

SAMSON KAMBALU

Born in 1975 in Malawi

Lives and works in London, UK

Education

PhD, Chelsea College of Art and Design, 2011-2015

MFA, Nottingham Trent University, 2002-2003

BA, University of Malawi (Fine Art and Ethnomusicology), 1995-1999

Solo Exhibitions

2017

Graphomania, James Gallery, New York, USA

Nyau Western, Art Basel Statements, Switzerland

Wounded Negatives, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa

Red Barn Farm, Galerie Nordenhake, Stockholm, Sweden

2016

Bronze Age, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, Miami, USA

Introduction to Nyau Cinema, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK

2015

The Unbearable Lightness of Nyau Cinema, Gallery U Mloka, Olomouc, Czech Republic

Double Feature: Nyau Cinema, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt

2014

2014, *Sepia Rain*, Stevenson Johannesburg, South Africa

2012

Tattoo City: The First Three Chapters (with guests), Castlefield Gallery, Manchester

2009

Roseanne, Sai Gallery, Osaka, Japan

2008

The Jive Talker, book launch and installation, INIVA, London

2005

Black My Story, Nottingham Castle and Art Gallery, Nottingham

2004

Holyball Exercises and Exorcisms, Usher Gallery, Lincoln

Holyballism, Art Exchange Gallery, Nottingham

2001

The Gideons' Room, Winston Hotel, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2000

Exercise IV, Thami Mnyele Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Holyball Exercises and Exorcisms, Chancellor College, Zomba, Malawi

Group Exhibitions

2018

African Metropolis, MAXXI, Rome, Italy

2017

Afriques Capitales, La Villette, Paris

The Silences Between, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town

The Public Body, Artspace, Australia

El Usman Faroqhi Here and a Yonder: On Finding Poise in Disorientation, Savvy Contemporary, Berlin, Germany

The Art of Dissonance, Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), Seoul, Korea

Cinema mon amour: Film in the Arts, Aargauer Kunsthau, Switzerland

2016

Retrogarde, The Rogan Centre, University of Chicago, USA

Qalandiya International Biennale, Palestine

Detail is All, Kunsthalle Mainz, Germany

Dakar Biennale, Senegal

Liverpool Biennial, UK

Lost & Found, Paradiso, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2015

Embodied Nikolaj Kunsthall, Copenhagen, Denmark

50/50 New Church Museum, Cape Town

Transformation Marathon, Serpentine Gallery, London

Schema, Stevenson Cape Town, South Africa

Venice Biennale, *All the World's Futures*

2014

Chroma, Stevenson Cape Town, South Africa

Dakar Biennial, Senegal

Nyau!, Espace D'art Contemporain, Porrentruy, Switzerland

The Book Lovers, Artist novels project, Cricoteka, Krakow
The Book Lovers, De Appel, Amsterdam

2013

The Book Lovers, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw

2012

Luke Fowler: Pilgrimage from Scattered Points, HMVCurzon Wimbledon, guest artist showing *Early Film*, London

2009-2010

Dialogue Among Nations, Art for Humanity, South Africa. (Part of FIFA World Cup 2010)

2009

Tokyo International Art Festival, Tokyo, Japan

2008

Art Osaka, Osaka, Japan

The Mausoleum of Lost Objects, INIVA, London

Next We Change Earth, The New Art Exchange Gallery, Nottingham

2006

Hinterland, Nottingham

Ballkünstler (Part of FIFA World Cup 2006) Museum der Bildenden Kunste, Leipzig, Germany. Artists included Kendall Geers, Greg Colson and Wim Delvoye.

The Beautiful Game, Brooklyn Institute of Contemporary Arts, USA

2004

Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2004, The Barbican, London, UK.

Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2004, Liverpool Biennial, UK

One Step Beyond, Derby Museum and Art Gallery, UK

2003

Nottingham Open, Nottingham Castle Museum, UK

Guess Who, Stedelijk Museum, Zwolle, The Netherlands

Black My Story, Museum De Paviljoens, Almere, The Netherlands. (Artists included Jimmie Durham, Remy Jungeman, Shirana Shahbazi and Chikako Watanabe.)

Curating

2015

Nyau Cinema for The One Minutes, Amsterdam

2012

Tattoo City: The First Three Chapters, with Clarissa Corfe of Castlefield Gallery. Guest artists included Joseph Beuys, Lee Appelby, Jochem Hendricks, Sigrid Holmwood, Kevin Hunt, Rei Kakiuchi, San Keller and Nicolas Pople.

Awards, Grants and Residencies

2016

Frieze Film

Artist residency, Headlands Centre for the Arts, San Francisco, USA

2015

Research fellowship, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, USA

2014

Research fellowship, Yale Centre for British art, USA

2013

Adler Entrepreneurship Award, Germany

AHRC PhD Research Award, UK

2010

Artlink, Performative reading book tour award, Switzerland

Schloss Elmau Writer-in-Residence, Bavaria, Germany

Rauris Literature Festival Honoured Guest, Austria

Jive Talker Winner of National Book Tokens Global Reads

Arts Council Writing Grant for Tattoo City

Society of Authors Writing Grant, London for Tattoo City

2006

The Fritschy Award Nominee, The Netherlands

2005–2010

ACME, The Fire Station Residency

2004

Decibel Visual Arts Award (Arts Council)

The Arts Council Exhibition Grant (Holyballism, The Art Exchange Gallery, Nottingham)

Bloomberg New Contemporaries. Selectors: Kate Bush, Dinos Chapman, Tacita Dean, Brian Griffiths.

2000

The Thami Mnyele Artist Residency, Amsterdam

Artist Talks, Book Festivals and Performative Readings (Jive Talker unless Specified)

2016

Live Art Festival, University of Cape Town's Institute for Creative Arts, South Africa
Nyau Economics: play, art and the economy of the Gift, TEDxRoma – Game Changers, Rome, Italy
Permissions: The way we work now, Goldsmiths, University of London
Artist talk, Leeds School of Contemporary Art, Leeds Beckett University
Nyau Cinema, Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford
Nyau Cinema, Camberwell School of Art, UAL, London

2015

Photography and the Archive panel speaker, Chaired by Paolo Barrata Venice Biennale 2015
Symposium: Art and Collaboration, SOAS, University of London

2013

The Art of Hyperbole: Meschac Gaba's Museum of Contemporary African Art, Chelsea College of Art and Design, with Paul Godwin and Lara Pawson
African Film and Literature Festival, The Gasteig's Blackbox, Munich
Africa: The Place of Non-Fiction, Royal African Society's Africa Writes, British Museum, London
Uccello's Vineyard presentation, Formation International Photography Festival
Artist Talk for Tattoo City, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, UK

2012

Nightingale Theatre, Brighton, UK

2010

SimensForum, Auditorium, Munich, Germany
Weltempfang, Frankfurt International Bookfair, Germany
Museum Baerengasse, Zurich Switzerland
Vienna Public Library, Austria
Afrika Festival, Graz
University of Salzburg, Austria
Allerweltshaus, Cologne, Germany
St Gallen Library, St Gallen Switzerland
Literature House, Basel, Switzerland
Cabaret Voltaire, Zurich, Switzerland
Ono Theatre Bern, Switzerland
Literature House, Basel, Switzerland
Literarischer Salon, Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany.
Rauriser Literaturtage., Rauris, Austria
Schloss Elmau, Bavaria, Germany

2009

Holyball Exercises and Exorcisms, Mellons Garden, London
Whitton Library, Richmond, UK
Holyball Exercises and Exorcisms, Nextex, St Gallen Switzerland
Edinburgh International Book Festival

2008

Plum Live, Whitechapel Gallery, London

Selected Publications (authored by the artist)

2014

Great African Minds: Dr Charles Chanthunya by Samson Kambalu, Peter Hammer Verlag

2013

The Museum and the Individual, essay on Meschac Gaba's Museum of Contemporary African Art
commissioned by Tate Modern

2012

Uccello's Vineyard (a novel) by Samson Kambalu

2011

Der skurrile Diktator by Samson Kambalu (A review of Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *The Wizard of the Crow*),
Kulturaustausch, IFA, Germany

2010

Dr Albert Schweitzer's Troublesome Young Brother by Samson Kambalu, Kulturaustausch, IFA, October
Germany

Windmill Jive by Samson Kambalu, Salz Magazine, April 2010, Austria

2009

Action Bitte – Malawians at Leisure by Samson Kambalu, Kulturaustausch, IFA, August 2009, Germany

2008

The Jive Talker (autobiographical novel) by Samson Kambalu (Jonathan Cape UK, Simon and Schuster
USA, Unionsverlag Germany)

Other Publications

2011

Atelier Gespräche, Sabine Coelsch-Foisner, Verlag Anton Pustet

2010

Southern African Travel Guide, recommendation by Lonely Planet Publications

Malawi and Zambia Travel Guide, recommendation by Lonely Planet Publications

2009

Artsadmin 30th Anniversary, Artsadmin, London

2008

Next We Change Earth, The New Art Exchange Gallery, Nottingham

2006

The Bradt Travel Guide to Malawi, recommendation by Phillip Briggs

Ballkünstler, Museum der Bildenden Kunste Leipzig

2004

Museum de Paviljoens: Journal of a Building 1992-2004, the Museum de Paviljoens

2003

Black My Story, Museum De Paviljoens, Almere, The Netherlands.

Exedra, Phillip Van De Bossche

Selected TV and Radio Appearances

2013

BBC World News, London (With Mishal Husein)

2010

ORF TV, Vienna, Austria

Bayern 2, Munich, Germany (With Ania Mauruschat)

2008

BBC Radio Nottingham (Opening of New Art Exchange Gallery)

BBC Radio 4 Midweek (for Jive Talker ith Hardeep Singh Kohli)

BBC London (With Robert Elms)

BBC World Service (With George Arney)

2004

BBC Radio Derby Interview

2005

BBC Radio Nottingham

Selected Press

2016

Play and the profane in Samson Kambalu's Holy Ball, Holyballism and (Bookworm) The Fall of Man by Massa Lemu (Stedelijk Studies, Third Issue)

2015

Venice Biennale: Highlights and the best of the rest by Louisa Buck, The Telegraph
Samson Kambalu: Souverain du Cinema Nyau by Eric Loret (Café des Images, 8 September)
Gianfranco Sanguinetti contro la Biennale di Venezia by Raffaella Pellegrino in Artribune
L'écrivain italien Sanguinetti porte plainte contre la Biennale de Venise by Roxana Azimi in Le Monde
Entering the Arena, All the World's Futures: Samson Kambalu on the 56th Venice Biennale
(Contemporary And,)
Samson Kambalu interview by Matteo Mottin (ATP Diary 22 May)

2014

For the Ranter the whole World is a playground: Samson Kambalu interviewed by Massa Lemu
(Contemporary And, 2014)

2012

Tattoo City: The First Three Chapters, The Guide, The Guardian
Reviews of Tattoo City: The First Three Chapters, including online reviews at corridor8.co.uk and creativetourist.com

2010

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, *Zwischen Nietzsche und Holy Ball*, Switzerland
Salzburgh Nachrichten, *Ein Steilpass von Nietzsche* by Bernhard Flieher
Spiegel Online, *Jive Talker* by Ulrich Baron

2009

Mister Motley, *Demonen Wegtrappen!*, (magazine article) by Daphne Pappers, The Netherlands
Recreating the Portrait of the Young Artist, WASI, review by Steve Chimombo, Malawi
Bookforum USA, *An Artist's Genesis* by Joscelyn Jurich

2008

Reviews of *The Jive Talker* (Random House, Simon and Schuster, and Unionsverlag) in UK and USA
include The Sunday Telegraph, The Independent, The Guardian, Bookforum and TimeOut New York
Time Out New York, *The Jive Talker Review* by Michael Sandlin
Good News from Africa by Giles Foden in The Guardian
The Adventures of an African Huckleberry Finn by Aminatta Forna in The Telegraph
Portrait of the Artist as a Young African by Susan Williams in The Independent

2005

Metro Review

2004

a-n Magazine, *Samson Kambalu: Holyballism*, review by Michael Forbes
The Lincolnshire Echo, *Forget Goldenballs, it's Holyballs for Sam* (article), plus a number of letters

The Guardian, *Picture Perfect: New British Talent* by Adrian Searle
Telegraph, *Strangeness and Charm* by Richard Dorment
Channel 5, Liverpool Biennial review with Tim Marlow
The Independent, *Feeling Queasy on the Mersey Side*, by Thomas Sutcliffe
BBC 2 *Newsnight* with Thomas Sutcliffe

2003

Deterritorialism, Art Monthly, Eddie Chambers
Black My Story, Museum De Paviljoens, Almere, The Netherlands.
Artists included Jimmie Durham, Remy Jungeman, Shirana Shahbazi and Chikako Watanabe
NRC Handelsblad, *Door Cornel Bierens*, The Netherlands
Nederlands Instituut voor Zuielijk Afrika, The Netherlands

2002

WASI, Steve Chimombo Malawi

2001

Kunstblad magazine, Claudine Hellweg, The Netherlands
Nederlands Instituut voor Zuielijk Afrika, The Netherlands

2000

WASI, Malawi

Teaching and Academic Experience

2013

Guest speaker at Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, at the invitation of Professor Pavel Büchler, as part of the series of Tuesday Talks in collaboration with the Manchester Metropolitan University.

2012

Guest Lecturer at Salford University.

2010

Guest speaker at the University of Salzburg, Austria, at the invitation of Professor Sabine Coelsch-Foisner.

Guest speaker at the Literature Salon, Leibniz University Hannover, Germany.

2006

Guest Lecturer at Nottingham Trent University.

2002-2005

Select Education, Supply art instructor in schools and colleges in the East Midlands.

1999-2002

Associate Lecturer in Fine Art, Chancellor College, University of Malawi. Duties included undergraduate classes in painting and drawing, art history and art theory (modern and contemporary art, with a special focus on Africa).

Consultancies

2011

Consulted by the Roger Federer Foundation regarding Malawi.

2005

Commissioning panel for East Midlands Development Agency (through ArtReach). We commissioned Rafael Lozano-Hemmer to create "Under Scan", a multi-media installation that toured the East Midlands and London.

Commissioning panel for ArtReach Three Cities project. We commissioned "Nanoplex", a mobile cinema that continues to tour the UK.

2004

Architectural design consultancy for the New Art Exchange in Nottingham. This involved visiting various public art institutions around Britain in order to evaluate the requirements for the new contemporary art centre in Nottingham.