



La Biennale di Venezia

59. Esposizione
Internazionale
d'Arte

Partecipazioni Nazionali

**Uganda to participate for the first time as a national pavilion in
The 59th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia 2022**



Uganda National Pavilion Artists: Acaye Kerunen (L) and Collin Sekajugo (R)

February 3, 2022 (Kampala, Uganda) - The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development announces the Uganda National Pavilion in the forthcoming 59th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia 2022. The Commissioner of the Uganda National Pavilion is Mme Juliana Naumo. This opportunity was made possible through a partnership between Stjarna.art and the Uganda National Cultural Centre (UNCC). The Tanzanian-born, British curator, Mr. Shaheen Merali, will present the works of the Kampala-based artists Ms. Acaye Kerunen and Mr. Collin Sekajugo in Uganda's first appearance as a national pavilion at the International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Says **curator Shaheen Merali**: *"We are looking forward to presenting the works of Ms. Kerunen and Mr. Sekajugo, whose dual approaches to art making, while diverse in their respective aesthetic approach, finds a common ground in their respective imaginations on*

materiality and form. 'Radiance - They Dream in Time' refers to the essential knowledge and lived experiences of Kerunen and Sekajugo in speaking to the many different territories of Uganda, as well as to urban trade and living conditions in its urban centres. Both artists have been actively working with formal and informal archives of Uganda's dynamic visual culture."

Acaye Kerunen's process as a socially engaged artist foregrounds the work of local and regional Ugandan craftswomen, celebrating them as integral collaborators and elevating the artistic practices of local artisans who are the gatekeepers of their local wetlands, drawing upon a sacred and unspoken knowledge of ecological stewardship. By deconstructing utilitarian materials and artisan crafts, Kerunen repositions the work in order to tell new stories and posit new meaning. The act of re-installing these deconstructed materials is a response to the agency of women's work in Africa and an acknowledgment of the role that this artistic labor plays in the climate ecosystem.

Collin Sekajugo approaches his work from a distinct, aesthetic departure point that resides in his repeated return to pop culture and the omnipresent influence exuded by the global mainstream, conversing and critiquing its many biases across visual, oral and digital cultures. Since 2012, Sekajugo has worked with the manipulation of the common stock image to reveal its inherent biases of entitlement and privilege largely modelled on the Western self. Sekajugo's artistic practice highlights a contemporaneous anthropological reversal of this mainstream culture through the lens of a decidedly African sense for irreverence and play on the ad-hoc. Conceptually, the works of Sekajugo become pure theatre, a hacking of identity that exposes some truths behind these stock images that quietly continue to colonise the entire globe by the weight of their own popularity.

For more information, visit www.ugandapavilion.org

For Editors:

Uganda National Pavilion

Organisation: Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

Commissioner: Juliana Akoryo Naumo

Curator: Mr. Shaheen Merali

Title: "Radiance - They Dream in Time"

Artists: Acaye Kerunen & Collin Sekajugo

Where: Palazzo Palumbo Fossati, Venice - San Marco 2597, 30124, Venice

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