

SYOWIA KYAMBI / CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

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

Organizations

Academy of Fine Arts, Nuremberg (2023 – 2026)

Professor / visiting artist program facilitated by Ministry of Culture.

Put here descriptor of what it is

Transart Institute (2023 – 2024)

Director of the Masters in Fine Arts program in accreditation with Liverpool John Moores University

Untethered Magic (2019 – 2024)

Co-founder of a processed based international residency program focused on autonomy, knowledge exchange and sustainability.

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

- 2025 *Worlding*, The Institute of Modern Art, Nuremberg, Germany
2025 *Le Sel Noir*, Städtische Galerie Bremen, Germany
2025 *Le Sel Noir*, Städtische Galerie Villingen Schwenningen, 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 and Land*, Lahore Biennale, Off Site, Pakistan
2024 *Sweeping Tide: Notes Towards Decolonial Feminisms*, Gallery North & Experimental Studio, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne
2024 – 2026 *MakerMuseum:Weaving*, Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Berlin
2023* *KASPALÉ*, The Nairobi Contemporary Institute, Kenya
2023 *Matter As Actor*, Lisson Gallery, UK
2022-2025 *MakerMuseum:Weaving*, Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Berlin
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 *Live Art Festival*, Institute for Creative Arts, Cape Town, South Africa
2022 *Open Encounters*, THX AGAIN, Berlin, Germany
2022-2023 *Contact Zones*, Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt/Main, Germany
2022 *The Ordinary Lives of Women*, St James Cavalier Castille Place, Malta
2019 *AMANI, on the Trail of a Colonial Research Station*, MARKK Museum, Hamburg, Germany
2018 *Double Consciousness (Performance)*, Alliance Francaise, Nairobi, Kenya
2018* *Double Consciousness*, Galerie Mitte im Kubo, Bremen, Germany
2018 *New Threads Investigating Process & Material*, Circle Art Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya
2015 - 2019** *Future Africa Visions in Time*, Nairobi National Museum, Kenya, Goethe Johannesburg, South Africa, Goethe Windhoek, Namibia, Goethe Kigali, Rwanda, Makarere University Gallery, Kampala,

	Uganda, Iwalewahaus, Bayreuth Academy for Advanced African Studies, Germany
2016	<i>Error X</i> , Ostrale Centre for Contemporary Art, Dresden, Germany
2016**	<i>Kabbo Ka Muwala – The Girl’s Basket. Migration and Mobility in Contemporary Art in Southern and Eastern Africa</i> , National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe, Makerere Art Gallery, Kampala, Uganda, Städtische Galerie, Bremen, Germany
2016	<i>Remains, Waste & Metonymy</i> , Nairobi National Museum, Nairobi Kenya
2016	<i>Still (the) Barbarians</i> , EVA International Biennale, Limerick, Ireland
2015	<i>Remains, Waste and Metonymy: A critical Intervention into Art Scholarship</i> , British Institute of Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya
2015	<i>From Heaven to Hell</i> , Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium
2015	<i>Concerning the Internal</i> , Circle Art Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya
2015**	<i>Body Talk: Feminism, Sexuality and the Body in the Work of Six African Women Artists</i> , WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels, Belgium, Konsthalle Lund, Sweden, Fonds Régional d’Art Contemporain Lorraine, Metz, France
2014*	<i>Between Us</i> , GoDown Art Centre, Nairobi, Kenya
2013-2014	<i>Foreign Bodies/Common Ground</i> , Wellcome Collection, London, United Kingdom
2013-2014	<i>Nairobi – Stockholm</i> , The Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design, Stockholm Sweden
2012	<i>Layers</i> , Nairobi National Museum, Kenya
2011	<i>ARS 11</i> , Poikilo, Kouvola Art Museum, Kouvola, Finland
2010*	<i>Permiso: Excuse Me</i> , Nairobi National Museum, Kenya
2010	<i>Mwangalio Tofauti</i> , Nairobi Gallery, Kenya
2010	<i>Not About Karen Blixen</i> , Karen Blixen Museum, Denmark
2010	<i>SPace: Currencies in Contemporary African Art</i> , Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa
2009*	<i>Cross Cultural Connection</i> , La Casa de San Fernando, D.F Mexico City, Mexico
2009	<i>Probe</i> , The Amnesia Project Platform 7, Go Down Art Centre, Nairobi, Kenya
2008*	<i>WoMen, Fraulein, Damsel & Me & Domestic Violence</i> , Installation Space, Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Art, Nairobi, Kenya
2008*	<i>Gender, Power & the Past</i> , Goethe-Institute Nairobi, Kenya
2007	<i>Drawings</i> , Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Art, Nairobi, Kenya
2006	<i>Old Town Exhibition</i> , Jahazi & TAAM, Mombasa, Kenya
2005	<i>True Colours</i> , Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Art, Nairobi, Kenya
2004	<i>Contemporary Visions</i> , National Museum of Mali, Bamako, Mali
2004	<i>Utopia</i> , Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Art, Nairobi, Kenya
2003	<i>Todesatem (Deaths Breath)</i> , Undergraduate Exhibition 2003 Show, Gallery 2, Chicago, U.S.A
2001	<i>Of Figurative Empathy</i> , Lounge Gallery, Chicago U.S.A

Residencies, Workshops & Fellowships

2022	INHABIT, Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Frankfurt/Main, Germany
2020	Third Nature, London South Bank University, Performing Borders & LADA, UK (online)
2020	Common Places Entanglements, Centre for Art, Design & Social Research Residency, (online)
2020	Co curated, De/Archive, Centre for Art, Design & Social Research Residency Nairobi, Kenya

2019	Co curated, Carrying Histories, PRAKSIS, Oslo, Norway
2019	Field Kitchen Academy, Berlin, Germany
2019	Centre for Art, Design & Social Research Residency, Spoleto, Italy
2019	Centre for Art, Design & Social Research Residency, Merida, Mexico
2018	University of the Arts Helsinki Fellow, HIAP, Helsinki, Finland
2018	Centre for Art, Design & Social Research Residency, Spoleto, Italy
2017	Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow, Washington DC, U.S.A
2017	Arts in Society, Kigali, Rwanda
2016	Performance as Process, Delfina Foundation, London, UK
2016	(Re)thinking Feminism and Black Womanhood, Kampala, Uganda
2016	International Engagement Workshop: 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 Workshop: Refiguring Women, Goethe Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa
2012	Art in Global Health, KEMRI – Wellcome Trust, Kilifi, Kenya
2009	Creative Artist Visit, External Ministry of Affairs, Mexico City, Mexico
2004	Figure Drawing Workshop, The Go Down Art Centre, Nairobi, Kenya
2003	Mono Type Printing, Kuona Trust Visual Art Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

Curatorial Projects

2024	Designed educational model <i>Interlocutory Agency</i> , co curated with students, <i>Not to fill the Silence</i> , Austellungshalle, Adbk, Nuremberg, Germany
2019/on-going	Untethered Magic, Process Based Residency Space for knowledge exchange, Nairobi, Kenya
2020	Curated, Residency & Exhibition, <i>Get Your Foot Off My Neck</i> , Collaboration with Ostrale Centre for Contemporary Art Dresden & Circle Art Gallery in Nairobi (cancelled due to Covid-19)
2020	Co-curated the Centre for Art, Design & Social Research Residency, <i>De/Archive</i> Nairobi, Kenya
2019	Co-curated, Carrying Histories, PRAKSIS, Oslo, Norway
2019	<i>WomanISM</i> , Ostrale Centre for Contemporary Art Biennale, Dresden, Germany
2016	<i>Error X</i> , Collaborative Curation with Ostrale Centre for Contemporary Art, Dresden, Germany
2012	<i>In Memoriam: A journey through Mbuthia Maina's Past Work</i> , Goethe-Institut Nairobi, Kenya
2010	<i>Rear View 2004 – 2010 Photographs by James Muriuki</i> , Goethe-Institut Nairobi, Kenya
2010	<i>Constructions</i> , Kuona Trust, Nairobi Kenya

Teaching Experience

2024 - 2026	Interlocutory Agency, Professor, Akademie der Bildenen Kunste, Nuremberg, Germany
2023-2024	UJUZI Mentorship Program, Curatorial Education Director, Nairobi, Kenya
2020	Hjemmefra-artists-at-home-residency, Peer to Peer Mentor, The Union, Oslo, Norway (online)
2019	Kunstpioniere Artist with Students in the Museum, MARKK Museum, Hamburg, Germany
2018	Studio Critique with the Academy of Fine Arts University of the Arts

- Helsinki Students, Helsinki Arts University, Finland
- 2012 *Middle Leaders Conference*, Karen Ardley Associates, Cairo, Egypt
- 2012 Lead Facilitator, *Assessment in the Arts, International British Curriculum Schools Nairobi INSET*, Hillcrest International Schools, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2011-2014 Head of Art & Design, Hillcrest Secondary School, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2008 *The Aga Khan Junior Academy, Nairobi Arts Festival 2008*, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2008 Curator & Lead Facilitator, *Performance Art Workshop within the Primary Years Program*, The Aga Khan Junior Academy, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2007 Curator & Lead Facilitator, *Inside & Outside the Classroom: The Importance of Art Education*, Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Art, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2005 *International Baccalaureate Eighth Primary Years Programme July Workshop: "The Arts as Inquiry within the Primary Years Program"* Bucharest, Romania
- 2005 *International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Beginners Workshop*, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2005 *International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Intermediate Workshop*, Mombasa, Kenya

Artist Talks & Symposiums

- 2024 *PSi #29 Assemblage*, London, UK
- 2024 *Extractivism/Activism*, Paul Mellon Centre & Autograph, London, UK
- 2024 *Assemblage III: Community & Care*, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
- 2023 *Syowia Kyambi & Dr Annie E. Coombes in Conversation*, The Nairobi Contemporary Art Institute, Kenya
- 2023 *Syowia Kyambi & Dr Oketch Onyango in Conversation*, The Nairobi Contemporary Art Institute, Kenya
- 2023 *Syowia Kyambi, Mareike Spaeth & Eike Walkenhorst in Conversation*, The Nairobi Contemporary Art Institute, Kenya
- 2022 *Africa Fashion Expanded*, V&A Museum & SOAS, London, U.K
- 2020 *Kaspale's Playground*, Talk & Screening, Circle Art Gallery, Kenya
- 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 Miriam Syowia Kyambi and James Muriuki*, London, UK

Public Commissions, Collections & Art Fairs

- 2024 Private Collection, London, UK
- 2022 The Nairobi Contemporary Art Institute Collection, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2020 Photography Legacy Project, Aspire Art Auction, South Africa
- 2016 Sindika Dokolo Foundation, Angola
- 2016/2024 Devereux Collector, London, UK
- 2016 Miracle Marathon, Serpentine Galleries, London, United Kingdom
- 2015 Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 & 2014 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, United Kingdom
- 2013 Pulchri, Hague, Netherlands

2012 The Fair Bruneaf, Roots Contemporary Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
2011 Kouvola Art Museum Collection, Kouvola, Finland
2008 Kenya Administrative, Permanent Installation, Nairobi, Kenya
2008 Under the Sea, Kenya Institute of Administration, Nairobi, Kenya
2007 Infinity: Flashes of the Past, National Museum of Kenya, Permanent Installation, Nairobi, Kenya

Books & Exhibition Catalogues

Körnig & Lähnemann & Daniels & Rudy, Le Sel Noir: Perspektiven Schwarzer Gegenwartskunst. Kerber Verlag, 2025

Oliver Hardt, Le Sel Noir. Perspektiven Schwarzer Gegenwartskunst Städtische Galerie Villingen-Schwenningen Texte Zur Kunst, July 2025

Wild & Kyambi, Worlding, Catalogue 2025

Prasad & Osrin, The Work of Art in the Age of Planetary Destruction, CUSSH 2023

Kyambi, Holding Space. performingborders e-journal Fragments for Borderless Futures, U.K, October 2021

Kate Marsh, In Other Words, Metal Culture, 2020

Kyambi, Becoming Kaspale. Nairobi Contemporary Magazine, Nairobi Kenya, July 2020.

Kyambi, Who Once Spoke? Who Speaks Now? An Artist Statement. Amani-Spuren kolonialer Wissenschaft /Traces of Colonial Science Germany 2019

Galerie 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, 2018

National Gallery Zimbabwe in Harare, Makerere Art Gallery Kampala & Städtische Galerie Bremen, Kaboo ka Muwala [The Girls Basket] Migration and Mobility in Contemporary Art in Southern and Eastern Africa, Revolver Publishing, 2016

Texts by Hugh Murray, Woodrow Kernohan and Koyo Kouoh, Catalogue, Still (the) Barbarians EVA INTERNATIONAL – Ireland's Biennial, 2016

Raw Material Company, Body Talk: Feminism, Sexuality and the Body in the Work of Six African Women Artists, WIELS, Konsthalle Lund, FRAC Lorraine 49 North 6 East, 2015

Villa Empain, Heaven and Hell. From Magic Carpets to Drones, Boghossian Foundation 2015

Edited by Koyo Kouoh, with texts by Sarah Adams, Eva Barois De Caevel, Ken Bugul, Frieda Ekotto, D.E.Fault, Koyo Kouoh, Alya Sebti, Body Talk, 2015

Contact Zones NRB Vol: 13. Miriam Syowia Kyambi. Nairobi: Native Intelligence, 2014

Coombes, Hughes & Munene. Managing Heritage, Making Peace: History, Identity and Memory in Contemporary Kenya. I.B. Tauris, 2013

Muriuki & Kyambi. Layers. Nairobi: Artist Book, 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, 2012

Dr. Kivubiro Tabawebbula. Utopia, Seven Artists Seek a Place in the Kenyan Art Scene. Nairobi: Kyambi/Kivubiro, 2004