since its birth. From 2008 they have been organizing a biannual Afropixel festival, the first African media art festival.



AtWork Bolivia notebooks exhibition in Chile

January 30th | Nodo Valparadiso cultural centre | Valparadiso, Chile

We continue to follow the journey of the notebooks created by 20 artists during their tour throughout Bolivia as part of the last AtWork format, implemented by Conart festival. After the exhibition at mARTadero of Cochabamba, the works will be presented to the Chilean audiences in an event organized by Nodo Valparadiso cultural center. Territories, cultures and people once again meet among the pages of the artists' notebooks.



AtWork Workshop Uganda

February 9-13th | Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Makerere University's art school and art gallery adopt the AtWork format and invite 20 students and recent graduates that are starting their path in the art world. The participants will grapple with matters of identity and creativity during the 5-day workshop, starting from the question "Should I take off my shoes?", which recalls the moment of entering sacred and unknown places and invites them to reflect on the symbolism of crossing door sills. Often, this requires questioning what we know about our selves, our certainties and the way we interact with the world around us. During the first two days of the workshop the participants will be hosted by the Maisha Foundation at Maisha Garden, created by the acclaimed film director Mira Nair. At the end of the second day she will meet the students to hold a debate after a screening of one of her films. The rest of the workshop will take place at the Makerere Art Gallery, which will also host the future exhibition of the notebooks produced by the students during the workshop.



WIR SIND ALLE BERLINER: 1884-2014 Finissage and Simposium: February 26th -March 1st |

SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin

Wir Sind Alle Berliner: 1884-2014 is an exhibition curated by Simon Njami dedicated to the 130th anniversary of the Berlin Congo Conference, a historical moment that marks the official division of Africa by the western colonial forces. For the *finissage* of the event, the scholars and experts post-colonial studies from all over the world will meet to discuss the topics of history and memory. Among them, Sandro Triulzi, the founder of AMM, one of the long time partners of *lettera27*. The event will be preceded by a keynote speech by the curator Simon Njami, scheduled on February 17th.

Cosa vi consigliamo...



Berlinale International Film Festival

February 5-15th | various locations, Berlin

The program of one of the most important film festivals in the world dedicates this year a wide space to the African production and authors. In particular, the European premiere of *Joe Bullet*, the film that has been defined as one of the first Blaxploitation films of South Africa, and of *Umbango*, the first Western that has an entirely African cast; as well as numerous films produced and co-produced in various countries of the continent: *Breathe Umphefumlo (La Bohème)* (Mark Dornford-May, South Africa); *The Boda Boda Thieves* (Yes! That's Us, Uganda / South Africa / Kenya / Germany); *The Siren of Faso Fani* (Michel K. Zongo, Burkina Faso / France / Germany); *Black President* (Mpumelelo Mcata, Zimbabwe / South Africa / England); *Out on the Street* (Jasmina Metwaly/Philip Rizk, Egypt); *La Dolce Siria* (Ammar Al Beik, Arab Emirates/ Egypt); *Acapella* (Islam Safiyyudin Mohamed, Egypt); *Les Choses et les Mots de Mudimbe* (Jean-Pierre Bekolo, Camerun); *And on a Different Note* (Mohammad Shawky Hassan, Egypt); *The Sea Is Behind* (Hicham Lasri, Morocco); *Necktie Youth* (Sibs Shongwe-La Mer, South Africa).



Peregrinate Exhibition

Until February 14th | Fondation Donwahi, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

The exhibition is a journey through the work of three African photographers- the South African Thabiso Sekgala and Musa Nxumalo N. and the Kenyan Mimi CheronNg'ok - that follows a metaphor: to photograph is to represent, but also to embark on a journey, to question, to discover a territory and the people that inhabit it. The photographer is an explorer of the realities that he chooses to portray. The project is realized by Fondation Donwahi and Goethe Institute, thanks to the collaboration of Mimi CheronNg'ok and Simon Njami.



Ashoka: Innovate to restart

Meeting, February 26th | Auditorium Robert Bosch Spa, Milan, Italy

Eleven social entrepreneurs, eleven Italian *advisors*, 200 participants. These are the numbers of the big event that brings Ashoka fellows from all over Europe to Milan to present their projects and stimulate the social entrepreneurship growth in Italy. The results of the *mapping social innovators in Italy* project will also be discussed during the meeting. The event is part of the project THIS WORKS – Ideas and Solutions for the employment and recovery of Southern Europe.



Design Indaba Festival 2015

February 20th - March 1st | Cape Town, South Africa

Design Indaba Festival every year unites all the main artistic and creative expressions of South Africa in one single event. More than 40.282 visitors, 367 exhibitors that present their products and services in the areas of advertising, architecture, craftsmanship, decoration, fashion, graphic design, interior design and many others. The program also suggests events, conferences, catwalks, concerts and theatrical performances.



Surround Audience: New Museum Triennial 2015

February 25th – May 24th | New Museum, New York, United States

The Triennial offers an important platform for the emerging artists' generation that is transforming the contemporary art scene. This third iteration is titled "Audience Surround" and is co-curated by the curator Lauren Cornell and by the artist Ryan Trecartin. The display of the exhibition, that spans through the entire museum building, presents the works of fifty artists and artistic collectives coming from over 25 countries, among which 2 of African origin: Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Donna Kukama, Basim Magdy.



Cape Town Art Fair 2015

February 26th – March 1st | Cape Town, South Africa

Cape Town boasts a vibrant and diverse artistic scene and is home to some of the most important art galleries on the continent. Cape Town Art Fair takes place in parallel with other important events of the city's cultural calendar, such as Design Indaba Festival. This year once again the fair proves to be an indispensable appointment for the professionals of the art world, thanks to the presence of the rich selection of the South African artists, featuring the established authors alongside with the emerging talents.



FESPACO 2015

February 28th- March 7th | Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

The Festival of the Pan-African Cinema and Television of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) has been created in 1969 with the aim of promoting the diffusion of the works of African cinema and allowing for contact and exchange among the cinema and audiovisuals professionals. The 15th edition present various news, among which the presence of the films shot and produced entirely in digital format. Another novelty introduced by the organizers is the participation in competition of films from the diaspora, documentaries and TV series.