



# GUIDE TO AFRICAN ART

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# GUIDE TO AFRICAN ART

African and Afro-diasporic art  
events in the United Kingdom  
and Europe

April to August 2025

PRESENTED BY  
Strauss & Co and  
Stonehage Fleming

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# INTRODUCTION

Strauss & Co, Africa's leading auction house, is proud to present this Guide to African Art. This publication highlights key art events taking place across the United Kingdom and Europe during the spring-summer season of 2025, underscoring our on-going commitment to a global awareness and appreciation of African art.

At Strauss & Co, education is a cornerstone of our business which is centred around the promotion of African art. We are privileged to work with and champion many talented artists from Africa whom you will find featured in this guide, and we are thrilled to see their presence expanding globally, with a rich and diverse array of exhibitions at museums, galleries and art fairs in the months ahead.

Beyond our excellent offering of modern and contemporary, Strauss & Co also sells collectable fine wines and exceptional design, including jewellery, silver, furniture and ceramics. In a world where privacy matters, we offer private sales, art advisory services, valuations and collection advice.

Strauss & Co presents five live auctions per year, from our flagship offices in Johannesburg and Cape Town, as well as regular online auctions that attract buyers from across five continents. In 2024 Strauss & Co presented 65 auctions, generating R388m/\$21.6m from 6 745 lots sold. We are optimistic that our efforts to broaden our offering and expand our geographic reach will yield further positive results into 2025.

In addition to this guide, we warmly invite you to join our **Art Club** in London, which offers a programme of privately curated in-person and online events for clients in the United Kingdom and Europe. For details on our upcoming auctions and related events, please see pages 35 and 36 of the guide.

We extend our sincere thanks to Stonehage Fleming for their generous support of this guide, and also their steadfast commitment to supporting art and artists on a global stage.

Kate Fellens

International Business Development, London

**Strauss & Co**



ARTCLUB

# MESSAGE FROM OUR PARTNER

At Stonehage Fleming, we have the privilege of advising some of the world's leading families and wealth creators. With a commitment to protecting and managing wealth across generations and geographies, we embrace the values that foster family harmony and success: integrity, excellence and trust. As one of the few international, multi-family offices to offer independent, in-house collection management services, we are dedicated to the care and strategic growth of our clients' art collections.

Our expertise spans art advisory, collection management and strategy, always with a focus on long-term value and sustainability. However, it is our passion for art that truly drives us, and we are proud to celebrate, support and protect the work of artists and artisans across generations.

Stonehage Fleming has deep roots in South Africa, and our work with African families has enriched our understanding of the diverse and vibrant history of African art. With this guide, which we are proud to do in partnership with Strauss & Co, we hope to inform and inspire thought and deeper engagement with Africa's evolving contemporary art scene.

**Maria de Peverelli**

Partner and Executive Chairman

Stonehage Fleming Art Management



# AN EXTRAVAGANT FEAST OF MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

Throughout the 2025 spring and summer, major museums in Europe and the UK are platforming African and Afro-descendent artists. In London, there are thrilling solos for Donald Rodney and Noah Davis, artists who tragically died young, as well as for Nolan Oswald Dennis, Leonardo Drew and Diedrick Brackens. Beyond the English capital, painters Lynette Yiadom-Boakye and Portia Zvavahera wow in Leeds and Edinburgh, while Yorkshire's famous sculpture garden hosts William Kentridge. In Europe, Paris is host to a landmark exhibition of black modernism, which provocatively reframes the City of Light as centre of the black artworld. Lubaina Himid is in Luxembourg, Julie Mehretu in Dusseldorf and Irma Stern makes a triumphant return to Berlin.

## Various Artists

### *Paris Noir: Artistic Movements and Anticolonial Struggles, 1950–2000*

Centre Pompidou, Paris

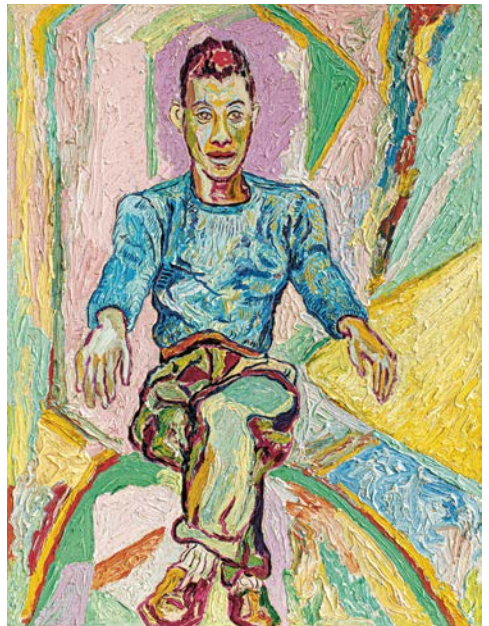
Until 30 June 2025

Rejecting the narrative that artists favoured New York over Paris after World War II, *Paris Noir* ('Black Paris') proposes the City of Light as vital artistic hub for urbane black artists active in the heady period of decolonisation. Featuring 150 artists from Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean, the exhibition asserts the centrality of both Paris and black artists in shaping modernism and postmodernism. Notable early works include Gerard Sekoto's earliest known self-portrait, made in 1947 shortly after he left South Africa for Paris, and American artist Beauford Delaney's striking 1945-50 portrait of his young protégé, writer James Baldwin. Contemporary installations by Valérie John, Nathalie Leroy Fiévee, Jay Ramier and Shuck One enrich the historical journey.



Gerard Sekoto, *Self-portrait*, 1947,  
oil on canvas, 45.7 × 35.6 cm.

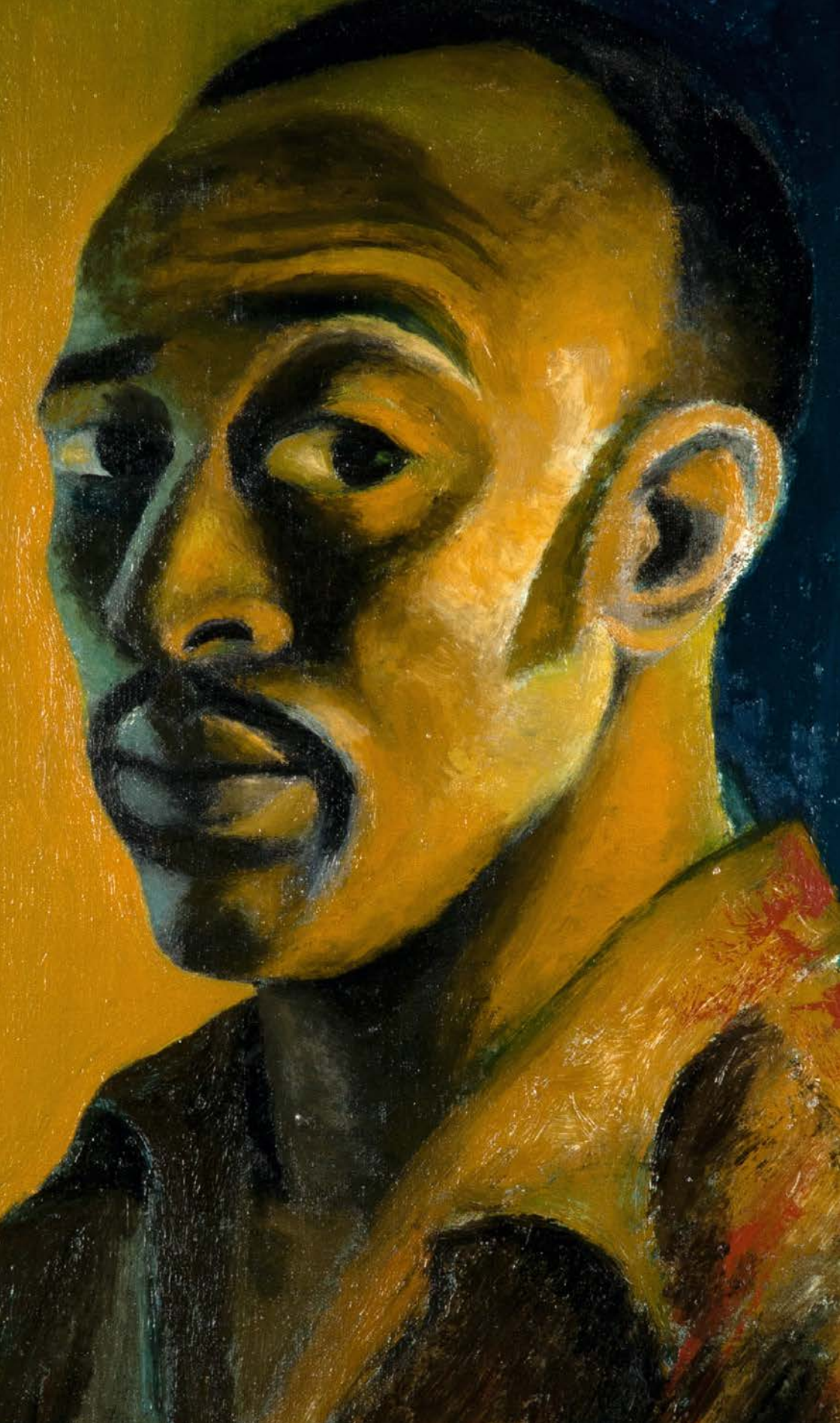
THE KILBOURN COLLECTION. PHOTO: JACOPO SALVI



Beauford Delaney, *James Baldwin*, c. 1945–50,  
oil on canvas, 61 × 45.7 cm.

COLLECTION OF HALLEY K HARRISBURG AND MICHAEL ROSENFELD, NEW YORK





# William Kentridge

## *The Pull of Gravity*

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield

28 June 2025 – 9 April 2026

Best known as a draughtsman, filmmaker and theatre director, William Kentridge has been making sculpture since 1984. This exhibition, the first major institutional show outside South Africa dedicated to the artist's sculptural practice, showcases over 40 works from 2007 to 2024 in the sumptuous grounds of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. The exhibition features monumental outdoor sculptures, large-scale bronzes and immersive multi-screen film installations. Highlights include *Paper Procession* (2024), a new commission of six monumental coloured sculptures, and an examples of *Glyph* (2017–), large-scale bronzes derived from ink drawings and paper cut-outs, each transformed to embody the weight and character their shapes on paper. There is also a selection of films, tapestry and drawings.



William Kentridge, *Cursive*, 2020. PHOTO: THYS DULLAART



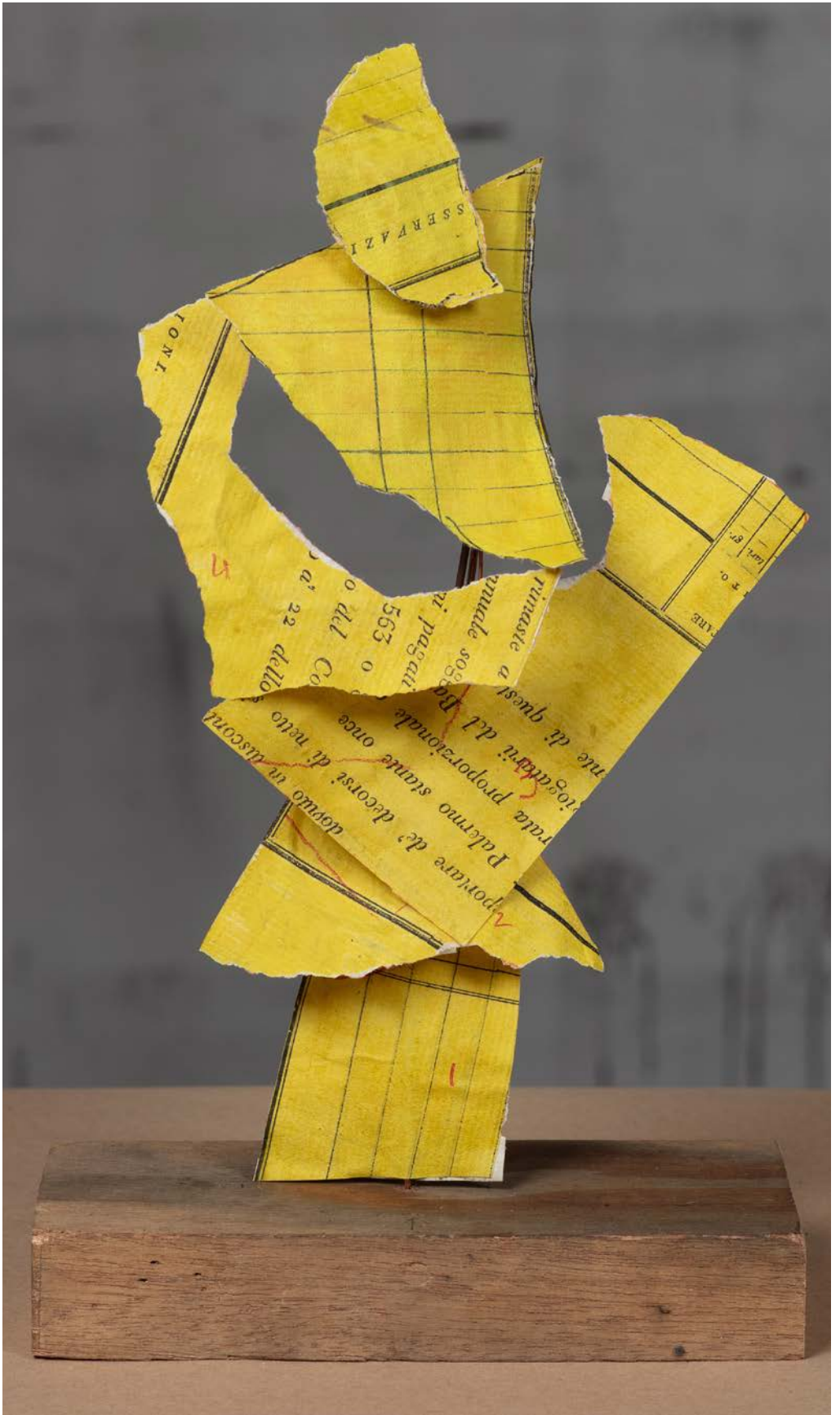


William Kentridge Still from *Self-portrait as a Coffee Pot*, 2022.



William Kentridge working on preparatory plaster version of his monumental bronze *Laocoön*, Johannesburg, 2021.

PHOTO: STELLA OLIVIER



William Kentridge, *Paper Procession (Palermo Cash Book) I*, 2023. PHOTO: THYS DULLAART

# Lubaina Himid and Magda Stawarska

## *Nets for Night and Day*

Mudam – The Contemporary Art Museum of Luxembourg

Until 24 August 2025

Zanzibar-born Lubaina Himid – Britain’s representative at the 2026 Venice Biennale – has collaborated with Polish artist Magda Stawarska for over a decade. This exhibition, the first major European survey of their partnership, features over 50 works, including a newly reimagined presentation of *Zanzibar* (1999–2023), a series of nine painted diptychs portraying journeys to and from Himid’s birthplace.



Lubaina Himid, *So Many Dreams*, 2021–22. PHOTO: GAVIN RENSHAW



Lubaina Himid, *In Your Dreams*, 2021–22. PHOTO: GAVIN RENSHAW



Lubaina Himid, *Barricades* (installation view), London, 2024.

PHOTO: EVA HERZOG STUDIO





Lubaina Himid, *Drum Cart*, 2025 (from 'Music Carts', 2025). photo: gavin rensaw



Lubaina Himid, *French Horn Cart*, 2025 (from 'Music Carts', 2025).

PHOTO: GAVIN RENSHAW. ALL IMAGES COURTESY ARTIST HOLLYBUSH GARDENS, LONDON AND GREENE NAFTALI, NEW YORK.

## Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

### *To Improvise A Mountain: Lynette Yiadom-Boakye Curates*

Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds

16 May – 5 October 2025

British-Ghanaian artist Lynette Yiadom-Boakye is among the most acclaimed figurative painters working today. Developed in collaboration with Hayward Gallery Touring, this exhibition presents Yiadom-Boakye's enigmatic portraits of imagined figures alongside a diverse selection of historical and contemporary artists – notably Lisa Brice, Samuel Fosso and Toyin Ojih Odutola – offering insight into her creative process.



Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, *To Improvise a Mountain*, 2024, charcoal and conte on paper, variable dimensions (unfinished)



Lisa Brice, *Untitled (after Vallotton)*, 2021, ink synthetic tempera, gouache, neopastel, on canvas mounted on wooden panel, 200 x 82.6 x 2.5 cm. PHOTO: CHARLES DUPRAT



## Various Artists

### *When We See Us: A Century of Black Figuration in Painting*

Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels

Until 10 August 2025

Co-curated by Koyo Kouoh, artistic director of the 2026 Venice Biennale, this travelling exhibition of à la mode contemporary painters and historical giants celebrates how black artists have, in Kouoh's words, 'imagined, positioned, memorialised and asserted African and African-descent experiences'. Featuring 150 paintings by 120 artists, the line up includes pioneers like Aaron Douglas, Ben Enwonwu and Gerard Sekoto.



Mickalene Thomas, *Never Change Lovers in the Middle of the Night*, 2016, rhinestones, acrylic and enamel on wood panel, 182.8 x 182.8 cm



Zandile Tshabalala, *Two reclining women*, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 122 x 91.5 cm



Cassi Namoda, *To Live Long is To See Much (Ritual Bathers III)*, 2020, oil on canvas, 152.4 x 233.6 cm

# Irma Stern

## *Irma Stern: A Modern Artist between Berlin and Cape Town*

The Brücke Museum, Berlin

12 July – 2 November 2025

Irma Stern, whose bold expressionist works redefined early 20th-century South African painting, was a big name in 1920s Berlin. This exhibition of 40 paintings, watercolours, drawings and prints – in a museum named for the revolutionary Brücke movement, cofounded by Stern's friend, painter Max Pechstein – reintroduces the artist to Berlin. There is additionally an intervention by artist Athi-Patra Ruga.



Irma Stern, *Arab Youth*, 1945, oil on canvas, 86.4 x 61 cm. RUPERT ART FOUNDATION COLLECTION





## Noteworthy exhibitions in London, Paris and beyond, through July 2025.

**Tschabalala Self** (USA painter), *Around the Way*, EMMA – Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Finland, until 4 May 2025

**Donald Rodney** (UK multi-media artist), *Visceral Canker*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, until 4 May 2025

**Various Artists** (including Hassan Hajjaj, Morocco, Lebohang Kganye, SA, & Zina Saro-Wiwa, Nigeria), *A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography*, C/O, Berlin, until 7 May 2025

**Noah Davis** (USA painter), *Noah Davis*, Barbican Art Gallery, London, until 11 May 2025

**Portia Zvavahera** (Zimbabwean painter), *Zvakazarurwa*, Fruitmarket, Edinburgh, until 25 May 2025

**Ngozi-Omeje Ezema** (Nigerian ceramic artist), *Boundless Vases*, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, until 11 May 2025

**Diedrick Brackens** (USA textile artist), *Woven Stories*, The Holburne Museum, London, until 26 May 2025

**Thomas J. Price** (UK sculptor), *Thomas J Price in Florence*, Museo Novecento, Florence, until 11 June 2025

**Nolan Oswald Dennis** (SA conceptual artist), *geo-logics*, Kunstinstituut Melly, Rotterdam, until 29 June 2025

**Various Artists** (including Marlene Dumas & Billie Zangewa, both SA), *Acts of Creation: On Art and Motherhood*, Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee, until 13 July 2025

**John Akomfrah** (UK filmmaker and artist), *Mimesis: African Soldier*, GoMA, Glasgow, until 31 August 2025

**Nolan Oswald Dennis** (SA), *Nolan Oswald Dennis: throwers*, Gasworks, London, 24 April – 22 June 2025

**Various Artists** (including painter Frank Bowling, UK, and conceptual artist Kapwani Kiwanga, Tanzania/Canada), *The Gorgeous Nothings: Flowers at Chatsworth*, Chatsworth, Derbyshire, until 5 October 2025

**Leonardo Drew** (USA sculptor), *Ubiquity II*, South London Gallery, London, 30 May – 7 September 2025

**Julie Mehretu** (Ethiopia/USA painter), *Ensemble*, K21, Dusseldorf, 10 May – 12 October 2025

**Marlene Dumas** (SA/Holland painter), *Cycladic Blues*, Museum of Cycladic Art, Athens, 5 June – 2 November 2025

**Various artists** (including El Anatsui, Ladi Kwali and Ben Enwonwu, all Nigeria), *Nigerian Modernism*, Tate Modern, London, 9 October 2025 – 11 May 2026



Koyo Kouoh,  
Museum of  
Black Civilisations,  
Dakar, 2018



## **Koyo Kouoh's journey to Venice via Dakar and Cape Town**

*Cameroonian-born Koyo Kouoh will curate the 2026 Venice Biennale, making her the second-ever African-born curator to lead this flagship art event. But who is Kouoh? In short: a formidable curator, institution builder and advocate for contemporary African art. A disciple of Issa Samb, doyen of modern Senegalese art, in 2008 she founded RAW Material Company, a woman-led art space and think tank in Dakar. A decade later she took over the helm of Cape Town's Zeitz MOCAA. A transformational leader, Kouoh introduced deeper scholarship, context-driven exhibitions and solo shows over tokenistic group presentations. Her leadership style is collaborative and feminist, shaped by her matriarchal upbringing and belief in civil society as a driver of cultural change. 'It is very important to build institutions as opposed to careers,' she has said, 'because institutions leave a legacy that promotes knowledge.'*



# LONDON AND PARIS DEALERS PRESENT A CORNUCOPIA OF TALENT

Over the decades, London and Parisian dealers have introduced the world to remarkable talents, among them Sekoto, El Anatsui, Kentridge, Lisa Brice and Michael Armitage. And so it continues in the summer of 2025. In London, Lagosian artist Wura-Natasha Ogunji's solo at Tiwani Contemporary is followed by presentations by Zimbabwean artists Virginia Chihota and Felix Shumba in June. Meanwhile, Everard Read and Goodman Gallery remain steadfast platforms for South African talent. In Paris, Magnin-A Gallery is showing JP Mika's wondrous, nature-infused self-portraits – a highlight within a vibrant, Africa-rich programme that also includes blue-chip galleries like Mennour and Galleria Continua. But the show of the season – and a first for France – is Frank Bowling's solo at Hauser & Wirth.

# Frank Bowling

## *Collage*

Hauser & Wirth, Paris

Until 24 May, 2025

[hauserwirth.com](http://hauserwirth.com)

Born in Guyana in 1934, London-based Frank Bowling is a revered force in contemporary abstraction who continues to produce magisterial work. For his first solo exhibition in France, Bowling is showing works from the early 2000s to today. The exhibition highlights his engagement with collaged canvas and marouflage. Bowling's monumental new paintings, some bigger than four metres, reflect his fascination with merging colour and form to produce works that combine aspects of painting, sculpture and architecture. The exhibition includes several collaged pieces that reference the spiral pattern in Henri Matisse's celebrated cut-out, *The Snail* (1953), which Bowling first encountered in the 1950s.



Frank Bowling, *Skid*, 2023, acrylic, acrylic gel and found objects on collaged canvas with marouflage, 442.4 X 336.5 X 5.4 cm. PHOTO: ANNA ARCA

**Frank Bowling OBE RA**  
in his London studio, 2017.

COURTESY HAUSER & WIRTH, PARIS.  
PHOTO: ALASTAIR LEVY





# Wura-Natasha Ogunji

## *Space Comma Space Comma Space*

Tiwani Contemporary, London

Until 24 May 2025

Lagos-based artist and performer Wura-Natasha Ogunji, founder of experimental art space The Treehouse, is best known for her haptic and expressive works using thread, graphite and ink on layers of architectural tracing paper. Ogunji's new works are the outcome of her process-driven studio practice, which embraces improvisation, material experimentation and the unknown. Incorporating magazine pages, gessoed tissue paper and glassine, her collages, drawings and stitched works explore absence and presence, ritual and the role of the maternal – often evoked through Gelede masks worn by male Yoruba dancers at festivals honouring women. Layered and densely marked, these new pieces present as a visual memoir of an energetic studio life.



Wura-Natasha Ogunji, *Navigation by glitch*, 2024, thread, ink, acrylic and collage on tracing paper, 30.5 x 29.2 cm



Wura-Natasha Ogunji, *The black of space comma space comma space as told by herself*, 2024, thread, ink, gesso, acrylic and oil on tracing paper, 61 x 61 cm



Wura-Natasha Ogunji, *You Fly!*, 2024, ink, acrylic and oil on tissue paper, 44.5 x 50.8 cm



JP Mika

## *The Voice of Nature*

Magnin-A Gallery, Paris

Until 24 May 2025

JP Mika, aka Kinshasa-born painter Jean-Paul Nsimba Mika, refined his childhood passion for art under narrative painter Chéri Chérin before forging his own path. Renowned for his vibrant, nature-infused self-portraits and skilful use of decorative design and pattern, Mika's second solo with dealer Andre Magnin explores humanity's bond with the planet, blending beauty and optimism with urgency.



JP Mika, *The Smile of Happiness (Le sourire du Bonheur)*, 2024, acrylic and sequins on fabric, 198 x 135 cm





JP Mika, *The Youth of the Congo (Ba bilenge ya Kongo/Les jeunes du Congo)*, acrylic on fabric, 150 x 120 cm (detail)

# Noteworthy exhibitions in London and Paris, through July 2025.

## London

**Kwesi Botchway** (Ghanaian painter), *The Sun Must Come Down Part II*, Gallery 1957, London, until 3 May 2025

**David Goldblatt** (SA photographer) and **Clive van den Berg** (SA painter), *Trace, Tremor, Remnant*, Goodman Gallery, London, until 3 May 2025

**RIP Germain** (UK conceptual artist), *Anti-Blackness Is Bad, Even The Parts That We Like*, Cabinet Gallery, London, until 10 May 2025

**Various Artists**, *Beyond Material*, Lehmann Maupin, London, until 10 May 2025 – includes South African artists Nicholas Hlobo and Billie



Claude Jammet, *Fallout*, oil on paper on canvas, 70 X 70 CM © FLAVIO STAGNARO

Zangewa, as well as Algerian-French installation artist Kader Attia

**Gary Stephens** (USA/SA drawer), *Twilight with Red Swallows*, and **Arabella Caccia** (UK/SA mixed-media artist), Namaqualand, Everard Read, London, 25 April – 22 May

**Kayode Ojo** (USA installation artist), *Solo*, Maureen Paley, London, until 31 May 2025

**Lorienne Lotz** (Zimbabwe/SA painter), *Bearing Witness*, and Claude Jammet (SA painter), *Solo*, Everard Read, London, 30 May – 28 June

**Eugene Palmer** (Jamaica/UK), *The Kitchen Angel and Other Tales*, Ed Cross, London, 9 June – 14 July 2025

## Paris

**Neil Beloufa** (Franco-Algerian artist), *Re: Remotely Speaking*, Mennour, Paris, until 28 May 2025

**Lorraine O'Grady** (USA conceptual artist and writer), *Solo*, Mariane Ibrahim, Paris, until 31 May 2025

**Pascale Marthine Tayou** (Cameroonian conceptual artist), *Tchâm: Confidences*, 1 June – 21 December 2025





Billie Zangewa in her studio, Johannesburg, 2021.

PHOTO: JURIE POTGIETER

## **Billie Zangewa's majestic textile works tell stories of motherhood**

*In 2023, Louis Vuitton invited Malawi-born, Johannesburg-based artist Billie Zangewa to produce a design for the maison's Artycapucines series. She drew inspiration from her son Mika, referencing her 2020 work *The Swimming Lesson*, which portrays him poolside. The limited-edition bag appears in *Breeding Ground*, her mid-career survey at Norval Foundation, Cape Town (until 11 January 2026). The exhibition focuses on her silk collages, luminous narrative works started in 2004 that explore themes of motherhood, domesticity and the self. Trained as a printmaker, Zangewa turned to textiles after stints in fashion and music. Inspired by her mother's needlework and childhood sewing lessons, she began with botanical embroideries before gaining recognition for silk handbags evoking Johannesburg's glinting skyline. These handmade bags directly inspired her majestic textile pieces, recent examples of which appear in *Beyond Material* at Lehmann Maupin, London (until 10 May 2025).*



# PRESENTING AFRICAN ART TO AFRICA AND THE WORLD

The marketplace for contemporary African art is becoming increasingly dynamic, with new galleries emerging across the continent. Established fairs in Nigeria (*Art X Lagos*) and South Africa (*Investec Cape Town Art Fair* and *Art Joburg*) now provide robust platforms for connecting artists with collectors, though regional bias still limits reach. Trade within Africa remains modest compared to the global north. Seizing the moment, entrepreneurs have responded. In 2013, Franco-Moroccan trailblazer Touria El Glaoui founded 1-54, the first international fair dedicated to contemporary African art. Now held annually in London, New York and Marrakech, it has helped elevate the continent's artists onto the global stage. This June, the launch of Africa Basel – timed with Art Basel Week – promises to further expand the European footprint of African art, offering yet another high-profile venue where African art is narrated, negotiated and sold.

## Art Fairs

### *Africa Basel – Contemporary African Art Fair*

Ackermannshof, Basel

17–22 June 2025

Africa Basel is a new contemporary African art fair launching alongside – but unaffiliated with – the preeminent Art Basel. Prompted by market volatilities and rampant speculation, this geographically focused fair intends to provide a dedicated platform for African artists and galleries, 'where African art can be appreciated on its own terms, away from the reductive frameworks of 'trends' or 'bubbles.'" Founded by Sven Eisenhut-Hug and Benjamin Füglistner, both deeply embedded in Basel's art scene, the fair is guided by a curatorial board comprising Nigerian curator Azu Nwagbogu, Zeitz MOCAA curator Greer Valley, art dealer Serge Tiroche, and Michèle Sandoz, formerly head of VIP relations at Art Basel. The venue for the inaugural edition is a 13th-century manufacturing complex along the Rhine.

VIP Preview: Monday, 16 June 2025.



Africa Basel's venue at Ackermannshof, right, located near the Rhine River.

# Art Fairs

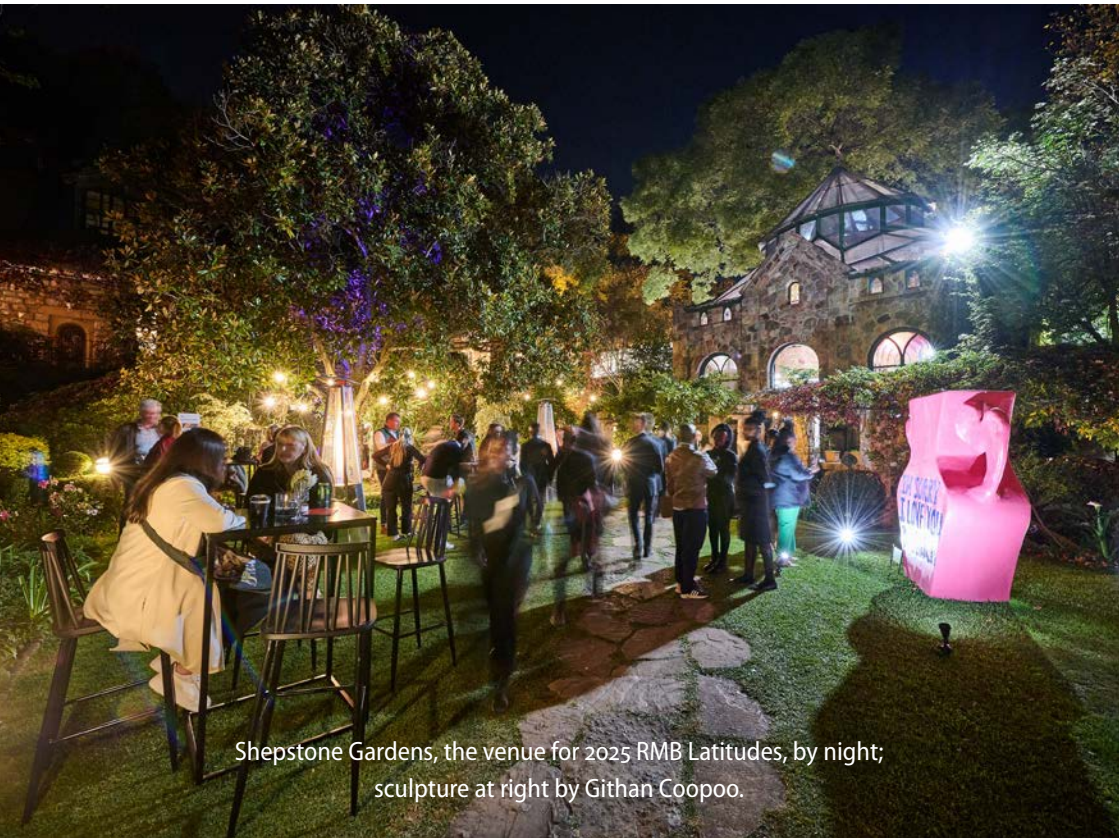
## *RMB Latitudes*

Mountain View, Johannesburg

23–25 May 2025

Founded in 2019, RMB Latitudes has quickly established itself as a dynamic marketplace for discovering emerging artists from Southern Africa. This year's edition includes a special focus on Botswana, where artists like Thero Makepe and Thebe Phetogo are driving change, supported by exhibitors such as The Space Botswana, ReCurate, Banana Club, TBP Artist Collective and Art Residency Centre Botswana. Shepstone Gardens – a sprawling wonderland of architectural follies – will once again set the stage for the fair's buzzy unveilings, conversations and deal-making. Notably, the all-women team behind Latitudes also runs an online marketplace, podcast, mentorship programmes and an art award, all aimed at amplifying independent voices and connecting artists with collectors.

VIP Preview: Thursday, 22 May 2025.



Shepstone Gardens, the venue for 2025 RMB Latitudes, by night; sculpture at right by Githan Coopoo.





Located in Mountain View, Shepstone Gardens, the venue for 2025 RMB Latitudes, includes temporary pavilions as well as an original Sir Herbert Baker house.



## A global roundup of all the art fairs showing African art

**Expo Chicago**, Navy Pier's Festival Hall, Chicago, 24–27 April 2025 – exhibitors include South African galleries Ebony/Curated, Eclectica Contemporary, Everard Read, The Melrose Gallery, Martin Art Projects, Gallery MOMO, Southern Guild

**1-54**, Halo, 28 Liberty Street, New York, 8–11 May 2025

**Frieze New York**, The Shed, New York, 7–11 May – exhibitors include South African galleries Goodman Gallery, Southern Guild, Stevenson

**TEFAF New York**, Park Avenue Armory, New York, 9–13 May 2025 – Friedman Benda (USA) will present SA ceramicist Andile Dyalvane

**Art Basel**, Messe Basel, Basel, 17–22 June 2025 – exhibitors include South African galleries Blank Projects, Goodman Gallery, Stevenson

**Turbine Art Fair**, The Forum, Hyde Park, Johannesburg, 24–27 July 2025

Guests at 2024 RMB Latitudes; sculpture at right by Atang Tshikare.





# Working Life in South Africa Gerard Sekoto and Lena Hugo

1 April – 30 May 2025



Gerard Sekoto *Song of the Pick* 1978 oil on canvas 99 by 99 cm  
COLLECTION IZIKO SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL GALLERY

Gerard Sekoto, the influential modernist painter who rose to prominence in 1950s Paris, is once again commanding attention in Europe. His earliest known self-portrait, made shortly after his self-imposed exile in 1947, was featured in the main exhibition of the 2024 Venice Biennale and is now on view in *Paris Noir* at the Centre Pompidou (see page 6). In recognition of this renewed visibility, Strauss & Co is presenting *Working Life in South Africa: Gerard Sekoto and Lena Hugo* (1 April – 30 May 2025) at its Johannesburg exhibition space. Curated by Strauss & Co's Wilhelm van Rensburg, the exhibition pairs Sekoto's engaging portrayals of black labourers – nannies, washerwomen, coal merchants, miners – with Hugo's pastel drawings of contemporary factory workers. Highlights include *The Mother on the Road* (c. 1945–47), a major pre-exile work shown in Sekoto's 1989 Johannesburg Art Gallery retrospective.

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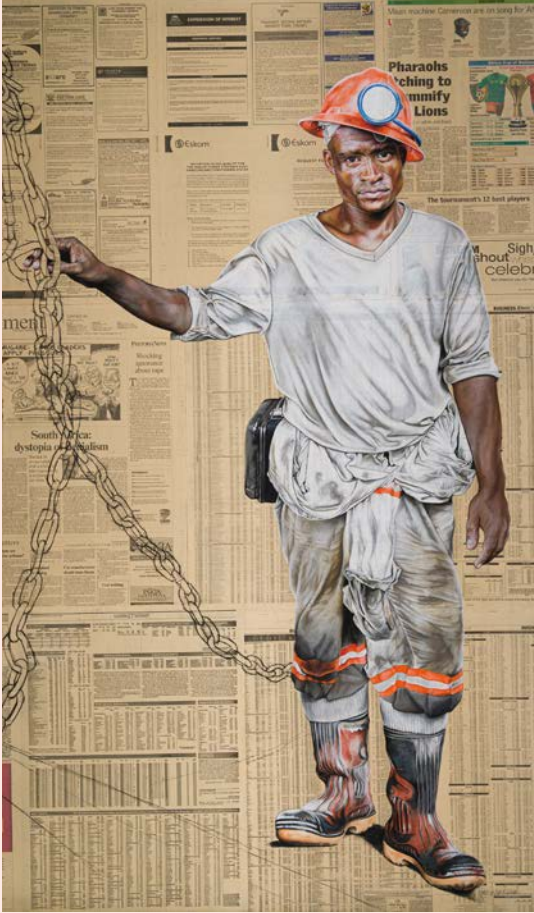
Africa's Leading Art Auction House



# Working Life in South Africa

## Gerard Sekoto and Lena Hugo

1 April – 30 May 2025



Lena Hugo

*Miner I*

2008

pastel on newspaper laid down on board

168 by 98 cm

UKWAZI MINING INDUSTRY



Lena Hugo

*Seamstress*

2008

pastel on paper

175 by 81,5 cm

PRIVATE COLLECTION

**Strauss & Co**

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# Strauss & Co

## Flagship Live Auction | Johannesburg

27 May 2025



Gerard Sekoto *The Mother on the Road* c.1945–47 oil on canvas board  
45 by 34,5 cm PRIVATE COLLECTION

Timed to coincide with major modern art sales in May, Strauss & Co, Africa's leading auction house, is offering a significant work by Gerard Sekoto. A brilliant example of his pre-exile postimpressionist style, *The Mother on the Road* (c. 1945–47) depicts a mother carrying a child on her back, flanked by two pre-adolescent children. She also balances a heavy load on her head. The generous scene is set within a modest domestic landscape. The work appeared in the artist's career retrospective at the Johannesburg Art Gallery in 1989. It will be presented to the public on 27 May 2025 as part of Strauss & Co's flagship live auction in Johannesburg. Other highlights include Vladimir Tretchikoff's iconic *Lady from the Orient* (1955) and Irma Stern's *Still Life with Lemons* (1954). Like Sekoto, Stern is currently the subject of renewed critical and market interest in Europe (see page 17).



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## Tretchikoff's Celebrated *Lady from the Orient* Leads Johannesburg Sale



Vladimir Tretchikoff *Lady from the Orient* Estimate R5 000 000 – 7 000 000 (USD 264 743 – 370 639)

**Join Africa's leading auction house for its flagship Johannesburg sale, headlined by an important 1955 Tretchikoff portrait, painted at the height of his creative arc.**

Strauss & Co is a full-service auction house. We offer expert valuations, specialist advice, private and public sales, and curated exhibitions – both selling and educational – supported by a team of leading authorities in art, jewellery, design, wine, silver and watches.

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