

ARTLabAfrica

James Muriuki, born in 1977, is a Nairobi based artist who has primarily utilized lens-based media in his work. His practice revolves around the transition of society and the development of rapidly evolving urban spaces, whether in his native Nairobi or other spaces he encounters during his many trips and residencies. His works focus on the confluence of inter-dependent happenings in an ever-changing social, economic and cultural landscape. He uses forms such as architecture and construction as visual elements and metaphorical symbols that anchor his compositions and question his viewers. At present, James is experimenting with photography, video, sound and installation focusing on the rapidly changing metropolis that is his home and following a residency at the Delfina Foundation in London, exploring the politics of food in a national and international context.

James's work has been exhibited and collected worldwide and included in several publications. He has collaborated with artists, attended residencies and workshops in several countries as well as being a grants recipient. He has curated several exhibitions individually and collaboratively in Nairobi and abroad.

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

In TRANSITION, Roots Contemporary, Brussels, Belgium, 2011-12
Rear View, The Goethe Institut, Nairobi, Kenya, 2010

Selected Group Exhibitions:

SweKenya, 50 Years, Swedish Embassy, Nairobi, Kenya, 2014
NotAboutKarenBlixen, Interculture Museum, Oslo, Norway, 2014
Who is the City, Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design, Stockholm, Sweden, 2013-14
Foreign Bodies – Common Ground, The Wellcome Collection, London, United Kingdom, 2013-14
Layers, Nairobi National Museum, Nairobi, Kenya, 2012
Nairobi: A state of mind, Kunsthhaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria, 2012-13
The Urban Cultures of Global Prayers, Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst (NGBK), Berlin, Germany, 2011-12
PhotoAfrica, Taarifa, Spain, 2011
The 3rd All ArtNow New Media, Art Festival, Syria, 2011
NotAboutKarenBlixen, Karen Blixen Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2010
Screenings - Den Frie Udstillingsbygning, Naturama Museum, Denmark, 2010
Mwangalio Tofauti, The Nairobi Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya, 2010
SPace: Currencies in Contemporary African Art, Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2010
24 Nairobi, Nairobi National Museum, Nairobi, Kenya, 2008 –09
Africa.dot.Com: Drums 2 Digital, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, USA, 2008
Contemporary Video Art and Photography from Kenya, Kennesaw University, Fine Arts Gallery, Atlanta Georgia, USA, 2007
Kenyan photography, Fivemyles Gallery, Brooklyn, New York, USA, 2006
Snap Judgements: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography, International Center of Photography, New York, USA, 2006

Books & Group Exhibition Catalogues:

SweKenya, 50 Years, Nairobi, 2014
Layers, James Muriuki and Miriam Syowia Kyambi, 2012, Nairobi, Kenya
Faith is the place, The urban cultures of Global prayers, Germany, 2012
Mwangalio Tofauti – Nine Photographers from Kenya, Contact Zones NRB, 2012, Nairobi, Kenya
SPace: Currencies in Contemporary African Art, Exhibition Catalogue, Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2012
Events of the self: Portraiture and social identity, Germany
24 Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya, 2010
Contemporary African art since 1980, USA, 2009
Snap Judgements: Shifting positions in Contemporary African Photography, New York, 2006

Residencies:

2014 Delfina Foundation, London, *The Politics of Food*
2014 Cologne, Essen and Berlin, Photography workshop,
2013 IASPIS residency, Stockholm, Sweden.
2012 Art in Global Health, KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Project, Kilifi Kenya
2010 DIVA, Danish Art Council and The Danish Artist Workshops residency
2009 Curators residency, Project Kingston Africa, London.
2008 Curators meeting in Maputo, Mozambique

Public Collections:

Walter Collection, Germany

Witwatersrand University, South Africa

Kennesaw University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

The Aga Khan, Tanzania