

ART FORUM WÜRTH CAPENA

NAMIBIA

Art of a young generation in the Würth Collection

Art Forum Würth Capena
24.10.2022 - 14.10.2023



Lukas Amakali
Caught in Action
2015
Photograph
60.5 x 40 cm
Würth Collection, Inv. 17074

“Until the lions have their historians, tales of the hunt shall always glorify the hunter”.
(African proverb)

After its presentation in 2016 at the Würth Museum in Künzelsau, the exhibition “NAMIBIA. Art of a Young Generation in the Würth Collection” is making a stop at the Art Forum Würth Capena.

The exhibition presents over **80 works by 33 contemporary artists** who live and work in Namibia, epitomising a prolific and creative art scene, the expression of a nascent nation deeply scarred by the independence that came only in 1990.

The exhibition's subtitle, *Art of a Young Generation*, not only refers to a group of young artists born shortly before independence who share a historical, social and political affiliation, but also includes artists already working before 1990. Those that lived under South African occupation and apartheid and who are now free to explore the profound changes underway thanks to the search for new expressive themes and approaches. The younger generation therefore brings together all contemporary artists, young and old, who are working together to

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establish a new status quo, exploring themes of cultural and personal identity, but also social awareness.

The featured artists are: Elago Akwaake, Lukas Amakali, Petrus Amuthenu, Barbara Böhlke, Margaret Courtney-Clarke, Linda Esbach, Gisela Farrel, Elvis Garoeb, Beate Hamalwa, Martha Haufiku, Ilovu Homateni, Saima Iita, John Kalunda, Lok Kandjengo, Filemon Kapolo, Isabel Katjavivi, Paul Kiddo, David Linus, Nicky Marais, Othilia Mungoba, Alpheus Mvula, Peter Mwahalukange, Frans Nambinga, François de Necker, Saara Nekomba, Urte R. Remmert, Fillipus Sheehama, Findano Shikonda, Papa Ndasuunje Shikongeni, Ismael Shivute, Elia Shiwoohamba, Tity Kalala Tshilumba, and Salinde Willem.

Poised midway between tradition and contemporary exploration, the exhibition is a dialogue between the expressive approaches of artists of different ages who address major themes such as the **Namibian landscape** (Barbara Böhlke, Paul Kiddo, Nicky Marais), **spirituality** (Lukas Amakali, Papa Ndasuunje Shikongeni), **rural life** (Salinde Willem, Frans Nambinga) and **topical political and social issues** (Fillipus Sheehama, Alpheus Mvula).

Although many artists focus on the **past** (Margaret Courtney-Clarke, Peter Mwahalukange, Elia Shiwoohamba) with the intention of showing the last vestiges of a **threatened identity**, the country's independence brought **new problems** such as excessive consumption (Fillipus Sheehama, Ismael Shivute), **social inequality** (Petrus Amuthenu, Ilovu Homateni) and the problem of **communication** (Urte R. Remmert). Torn between the memory of their cultural heritage and today's social, political and economic context, these contemporary Namibian artists present diverse views of their country.

Different techniques are represented in the exhibition, such as drawing, painting, and photography - but also more traditional expressive forms such as the art of **quilting**, (Linda Esbach) or more current ones such as **recycling** (Saima Iita). A special focus is placed on reproduction techniques such as **lino cut** (Elia Shiwoohamba) and **cardboard print** (Lok Kandjengo), as well as three-dimensional works in stone (Filemon Kapolo), iron (Elvis Garoeb), wood (Papa Ndasuunje Shikongeni) and wax (Isabel Katjavivi). A variety of techniques spans the generations, reflecting the rich and prolific art scene in Namibia today.

Accompanying the exhibition is a catalogue published by Swiridoff, with a preface by C. Sylvia Weber, director of the Würth Collection, and essays by Hercules Viljoen, former director of the National Gallery of Art of Namibia and Ulrich Sacker, former director of the Goethe Institute in Windhoek, Namibia.

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Free admission by reservation only

For reservations:

E-mail: art.forum@wuerth.it

Phone: 06/90103800

Public opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 10 am - 5 pm

Special opening every first Friday of the month (excluding holidays): 10 am - 8 pm

Open Saturday and Sunday only if events and creative workshops are scheduled

Closed holidays

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