

## SAMSON KAMBALU

Born in 1975 in Malawi  
Lives and works in London, UK

### Education

PhD, Chelsea College of Art and Design, 2011-2016  
MFA, Nottingham Trent University, 2002-2003  
BA, University of Malawi (Fine Art and Ethnomusicology), 1995-1999

### Solo Exhibitions

2021

Modern Art Oxford, Oxford, UK  
Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal  
Galerie Nordenhake, Stockholm, Sweden  
Kate MacGarry, London, UK

2020

Postcards from the Last Century, PEER UK, London, UK

2019

Solo presentation at Market Art fair, Stockholm, Sweden

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  
Capsules, Mountains and Forts, Kate MacCarry, London, UK

2015

The Unbearable Lightness of Nyau Cinema, Gallery U Mloka, Olomouc, Czech Republic  
Double Feature: Nyau Cinema, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany

2014

Sepia Rain, Stevenson Johannesburg, South Africa

2012

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

2009

Roseanne, Sai Gallery, Osaka, Japan

2008

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

2005

Black My Story, Nottingham Castle and Art Gallery, Nottingham, UK

2004

Holyball Exercises and Exorcisms, Usher Gallery, Lincoln, UK

Holyballism, Art Exchange Gallery, Nottingham, UK

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

2022

ARS22, Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland

2021

Fourth Plinth Shortlist Exhibition, National Gallery, London, UK

Eclipse, 7<sup>th</sup> Athens Biennale, Athens, Greece

Songs from a Forgotten Past, CentroCentro, Madrid, Spain

2020

FotoFest Biennial, African Cosmologies, Houston, Texas, USA

Vincent Meessen & Samson Kambalu - History Without A Past, Kunstmuseum aan zee, Oostende, Belgium

Happy, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA

2019

Dallas Medianale, Dallas, Texas, USA

2018

African Metropolis, MAXXI, Rome, Italy

FIFTEEN, Kate MacGarry Gallery, London, UK

2017

Afriques Capitales, La Villette, Paris, France

The Silences Between, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

The Public Body, Artspace, Sydney, Australia

El Usman Faroghi 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 Kunsthhaus, Switzerland

Fifteen, Kate MacGarry, London, UK

2016

Retrogarde, The Rogan Centre, University of Chicago, USA

Qalandiya International Biennale, Palestine  
Detail is All, Kunsthalle Mainz, Mainz, Germany  
Dakar Biennale, Dakar, Senegal  
Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, UK  
Lost & Found, Paradiso, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2015

Embodied Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen, Denmark  
50/50 New Church Museum, Cape Town, South Africa  
Transformation Marathon, Serpentine Gallery, London, UK  
Schema, Stevenson Cape Town, South Africa  
Venice Biennale, All the World's Futures, Venice, Italy

2014

Chroma, Stevenson Cape Town, South Africa  
Dakar Biennial, Dakar, Senegal  
Nyaul, Espace D'art Contemporain, Porrentruy, Switzerland  
The Book Lovers, Artist novels project, Cricoteka, Krakow, Poland  
The Book Lovers, De Appel, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2013

The Book Lovers, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland

2012

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

2009-2010

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

2009

Tokyo International Art Festival, Tokyo, Japan

2008

Art Osaka, Osaka, Japan  
The Mausoleum of Lost Objects, INIVA, London, UK  
Next We Change Earth, The New Art Exchange Gallery, Nottingham, UK

2006

Hinterland, Nottingham, UK  
Ballkünstler (Part of FIFA World Cup 2006), with Kendall Geers, Greg Colson and Wim Delvoye, Museum der Bildenden Künste, Leipzig, Germany  
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, Nottingham, UK  
Guess Who, Stedelijk Museum, Zwolle, The Netherlands  
Black My Story, Museum De Paviljoens, Artists included Jimmie Durham, Remy Jungeman, Shirana

Shahbazi and Chikako Watanabe, Almere, The Netherlands

#### Curating

2015

Nyau Cinema for The One Minutes, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2012

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

#### 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, Bonn, 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 for Tattoo City, London, UK

2006

The Fritschy Award Nominee, The Netherlands

2005-2010

ACME, The Fire Station Residency, London, UK

2004

Decibel Visual Arts Award (Arts Council)

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

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

2000

The Thami Mnyele Artist Residency, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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

2017

The Aporia of the Gift and my Praxis, Slade School of Art, London, UK  
The Last Judgement and Nyau Cinema, ICA Live Art Festival, Cape Town, South Africa

2016

The Aporia of the Gift and my Praxis, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA  
The Aporia of the Gift and my Praxis, The Headlands, San Francisco, USA  
Diagrammatic Cinema, Logan Centre, University of Chicago, USA  
The Aporia of the Gift and my Praxis, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK  
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, Goldsmith, University of London, UK  
Nyau Cinema, Artist talk, Leeds School of Contemporary Art, Leeds Beckett University, UK  
Nyau Cinema, Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford, UK  
Nyau Cinema, Camberwell School of Art, UAL, London, UK  
Why I am so Clever, Lost and Found, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2015

Photography and the Archive panel speaker, Chaired by Paolo Barrata Venice Biennale 2015, Italy  
Symposium: Art and Collaboration, SOAS, University of London, UK  
Double Feature, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany

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, London, UK  
African Film and Literature Festival, The Gasteig's Blackbox, Munich, Germany  
Africa: The Place of Non-Fiction, Royal African Society's Africa Writes, British Museum, London, UK  
Uccello's Vineyard presentation, Formation International Photography Festival  
Artist Talk for Tattoo City, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, UK

2012

Nightingale Theatre, Brighton, UK

2010

SiemensForum, Auditorium, Munich, Germany  
Weltempfang, Frankfurt International Bookfair, Frankfurt, Germany  
Museum Baerengasse, Zurich, Switzerland  
Vienna Public Library, Vienna, Austria  
Afrika Festival, Graz, Austria  
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, UK  
Whitton Library, Richmond, UK  
Holyball Exercises and Exorcisms, Nextex, St. Gallen, Switzerland  
Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland

2008

Plum Live, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK  
Selected Publications (authored by the artist)

2016

Nyau Cinema, Liverpool Biennale catalogue The Two Sided Lake, Liverpool, UK

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, 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

2017

Cinema Mon Armour, Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau, Switzerland

2015

All the World's Futures, Okwui Enwezor, Venice Biennale, Italy

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, UK

2008

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

2006

The Bradt Travel Guide to Malawi, recommendation by Phillip Briggs  
Ballkünstler, Museum der Bildenden Künste Leipzig, Germany

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, UK (With Mishal Husein)

2010

ORF TV, Vienna, Austria  
Bayern 2, Munich, Germany (With Ania Mauruschat)

2008

BBC Radio Nottingham, UK (Opening of New Art Exchange Gallery)  
BBC Radio 4 Midweek (for Jive Talker ith Hardeep Singh Kohli)  
BBC London, UK (With Robert Elms)  
BBC World Service (With George Arney)

2004

BBC Radio Derby Interview, UK

2005

BBC Radio Nottingham, UK

#### 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](http://corridor8.co.uk) and [creativetourist.com](http://creativetourist.com)

2010

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zwischen Nietzsche und Holy Ball, Switzerland

Salzburgh Nachritchen, 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

α-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, UK

2010

Guest speaker at the University of Salzburg, invitation of Professor Sabine Coelsch-Foisner, Vienna  
Guest speaker at the Literature Salon, Leibniz University Hannover, Germany

2006

Guest Lecturer at Nottingham Trent University, UK

2002-2005

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

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), Malawi, Africa

#### Consultancies

2011

Consulted by the Roger Federer Foundation regarding Malawi, Africa

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, UK

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, UK