

# ART & ARCHITECTURE *at* WORK



*Art & Architecture at Work* derives from **VISIONARY AFRICA** **ARTatWORK** an itinerant initiative promoted for the last two years by the European Commission, in partnership with the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels (BOZAR). Its goal has been to engage stakeholders in taking a culture-based approach to achieving inclusive and sustainable urban development. This initiative included an open-air pavilion and Pan-African photography exhibits in public spaces in African capitals. Together these highlighted the responsibility of artists in civil society and the role of public spaces in urban agglomerations.



Ouagadougou pavilion (Photo by Dominique Thiange).  
2011



Visitors at the Cairo pavilion (photo by May El Hossamy).  
2012



Visitors at the Cairo pavilion (Photo by Kathleen Louw).  
2012

*'Beyond an exhibition, this project presents an urban space at once material and virtual, in which society's stakeholders are invited to debate questions which not only touch on creativity, but also on the organization of the city',*

*Simon Njami, Curator.*

## **Visionary Africa: Art & Architecture at Work**

**Itinerant multi-disciplinary project in African capitals: Exhibitions, artist residencies, and workshops**

November 2010, Tripoli, Libya (Launch, EU-Africa summit); February 2011, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; January 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; February 2012, Cairo, Egypt; May 2012, Harare, Zimbabwe; July 2012, Bujumbura, Burundi; September 2012, Kampala, Uganda; April 2013, Nairobi, Kenya.

**Organized by the European Commission,  
With the Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR), Brussels,  
And in partnership with the African Union Commission.**

Co-curators: David Adjaye and Simon Njami

Pavilion Design: Adjaye Associates

Contractor: Cecoforma



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# Artists and Architects for Urban Welfare

**African artists**, particularly photographers, have documented urban life on the Continent, from daily pleasures and struggles, to critical urban, political and environmental issues affecting city life.

**New aesthetics have emerged**, as well as a conscious will by artists to engage in urban development. In the last twenty years, the increase in number of contemporary art centres and art biennials all over the Continent, attest to this thirst for expression and commitment to the city.

**A new generation of African architects** are increasingly prioritising social, cultural and environmental considerations in their designs. They offer new approaches to urban planning and development, in tune with urban cultures, environmental issues, and social and economic sustainability.

**At the 24<sup>th</sup> UN Habitat Governing Council Meeting, the European Commission presents:**

**Best practices in inclusive and sustainable urban development in Africa.**

These cases, researched and compiled by African Architecture Matters and BOZAR, are inspirations for urban planning approaches that enhance social cohesion and stability in the city.

The GoDown Arts Centre in Nairobi, featured for its initiative *'Nai Ni Who (Who is Nairobi)'* in its neighbourhood, will hold a workshop with all project stakeholders on April 16. They are the topic of a side event presentation on April 17, Room 9 (see last panel).





# Dreams,



**BOB GOSANI** (South Africa)  
The Americans.  
ca 1965



**NANCY MTEKI** (Zimbabwe)  
Pimp my Diaspora Bus.  
2012



**JODI BIEBER** (South Africa)  
One, Two, three and ... The Ennerdale Academy of Dance, south of Johannesburg.  
1997. © Jodi Bieber, courtesy Goodman Gallery

# Inclusiveness,



**JEAN DEPARA** (Angola)  
Deux garçons au café.  
ca 1965



**NONTSIKELELO VELEKO** (South Africa)  
Cindy and Nkuli.  
2003



**BETHULE NKIWANE** (Zimbabwe)  
From the series *The Gud Life*.  
2012



# and Creativity



**ANDREW TSHABANGU** (South Africa)  
The City Near Bree Street Taxi Rank.  
2004



**YAHYA DIWER** (Egypt)  
Burnt Government building.  
Cairo, 2012. © Yahya Diwer



**ZINEB SEDIRA** (Algeria)  
The Lovers.  
2008. © Zineb Sedira, courtesy Galerie Kamel Mennour

# Side Event



**CALVIN DONDO** (Zimbabwe)  
From the series *Harare Streets*.  
2000. © Calvin Dondo

**Wednesday April 17, 2013**  
**April 17, 2013 | 1:30-2:30pm | Room 9**

## **Art and Architecture for Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Development in Africa**

### **Keynote speakers:**

**Heinrich Wolff** (South Africa), a world-renowned architect and the recipient of numerous awards for his socially-conscious architecture, will share his vision of an architecture for social change, in a presentation entitled 'The expansion of freedom'.

**Joy Mboya** (Kenya), the dynamic Director of the GoDown Arts Centre in Nairobi, will present the innovative initiative of 'Nai Ni Who' (Who is Nairobi), which is part of the 'Vision 2030 Nairobi Metropolitan Area' for 'Conceiving a World Class African Metropolis'.

### **Moderator:**

**Joe Osae Addo** (Ghana), Director of ArchiAfrika, Accra, a network devoted to broadening the discourse on Africa's built environment to encompass the role of socio-cultural design inspired development, will moderate this event.

**Please pick up our free booklet *Art and Architecture at Work!***



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