



ARDHI GALLERY

CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

ABOUT US:

Ardhi Gallery is Nairobi's latest contemporary art gallery, having opened its doors in April 2023.

Ardhi, meaning "ground" in Swahili, is a thoughtfully curated space showcasing emerging, underrepresented and outsider artists alongside leading established artists who have a passion for nurturing the arts in society.

Ardhi aims to expand the wider communities' exposure to and appreciation of art that reflects the diverse everyday life of Kenyans, and the role creativity can play in transforming hardship into something of meaning and beauty. Ardhi holds regular and pop-up exhibitions, poetry nights, musical performances, talks on mental health and safety in society, and art classes for children and adults-instructed by artists represented in the gallery.

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Parallel four Building
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CHRISPUS NYAANGA

VISUAL ARTIST

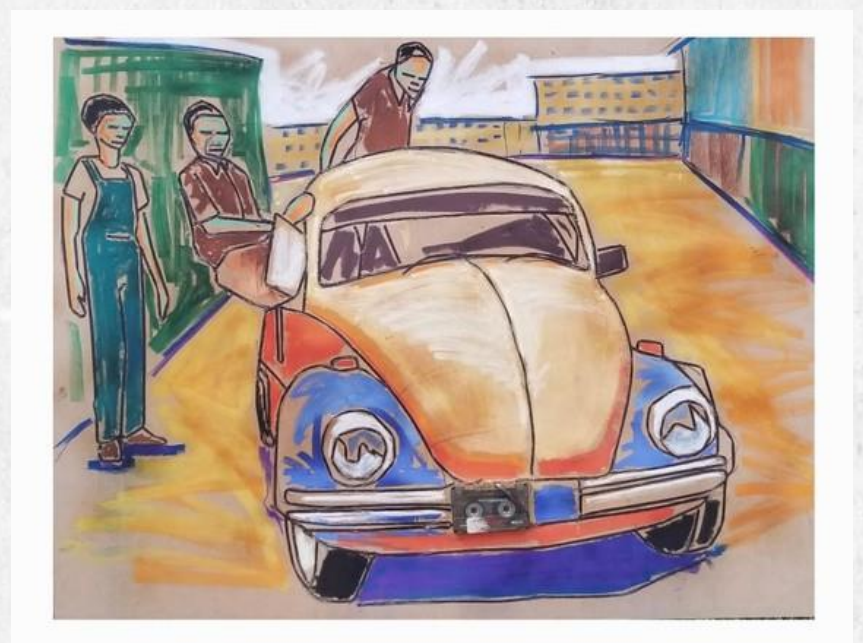
ABOUT ME:

Chrispus specializes in conceptual design and has been doing so for the past three years. His primary interest is in contemporary art, with a special emphasis on self identity and figurative art. His art is inspired by African history as well as Nairobi's urban and afro landscapes, particularly the Mukuru Kwa Njenga Slum. His figurative pieces capture the modern African fitting into the modern world, with a strong emphasis on spirituality, and he typically works on canvas with acrylics, oils, and collage

ARTWORKS:



Title: Balance
Size: 80 by 60 cm
Medium: Cassette tape and pastel on board



Title: Ride along
Size: 100 by 80 cm
Medium: Cassette tape and pastel on board



ISAIAH MALUNGA

VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

Isaiah Malunga is a young upcoming artist born and raised in Mukuru slums. He was taught art by Adam Masava and transitioned from drawing and painting on paper to canvas in 2017, where he found and started developing his own style. His style involves using old school notebooks as his art background; he then sketches and paints children either going to or coming back from school. He inspires children to be in school. He has displayed his artwork in a couple of exhibitions, like the Affordable Art Show in the Museum, the Fota ISK Art Exhibition, and many others.

ARTWORKS:



Title: A walk to the Future
Size: 100 by 600 cm
Mixed media collage



Title: Mama's Love
Size: 100 by 80 cm
Mixed media collage



CYNTHIA NGUNJIRI

VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

Cynthia Nyakiro Ngunjiri, b. 1994, is a multimedia visual artist based in Nairobi, Kenya. She attained a bachelor's degree in Fine Art and Design from Kenyatta University in 2022. Her work explores collage and photomontage compositions drawn from nature and memory. Nyakiro has been interested in the arts since childhood. "I always had a desire to express myself and I found out at an early age that I can translate my thoughts into something concrete." After completing high school, she pursued a degree in architecture, before she choosing to follow her passion in the visual arts. Nyakiro draws inspiration from nature, human relationships, as well as the metaphysical to come up with compositions. She works with various media such as recycled paper, x-rays, magazine cut-outs, ink, bleach, pigment, scrap metal, dried plants and flowers, photography and digital media. Her works embody the creativity that she garners from her environment. Inspired by the Dadaist movement, she uses the technique of photomontage and collage which she started while still in architecture school. "I view every material I collect for my pieces to have infinite lives. By distorting and pasting different bits and pieces together, I breathe life into them - give them new significance."

ARTWORKS:



Title: Happy Life
Size: 48 by 37 cm
X-rays, tracing paper,
magazine cut-out on
old architectural
plans



Title: The Grand
Uprising
Size: 16.8 by 21.8 cm
scrap metal, dried chilli,
magazine cut-out on
water colour paper



JAMES DUNDI

VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

He started making art in 2010. Earlier in his practice, he worked under the tutelage of Otieno Kota, with whom Dundi held a duo exhibition at the Maasai Mbili Artists Collective in 2017. He has participated in other group exhibitions at the British Council and Polka Dot Gallery (2018). Beyond the Image at Art After 5 Gallery (2018), G2G Food and Art by Tewa 2019, Kenyan Art Diary 2019, Manjano Exhibition 2021, and Art and Climate Change 2023

ARTWORKS:



Title: Chai Moto
Size: 48 by 37 cm
Stitched junk metal
mixed media



Title: Kaunda
Size: 48 by 37 cm
Stitched junk metal
mixed media



Title: Faces II
Size: 30 by 9 by 30 cm
Stitched junk metal
mixed media



Title: Faces I
Size: 30 by 9 by 30 cm
Stitched Junk metal
mixed media



YVONNE NZILANI

VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

Yvonne Nzilani is 24years old, born and raised in the Baba Dogo neighbourhood in Nairobi. She is a recycling artist creating 2D artworks on canvas. Her environment and surrounding inspires her work of art. Having worked with plastics for a while now, She tends to see it as an alternative drawing medium. Yvonne has exhibited her art pieces in National Museum of Kenya, Rosslyn Riviera Mall and Alliance Française de Nairobi.

ARTWORKS:



Title: Nothing to smile about
Size: 30 by 30 cm
Recycled woven plastic bags



Title: Queen Plastiki
Size: 40 by 40 cm
Recycled bottle tops and woven plastic bags



Title: Macho Nne
Size: 30 by 30 cm
Recycled woven plastic bags



STEPHEN NDAVI

VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

Stephen Ndavi is a contemporary artist from the Nairobi Mukuru area. He started his work of art professionally in 2018 after quitting a teaching job in Sudan due to the civil war. Painting, among other art related activities, acts as the perfect therapy to deal with post war trauma. His childhood experiences and working with children since 2011 as a teacher inspired him to use art as a tool that addresses children related issues, especially in areas surrounding food, water, education, and their well-being at large. His art evolves every day. In his recent work, he is painting on used cutting boards using oil paints. These media are perfect for addressing food related stories. He has participated in various group exhibitions in Kenya and Europe.

ARTWORKS:



Title: Energizer
Size: 47 by 40 cm
Oil paints on used
cutting boards



Title: Celebrations
Size: 47 by 40 cm
Oil paints on used
cutting boards



Title: Power sharing
Size: 60 by 122 cm
Oil paints on used
cutting boards



JAMES KAMANDE

VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

James Kamande is a self-taught contemporary artist based in Nairobi, Kenya. He was born in 1992 in Kangemi, Nairobi. The formative years of his childhood deeply inspired the distressed walls with markings and scribbles in the paintings he creates today, sometimes coupled with characters to express a set of symbols that are used to communicate ideas, beliefs, and values in today's culture. He finds inspiration for his creative processes in his childhood, the centre he was raised in, and his life in the city. He could scribble and make markings on walls, on books, and literally any surface around, creating artworks to express his wishes, views, and aspirations, moments in life he'd been through, and the suburban open and interior life settings. His creative moments came about through seeking comfort and company, self searching and expression of the meaning of life, which his art endeavours to realize and find, not forgetting his viewpoints on today's social, economic, and cultural factors impacting our African society. He also works on other art mediums, such as charcoal on canvas, assemblages of discarded materials on boards, iron sheets, and reused rubber panels

ARTWORKS:



Title: No dumping
Size: 200 by 150 cm
Discarded materials on board



Title: The Garment II
Size: 100 by 62 cm
Reused materials on board



Title: The Garment II
Size: 149 by 89 cm
Reused materials on board



MESHACK OIRO

VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

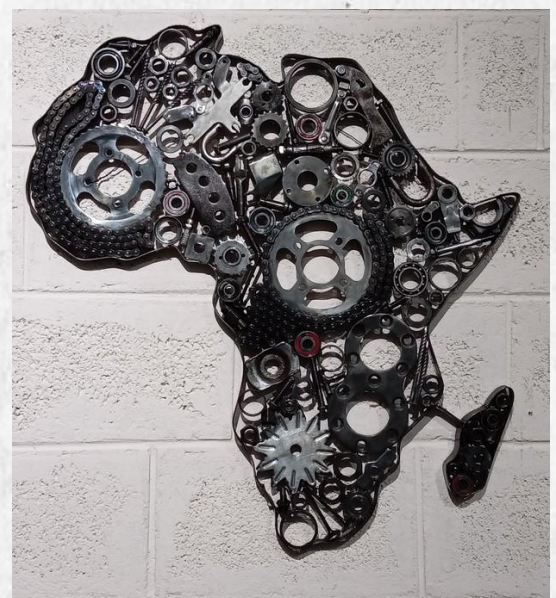
Meshack Oiro is a visual artist who mostly majors in sculpture and installations.

Meshack's works are mostly mixed media and, more significantly, upcycled material or discarded waste. The subjects he works with are broad, scaling from both human and animal forms. On the flip side, Meshack has been able to clean up approximately 10 tons of junk from the year 2015 up until now through his sculptures. His main objective is to clean the environment creatively.

ARTWORKS:



Title: Ruath
Recycled motor parts



Title: Within Borders
Recycled motor parts



ADAM MASSAVA

VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

Adam Masava, a Kenyan artist and teacher, grew up in Mukuru Kwa Njenga slums in East Nairobi. Currently, most of the work he creates portrays life in the informal settlement, giving detail and depth to the environment in which he grew up. Adam has been developing his unique styles over the past 10 years- his experience, talent, and generosity have given rise to several other area artists through his creation of the Mukuru Arts Club, which facilitates the learning and mentorship of many aspiring artists from Nairobi

ARTWORKS:



Title: Off Peak
Size: 180 by 107 CM
Recycled mabati and
acrylics



NJOKI KAHUNGURA

VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

Njoki Kahungura is a visual artist from Nairobi, Kenya who creates pieces that reflect some of the most pivotal creative art forms in African societies. She explores African art forms that have significance to us historically, proving our continents creativity years before western influence changed the notion around it. Her work reflects the beauty of Africa's women, land, people, art and creativity through using coffee as a main medium as well as watercolour and charcoal. Njoki has exhibited her work in Leeds and Nairobi.

ARTWORKS:



Title: The Migration
Size: 50.4 by 46 CM
Recycled coffee



Title: Mwili
Size: 54 by 42CM
Recycled coffee



NELSON IJAKA

VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

Nelson Ijakaa, (born 1993), is an artist working both in Nairobi, Kenya, and Arusha, Tanzania.

These artworks represent 60 years of Kenyan Independence from the perspective of the excitement of a newly independent state with the hopes and dreams of the populace for self-direction which is then mirrored by the current state of the country 60 years later. The image transfers of newspaper headlines serve to illustrate the “societal spirit” of the times.

ARTWORKS:



Title: Miaka Sitini I
Size: 130 by 190 CM
Mixed media on canvas



Title: Miaka Sitini II
Size: 130 by 190 CM
Mixed media on canvas



NJOGU KURIA

VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

Njogu Kuria, born in 1992, is an independent multimedia artist working in the creative industry. A passion for experimenting in art has led him to attempt and adapt various materials and methods belonging to both contemporary and modern forms of art. His recent powerful textural creations using rubber, among other materials, draw inspiration from the dual nature of Black essence—of Peace and Wrath. The peaceful side is about stillness, mystery, and the magic of the night, while the wrathful side is fierce and annihilating in service of the truth

ARTWORKS:



Title: Congo bongo Natty
Size: 90 by 120 CM by 8 CM
Recycled rubber, melted vinyl, acrylics and resin on wood board



Title: Mambo Blackness
Size: 90 by 140 by 7 CM
Media: Recycled rubber, vinyl and acrylics on wood board



SAINT GRAVY

VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

As a passionate artist, Saint is constantly exploring the world of emotions and storytelling through his artwork. Drawing inspiration from African traditions and the resilience of African children, his paintings beautifully depict the resourcefulness and joy found in their everyday lives. With a focus on acrylics, he also loves experimenting with diverse surfaces and materials to bring his visions to life. From creating murals and sculptures to participating in exhibitions like Ubuntu and Art Mtaani #11, he strives to share the message that "less is more" and showcase the beauty in simplicity.

ARTWORKS:



Title: The Adult ride
Size: 63 by 78 CM
Media: Acrylic on
cardboard



Title: Contemplation
Size: 60 by 60 CM
Media: Acrylic on
cardboard



SOLOMON POWELL

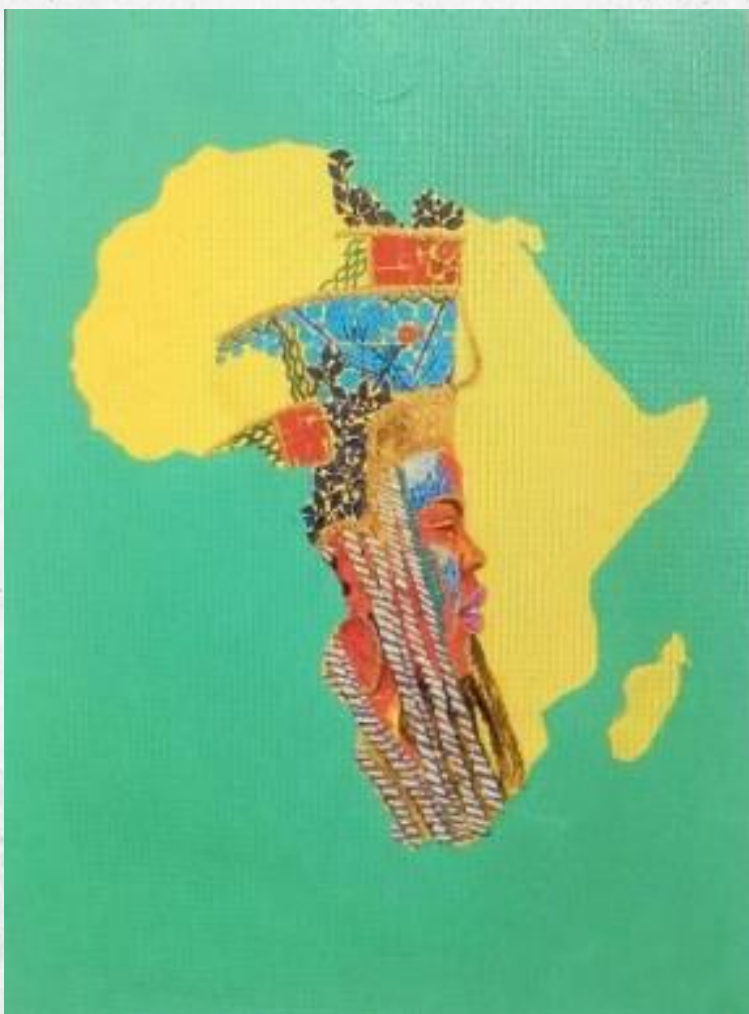
VISUAL ARTIST

ABOUT ME:

Solomon Powell is a self-taught visual artist who also works with recycled fabrics because he cares about the environment and is committed to being environmentally friendly. His works include abstract expressions such as cubism (intellectual) and realism in portraiture (faces). Most of the time, he works on Africanism concepts, which promote Africa's cultures and heritage.

Solomon has exhibited his work locally in Nairobi at places like Banana Hill Gallery, regular art in the open exhibitions at Village Market, Mukuru Art Collective exhibitions, and Dar e Salam for the recent East Africa Art Bienelle

ARTWORKS:



Title: Royalty
Size: 100 by 80 CM
Medium: mixed media



Title: Freedom
Size: 100 by 80 CM
Medium: mixed media