

SYOWIA KYAMBI / CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

- 2020 Master in Fine Arts, Plymouth University, Transart Institute, UK
2002 Bachelor in Fine Arts, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, USA

Exhibitions [* denotes solo exhibitions / ** denotes touring exhibitions]

- 2026 *Fugitive Bodies, Speculative Borderlands* an[other] space, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2025 *Worlding* the Institute of Modern Art, Nuremberg, Germany
- 2025** *Le Sel Noir* Städtische Galerie Villingen Schwenningen / Städtische Galerie Bremen, Germany
- 2025 *Das ist kolonial. Westfalens (un)sichtbares Erbe* Landesmuseum Dortmund, Germany
- 2004 *Broken Time. And the World is Made Again by What it Forgets* Skopje Museum of Contemporary Art, Macedonia
- 2024 *Decolonial Feminist Ecologies: On Body & Land* Off Site Lahore Biennale, Pakistan
- 2024 *Sweeping Tide: Notes Towards Decolonial Feminisms* Gallery North & Experimental Studio, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
- 2023* *KASPALE* The Nairobi Contemporary Institute, Kenya
- 2023 *Matter as Actor* Lisson Gallery, UK
- 2022-2025 *All Hands On: Basketry* Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Berlin
- 2022-2023 *Unraveling the (Under-)Development Complex, or: Towards a Post-(Under-)Development Interdependence* SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
- 2022-2023 *Contact Zones* Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt/Main, Germany
- 2022 *Exercises in Conversation* Pavilion of Kenya / 59th International Art Exhibition - Biennale di Venezia, Italy
- 2022 *Índaffa / Forger Out of the Fire* Dakar Biennale, Senegal
- 2022 *The Ordinary Lives of Women* Unfinished Art Space, Malta
- 2019 *AMANI, on the Trail of a Colonial Research Station* MARKK Museum, Hamburg, Germany
- 2018* *Double Consciousness* Galerie Mitte im Kubo, Bremen, Germany
- 2015- 2019** *Future Africa Visions in Time* Nairobi National Museum, Kenya, Goethe Johannesburg, South Africa, Goethe Windhoek, Namibia, Goethe Kigali, Rwanda, Makerere University Gallery, Kampala,

	Uganda, Iwalewahaus, Bayreuth Academy for Advanced African Studies, Germany
2015	Error X Ostrale Centre for Contemporary Art, Dresden, Germany
2016**	Kabbo Ka Muwala – The Girl's Basket. Migration and Mobility in Contemporary Art in Southern and Eastern Africa National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe, Makerere Art Gallery, Kampala, Uganda, Städtische Galerie, Bremen, Germany
2016	Still (the) Barbarians EVA International Biennale, Limerick, Ireland
2015/2016**	Remains, Waste and Metonymy: A critical Intervention into Art Scholarship British Institute of Eastern Africa & Nairobi National Museum, Kenya
2015	From Heaven to Hell Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium
2015**	Body Talk: Feminism, Sexuality and the Body in the Work of Six African Women Artists WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels, Belgium, Konsthalle Lund, Sweden, Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Lorraine, Metz, France
2014*	Between Us GoDown Art Centre, Nairobi, Kenya
2013-2014	Foreign Bodies/Common Ground Wellcome Collection, London, United Kingdom
2013-2014	Nairobi – Stockholm the Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design, Stockholm Sweden
2012	Layers Nairobi National Museum, Kenya
2011	ARS 11 Poikilo, Kouvola Art Museum, Kouvola, Finland
2010*	Permiso: Excuse Me Nairobi National Museum, Kenya
2010	Mwangalio Tofauti Nairobi Gallery, Kenya
2010	Not About Karen Blixen Karen Blixen Museum, Denmark
2010	SPace: Currencies in Contemporary African Art Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa
2009*	Between the Doors La Casa de San Fernando, Mexico City, Mexico
2009	Probe: the Amnesia Project Platform 7 Go Down Art Centre, Nairobi, Kenya
2008*	WoMen, Fraulein, Damsel & Me Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Art, Nairobi, Kenya
2008*	Gender, Power & the Past Goethe-Institute Nairobi, Kenya
2004	Contemporary Visions National Museum of Mali, Bamako, Mali
2004	Utopia Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Art, Nairobi, Kenya
2001	Of Figurative Empathy Lounge Gallery, Chicago U.S.A

Residencies & Fellowships

2025	Carnival as a Conjuring of History and Memory Sustaining the Otherwise & Alice Yard, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
2022	Artist Travel MATZA Edgelands Institute, Cúcuta, Columbia

2022	INHABIT Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Frankfurt/Main, Germany
2020	Third Nature London South Bank University, Performing Borders & LADA, UK
2019	Carrying Histories PRAKSIS, Oslo, Norway
2019	Field Kitchen Academy Berlin, Germany
2018-2019	Artist in Residency Tanga, Tanzania & MARKK Museum Hamburg
2018-2020	Senior Research Fellow Centre for Art, Design & Social Research Program Spoleto, Italy / Merida, Mexico / Nairobi, Kenya
2018	HIAP Helsinki, Finland
2017	Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow Washington DC, U.S.A
2016	Miracle Marathon Serpentine Galleries, London, United Kingdom
2016	Performance as Process Delfina Foundation, London, UK
2016	(Re)thinking Feminism and Black Womanhood Kampala Uganda
2016	The Art of Health: Exploring Creative Engagement with Research Wellcome Collection, Mumbai, India
2013	IASPIS Stockholm Sweden
2012	Art in Global Health Wellcome Trust Fund, United Kingdom
2012	ArtsWork: Refiguring Women Goethe Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa
2009	Creative Artist Visit External Ministry of Affairs, Mexico City, Mexico

Artist Talks & Symposiums

2025	Re-imagining the Global South: Art, Gender & Identity UNESCO 57 th AICA International conference, University of Johannesburg, S.A
2024	Extractivism/Activism: Art Activism & Ecological Extract Paul Mellon Centre & Autograph, London, UK
2024	Assemblage III: Community & Care Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
2023	In Conversation: Syowia Kyambi, Mareike Spaeth, Eike Walkenhorst, Dr Oketch Onyango & Dr Annie E. Coombes the Nairobi Contemporary Art Institute, Kenya
2022	Africa Fashion Expanded V&A Museum & SOAS, London, U.K
2019	Mosquito & The Suit M.Bassy, Hamburg, Germany
2018	Resident Fellow lecture by Syowia Kyambi Academy of Fine Arts, Exhibition Laboratory, Helsinki, Finland
2018	Double Consciousness Oldenburg University, Oldenburg, Germany
2017	Looking for Bridges / Forming Trajectories National Museum of African Art Smithsonian, Washington D.C, USA
2014	1:54 FORUM 2014: Koyo Kouoh in Conversation with Syowia Kyambi & James Muriuki Somerset House, London, UK

Educational Leadership & Pedagogical Practice

2023~2026	<i>Spitzen professor</i> at the Academy of Fine Arts Nuremberg since November 2023 through the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts' Top Professorship Programme (SPP). Designed and implemented an on-going pedogeological project the Interlocutory Agency.
2022~2024	<i>Director of the Masters in Fine Arts program</i> for Transart Institute in accreditation with Liverpool John Moores University.
2019~2023	<i>Co-founder of a processed based international residency program</i> , Untethered Magic; focused on autonomy, knowledge exchange and sustainability.
2023	<i>Produced UJUZI a regional first alternative learning and mentorship program</i> for East African artists adopting a holistic approach to artistic education encompassing creative research methodologies and contextual thinking.
2010~2014	<i>Head of Art & Design Department</i> following Cambridge International Examinations Board British National Curriculum at both Years 9–11 (IGCSEs) and Years 12–13 (A-Levels & BTECs)
2005~2010	<i>Head of Primary Years Program Art Department</i> , International Baccalaureate Schools Aga Khan Academy in both Nairobi and Mombasa.
2020	<i>Peer to Peer Mentor: Hhjemmefra-artists-at-home-residency</i> The Union, Oslo, Norway (online)
2019	<i>Kunstpioniere Program</i> MARKK Museum, Hamburg, Germany
2018	<i>Studio Critical Feedback Sessions</i> Academy of Fine Arts University of the Arts, Helsinki, Finland
2012	<i>Middle Leaders Training</i> Karen Ardley Associates, Cairo, Egypt
2012	<i>Lead Facilitator for the Assessment in the Arts</i> International British Curriculum Schools Nairobi INSET, Hillcrest International Schools, Nairobi, Kenya
2008	<i>Curator & Lead Facilitator for the Performance Art Workshop within the Primary Years Program</i> The Aga Khan Academy, Nairobi, Kenya
2007	<i>Curator & Lead Facilitator titled Inside & Outside the Classroom: The Importance of Art Education</i> Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Art, Nairobi, Kenya
2005	<i>CPD training for the Arts as Inquiry within the Primary Years Program</i> International Baccalaureate, Bucharest, Romania

Public Commissions & Collections

2026/2022	The Nairobi Contemporary Art Institute Collection Nairobi, Kenya <i>Kaspale's Playground</i> (2020) <i>Parts of the Brother's</i> (2020) <i>Parts of the Sister's</i> (2020)
2024	Nicolas Logsdail Collection London, UK <i>Entity Costume part of Fracture (i)</i> (2011)
2024/2016	Devereux Collection London, UK <i>Kaspale's Ancestor (i)</i> (2022) <i>WoMen, Fräulein, Damsel & Me</i> (2013)
2020	PLP / Aspire Art Collection Cape Town, South Africa <i>Kaspale's Archive Intrusion the Vortex III</i> (2019) <i>Rose's Relocation</i> (2015)
2016	Sindika Dokolo Foundation Luanda, Angola <i>Counter Action (ii)</i> (2015)
2011	Kouvola Art Museum Collection Kouvola Finland <i>Between the Doors (ii)</i> (2010)
2008	National Museum Nairobi Kenya <i>Infinity: Flashes of the Past</i> (2008)
2004	National Museum Mali Bamako, Mali <i>Rosewood</i> (2004) <i>Everybody's</i> (2004)

Press & Publication

2025	Körnig & Lähnemann & Daniels & Rudy, "Le Sel Noir: Perspektiven Schwarzer Gegenwartskunst." Kerber Verlag
2025	Hardt, "Beziehungsgeflechte." Texte Zur Kunst, July, Web-Archive
2025	Wild & Kyambi, "Worlding." Catalogue
2023	Prasad & Osrin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Planetary Destruction." CUSSH
2021	Kyambi, "Holding Space." performingborders e-journal Fragments for Borderless Futures, U.K
2020	Marsh, "In Other Words." Metal Culture

- 2018 Galarie Mitte im Kubo. Solo Exhibition Catalogue. "Double Consciousness." Bremen, Germany
- 2018 C. Liebelt, S. Böllinger and Ulf Vierke, "Beauty and the Norm: Debating Standardization in Bodily Appearance." Palgrave Macmillan
- 2016 National Gallery Zimbabwe in Harare, Makerere Art Gallery Kampala & Statische Galerie Bremen, "Kaboo ka Muwala [The Girls Basket] Migration and Mobility in Contemporary Art in Southern and Eastern Africa." Revolver Publishing
- 2016 Murray, Kernohan & Kouoh, Catalogue, "Still (the) Barbarians." EVA INTERNATIONAL – Ireland's Biennial
- 2015 Raw Material Company, "Body Talk: Feminism, Sexuality and the Body in the Work of Six African Women Artist." WIELS, Konsthalle Lund, FRAC Lorraine 49 North 6 East
- 2015 Villa Empain, "Heaven and Hell. From Magic Carpets to Drones." Boghossian Foundation
- 2014 Contact Zones NRB Vol: 13. "Miriam Syowia Kyambi." Nairobi: Native Intelligence
- 2013 Coombes, Hughes & Munene. "Managing Heritage, Making Peace: History, Identity and Memory in Contemporary Kenya." I.B. Tauris
- 2012 Contact Zones NRB Vol: 05 "Mwangalio Tofauti – Nine Photographers from Kenya." Nairobi: Native Intelligence
- 2012 Goniwe & Mboweni. "SPace: Currencies in Contemporary African Art." Johannesburg: Africa World Press & Unisa Press
- 2004 Dr. Kivubiro Tabawebbula. "Utopia, Seven Artists Seek a Place in the Kenyan Art Scene." Nairobi: Kyambi/Kivubiro