



Kaloki Nyamai

Biography

Kaloki Nyamai's multidisciplinary practice incorporates painting, performance and video, drawing heavily on the stories and oral history of his Kamba community. Originally trained in interior design and film, Kaloki launched his artistic career creating figurative works that engaged with the realities of the informal settlement of his childhood. He has since evolved his practice into an investigation of personal identity and its connection to a wider collective history – this is evident in an on-going preoccupation with the hidden unrecorded narratives of his community and fragmented memory.

Nyamai's work currently straddles the divide between the figurative and the abstract. His is a lengthy process that involves, to varying degrees, a laborious layering of paint on canvasses that, themselves, have been cut and stitched together, sometimes charred, and which are further worked over with charcoal and sometimes spray paints. By adopting these modes of mark making he somehow mimics the complex interactions and social processes in which he is interested.

Nyamai has had solo and group exhibitions locally and internationally, including Nairobi, Cape Town, London, Dubai, and Hamburg. His work has been featured in the Kampala Biennale, 2018, and he is included in the forthcoming Dakar Biennale, Stellenbosch Triennial and Ostrale Biennale, all in 2020. His work is included in private collections across the globe.

CV

SOLO SHOWS

2021 *A New Country*, Gallery 1957, Gana and London

2019 *What I Won't Tell You*, curated by Salimata Diop, SEPTIEME Gallery, Paris, France

Mwaki Nginya Evinda Enge (The Fire Next Time), Circle Art Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya

2018 *I Am Not My Father*, EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa

GROUP SHOWS

2020 Stellenbosch Triennale, Stellenbosch, South Africa

2019 Ostrale Biennale, Dresden, Germany

2018 The Studio, Kampala Art Biennale, Kampala, Uganda

Summer Exhibition, EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa

2017 Washa, Createhub Gallery, Dubai, UAE

52 lager Gallery, Windisch, UK

Changing Room, Kuona Trust Art Centre Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya

Miradas, Gravity Art Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya



Young Guns, Circle Art Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya
2016 L'Atelier Art Competition, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Circle Art Gallery, Lamu, Kenya
2015 Letters From the Other Side, Oriel Plas Glyn-y-Weddw Gallery, Wales, UK
Nyne Magazine, Exhibitionist Hotel, London, UK
Apthorp Gallery, London, UK

RESIDENCIES

2019 Le Centre, Cotonou, Benin
2016 Oriel Plas Glyn-y-Weddw Gallery, Wales, UK

MASTERCLASS

2010 Film Africa, Nairobi, Kenya