

## 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

2022

Mdondo, Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin, Germany  
Painted States, Andersen's, Copenhagen, Denmark

2021

Fracture Empire, Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal  
Fracture Republic, Galerie Nordenhake, Stockholm, Sweden  
Fractured Mission, Magdalen College Old Library, Oxford  
New Liberia, Modern Art Oxford, Oxford  
Beni, Kate MacGarry, London 2021, New Liberia, Modern Art Oxford, Oxford  
Black Jack, Southbank, London

2020

Nyau Cinema, Cable Club, British Council Collection, online  
Postcards from the Last Century, Peer, London, UK

2019

Solo presentation at Market Art Fair, Stockholm, Sweden  
Dallas Medianale 2019, The MAC, Dallas, USA  
Nyasaland Analysand, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2018

Graphomania, The James Gallery, The Graduate Centre, CUNY, New York

2017

Nyau Western, Art Basel Statements, Switzerland  
Ghost Dance, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town South Africa  
Wounded Negatives, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa  
Red Barn Farm, Galerie Nordenhake, Stockholm, Sweden

2016

Nyau Cinema (Black Maria), NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, Miami USA  
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  
FUTURA. Future as a Way of Thinking., Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany

2021

Eclipse, Athens Biennale, Athens, Greece  
Bold Black British, curated by Aindrea Emelife, Christie's, London, UK  
Fourth Plinth Shortlist Exhibition, National Gallery, London, UK  
Light the Night, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, USA  
We are Here: Artists Moving Image from the British Council Collection – Songs from a Forgotten Past, Centro Centro, 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

African Cosmologies, Dallas Medianale, Dallas, Texas, USA

Pierrick Sorin and Samson Kambalu film screenings, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

2018

African Metropolis, MAXXI, Rome, Italy  
FIFTEEN, Kate MacGarry Gallery, London, UK

2017

Afriques Capitales, La Villette, Paris, France  
The Silences Between (Summer Show), Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
The Public Body, Artspace, Sydney, Australia  
The Art of Dissonance, Seoul Museum of Art, South Korea  
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 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  
Art Festival Watou, Belgium  
Lost & Found, Paradiso, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2015

Embodied Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen, Denmark  
50/50 New Church Museum, Cape Town, South Africa  
Drawing Biennial, London, UK  
Transformation Marathon, Serpentine Gallery, London, UK  
Schema, Stevenson Cape Town, South Africa  
All the World's Futures, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy  
Lumieres d'Afriques (2015-2021), Théâtre National de Chaillot, Paris; Donwahi Foundation, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire; Institut Fondamental D'Afrique Noire, Dakar, Senegal; Palais des Nations, Geneva; Africa Union's Headquarters, Addis Ababa; EUMESTAT, Darmstadt, Germany; Mohammed VI Museum, Rabat, Morocco; Johannesburg, South Africa.

2014

Chroma, Stevenson Cape Town, South Africa  
Dakar Biennial, Dakar, Senegal  
Nyau!, Espace D'art Contemporain, Porrentury, 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

2021

Swedenborg Film Festival: judge

Oxford Art Society: Young Artist Prize judge

2018

Sheffield Doc/Fest, Sheffield: jury

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

2021

Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists

Fourth Plinth Commission 2022-24

TORCH Oxford, Knowledge Exchange Fellowship

John Fell Award, New Liberia, Modern Art Oxford  
John Fell Award, Fourth Plinth maquette

2020

London Mayor's Fourth Plinth shortlist

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)

2021

Annual lecture, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton

Cinema and Praxis, Christ Church, Oxford

African Artists: From 1882 to Now, panellist at book launch, Sotheby's, London

The Mayor of London's "In conversation" series, hosted by Eve Makena, online

Cinema and the Antelope, Scotland Malawi Partnership AGM, online

Cinema and the Antelope: Webinar hosted by Dinah Rose QC, Magdalen College, Oxford

Samson Kambalu: Fracture Republic, Galerie Nordenhake, Stockholm, Sweden

Mackenzie Wark with Samson Kambalu on the Situationist International at Modern Art Oxford,  
Humanities Cultural Programme, TORCH, Oxford  
In Conversation: Samson Kambalu and Emma Ridgway, Modern Art Oxford, TORCH, Oxford  
Two Seminars on John Ruskin: Second Guild: Remarks on the Turning St Crumpet, TORCH, Oxford  
Keynote lecture on Cinema and Socialised Praxis, UNESCO RILA Spring School, University of Glasgow

2020

Samson Kambalu and Emma Ridgway In Conversation, Hoxton Hall, London

2019

The Last Brexfast: What is Democracy?, panellist, Deveron Projects, Huntly, Scotland  
Cinema and Praxis, UWE Bristol, Bristol

Nyasaland Analysand, Wits University, Johannesburg, South Africa

Cinema and Praxis, Smithsonian Institution, Pembroke, Oxford

Witchdoctor's Guide to Psychoanalysis, Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford

Cinema and Praxis, Magdalen College, Oxford

Cinema and Praxis, Smithsonian Institution, Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol

2018

Politics of Craft Symposium, TimeSpan, Helmsdale, Scotland

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)

2022

More Lasting than Bronze, contributor and editor, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, USA

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

2021

African Artists, edited by Joseph L. Underwood and Chika Okeke-Agulu, Phaidon Press Ltd.

2020

African Cosmologies: Photography, Time and the Other, Mark Sealy, Schilt Publishing, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2018

The Artists Who Will Change the World, Omar Kholeif, Thames and Hudson, London, UK

2017

Cinema Mon Armour, Aargauer Kunsthau, Aarau, Switzerland  
Afriques Capitales/Capital Africas, Simon Njami, Kehrer, Heidelberg, Germany

2015

All the World's Futures, Okwui Enwezor, Venice Biennale, Italy  
Embodied, Jacqui Davis, Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen, Denmark

2014

Black Artists in British Art: A History Since the 1950s, Eddie Chambers, IB Tauris, London, UK

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 with 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

2021

Samson Kambalu: New Liberia; Pre-Raphaelites: Drawings & Watercolours, Review, Laura Cumming, The Guardian

Samson Kambalu, Modern Art Oxford, Review, Artforum

2020

Brushing History against the Grain: Samson Kambalu and Vincent Meessen, Conversations, Mousse Magazine

Scholar and Slacker: Samson Kambalu interviewed by David Barrett, Art Monthly

Samson Kambalu: Postcards from the Last Century at PEER London, contemporary art society

Samson Kambalu Toys with Heidegger's Bourgeois Romantic Fantasies, Issue 211, Frieze Magazine

2018

Serious Play: Samson Kambalu's Graphomania by Louis Bury, BOMB Magazine

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)

Q&A: Samson Kambalu, Whitechapel Gallery

Detail Is All, Kunsthalle Mainz, Issue 183, Frieze Magazine

Liverpool Biennial review – litterbugs, light shows and left luggage, The Guardian

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 Nachritchen, Ein Steilpass von Nietzsche by Berhard Flieher  
Spiegel Online, Jive Talker by Ulrich Baron

2009

Mister Motley, Démonen 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

2017

Associate Professor of Fine Art, Ruskin School of Art (ongoing)

Slade School of Art, London: intermittent visiting tutor (ongoing)

2016

Goldsmith, University of London: intermittent visiting tutor (ongoing)

Camberwell School of Art: intermittent visiting tutor (ongoing)

Leeds Beckett University, School of Art: guest lecturer and tutor (ongoing)

2014-15

Chelsea College of Art: GTA tutor

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

## Public Collections

The UK Government Art Collection  
British Council Art Collection  
Tate Modern  
NSU Art Museum  
Bury Museum of Art  
Magasin III – Museum of Contemporary Art, Stockholm  
Kunsthalle Hamburg  
Contemporary Art Society

## Consultancies

2019

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, BBC, Netflix: cultural consultant

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