

ARTISTS IN NAIROBI IMAGINE NEW FUTURES FOR THE CITY AND EAST AFRICA

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KAIROS FUTURA LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVE IN KENYA



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NAIROBI, KENYA - The Nairobi Space Station initiative, a partnership between the art futurist organization Kairos Futura, Documenta 2022 first prize winner, Wajukuu Arts and Brush Tu Artist Collective has brought together a diverse group of 20 artists and over a hundred volunteers to create immersive experiences, performance art, and public installations imagining the future of Nairobi.

Led by Abdul Rop, Lincoln Mwangi, and Ajax Axe, the initiative has already produced several captivating projects, including "KÍAMBĪRĪRIA," a time travel pod by Lincoln Mwangi, and "The Archdiocese of Kanairo," an installation by Daniel Nuru that offers a thought-provoking imagining of a post-industrial secret society.

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The initiative's focus on creative community engagement has spurred a range of artistic interventions throughout Nairobi. Over the coming months, the three artist collectives will be initiating additional art installations and creative interventions throughout the city, with a range of utopian and dystopian visions for Nairobi's future.

The Nairobi Space Station initiative aims to ignite the city's collective consciousness and encourage the public to envision new possibilities for the future of Nairobi. "Metamorphosis," a large-scale installation by Husna Ismail, represents a monster that has emerged from the pollution in the Ngong River and serves as a playground for children in the Mukuru informal settlement, promoting an appreciation of the arts and environmental conservation. Similarly, Wanjira Kinyua's "The Wrath of the Forest Spirit" serves as a reminder of the importance of considering the long-term effects of ecosystem destruction.

Nine of the Nairobi Space Station members have also developed wearable designs and art pieces in response to utopic and dystopic concepts of how we might live in a nomadic future in both Nairobi and East Africa. These unique designs and art pieces will be showcased to the public at The McMillan Memorial Library on April 15th from 5-8pm.

The Nairobi Space Station initiative underscores the power of art in driving social change and shaping the future of our cities. Through the collaboration of Kairos Futura, Brush Tu artist collective, and Wajukuu Arts, the initiative is poised to continue inspiring new ways of thinking about Nairobi's future, establishing Kenya's position as a leader in artistic innovation in East Africa. Workshops, installations and other creative forms of engagement will be ongoing throughout 2023.

ABDUL ROP

NAIROBI SPACE STATION
CO-COMMANDER

Abdul Rop is a multimedia artist and member of the Brush Tu Art Studio, known for his woodcut prints and paintings. Born in 1993, Kipruto studied sociology and religion at Egerton University before turning his attention to art full-time.

Since joining Brush Tu in 2016, Kipruto has participated in numerous group exhibitions, including the Kenya Art Fair in 2016 and 2017, the “Art to End Slavery” show at Kobo Trust, and the Danish Embassy Cultural Day in 2016 and 2017. In addition, he has also exhibited his work at Brush Tu’s open studios and in the “Untitled” show at Polka Dot Gallery.

Kipruto’s work is deeply inspired by his background in sociology and religion, and often touches on themes of social justice and human rights. His powerful prints and paintings are a testament to his dedication to using art as a means of expression and activism.



NAIROBI LAUNCH
CREW

LINCOLN MWANGI

NAIROBI SPACE STATION
CO-COMMANDER

Lincoln Mwangi received his education in drawing and painting at the Buruburu Institute of Fine Arts, Nairobi. He continues to live and work in the city as a member of the Brush Tu Artist Collective. Mwangi draws inspiration from daily reality for his figurative paintings and portraits, exploring themes such as identity, our relationship to nature, and human emotions. He frequently employs the use of anonymous figures and symbols like animals and objects to represent the collective human experience. Mwangi’s work has been featured in numerous exhibitions including. He has exhibited his work widely including at the Lamu Space Station, Lamu Island in 2022, Facing the Sun at Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, in the Schloss Görne Gallery in Germany in 2021, and in I have a Dream at the AKKA Project in Venice. His first solo show, A Book Of Life Time And Feelings, was exhibited in Nairobi at Gravitart in 2021. Mwangi was the Winner of the Manjano Exhibition in the student’s category 2017.



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WANJIRA KINYUA

NAIROBI SPACE STATION
CREW MEMBER

Wanjira Kinyua is a designer and illustrator residing in Nairobi. She has worked with a number of well-known clients, including CNN Style, Airbnb, Space10, The New York Times, and Google. Her portfolio showcases her versatility and skill in the field of design and illustration.

Inspired by everyday subjects, Wanjira takes a historical approach to her illustrations, seeking to create entire worlds within them. She places great emphasis on detail, using her research and knowledge to inform her creative process and bring her illustrations to life. Through her work, she strives to tell stories and capture the essence of her subjects, creating pieces that are both thought-provoking and visually stunning.



DANIEL NURU

NAIROBI SPACE STATION
CREW MEMBER

Nuru is a multi-talented artist from Nairobi, Kenya known for his bold and colorful still life paintings, murals, NFTs, and other artworks. He showcases Nairobi culture through everyday items from his direct surroundings. Nuru is also an aspiring curator of experiences, exploring the human mind and societal issues through art.

He has participated in the Artstorm NFT project and exhibited his work at various locations including the Sarit Center Festival of Sound and Art, One Off Gallery, UM Gallery, and the National Museum. With his unique style and passion for exploring the human experience through art, Nuru continues to explore various mediums as he finds his expression



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HUSNA ISMAIL

NAIROBI SPACE STATION
CREW MEMBER

Husna is an artist based in Nairobi, Kenya who specializes in design, illustration, and XR art. In her artistic practice, she incorporates both traditional and digital media. Her portfolio encompasses both personal and commercial projects, and she consistently explores new techniques and forms of expression.

Husna's artwork has been presented in exhibitions and pop-up events in Nairobi, including the VR installation "Darubini" in SOTA 3.0. She has also been recognized in the Kenya Arts Diary and has provided illustrations for children's books by NABU. Through her art, Husna endeavors to create meaningful pieces and installations using her skills and knowledge.



STONEFACE BOMBAA

NAIROBI SPACE STATION
CREW MEMBER

Stoneface Bombaa (Brian Otieno Akoth) is a community organizer at the Mathare Social Justice Centre (MSJC), where he runs the MSJC Kids' Club and Art for Social Change. He is also a member of the Mathare Green Movement, a volunteer group that, through planting trees throughout the informal settlement, practices collective imagination and action. Stoneface's mission is to help young people in Mathare understand the systemic nature of the everyday violence that shapes their lives. In 2020, along with journalist April Zhu, he created and voiced "Until Everyone Is Free," a podcast on the life and work of socialist freedom fighter Pio Gama Pinto. The podcast was featured on VICE, Xinhua, Paukwa, Daraja Press, Awaaz Magazine; Stoneface has since been invited to speak at the Georgetown University Doyle Seminar, Africa Podfest, The Museum of British Colonialism, BookBunk, and Baraza Media Lab. His writing on police killings has also been published in The Elephant, an independent Kenyan publication.



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ANGELA CAURI

NAIROBI SPACE STATION
CREW MEMBER

Angela Cauri is a Visual Artist and Architectural Designer, pursuing a path in Creative Technology. Born and raised in Nairobi, she graduated with a Master of Arts in Architecture from the University of Edinburgh in 2019. As an artist, she visually presents Afrocentric narratives that address the human experience, environmental impact and the role of the age of technology. Her passions extend to her work as an aspiring Architect, where she explores design that is both environmentally responsible and culturally relevant to the African demographic.

During her discourse, she got introduced to the world of Extended Reality(XR) mediums and their applications in Art and Architecture. She has since collaborated with various organizations and individuals in arts, technology and construction spaces, incorporating both digital and virtual elements into her traditional mediums. She recently took part in an XR exhibition in Nairobi titled "SOTA 3.0: Darubini", which aimed to establish AR/VR as legitimate platforms for creative expression.



WILLY NG'ANG'A

NAIROBI SPACE STATION
CREW MEMBER

Willy Ng'ang'a is a Kenyan scientist, environmentalist, and hiker. He holds a Biomedical Science degree from Egerton University and has received additional training in Statistics, Ecosystem Restoration, and Green Entrepreneurship. Currently, Willy works as a research consultant with aspirations to focus on eco-conservation projects.

Willy's passion for environmentalism stems from his love for hiking and the realization of the ecological threat to our planet. He believes that science can be a powerful tool in the restoration and conservation effort, and his mission is to collaborate with stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to address local ecological challenges. He believes that these challenges, although difficult, can be overcome through collective effort and the utilization of locally available resources. Willy's ultimate goal is to contribute to a better future for the planet and its inhabitants.



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AJAX AXE

KAIROS FUTURA DIRECTOR

Ajax Axe is a visual artist, film director, and activist known for her immersive installations and exhibitions. Axe splits her time between Colorado and Kenya, allowing her to draw inspiration from both Western and African cultures.

In addition to her artistic pursuits, Axe is also an activist, working to promote social and environmental justice. She is deeply committed to using her art and platform to make a positive impact on the world around her.

Throughout her career, Axe has exhibited her work in galleries and museums around the world, and her films have been shown at festivals and screenings internationally. She has shown her work at the Tang Museum, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Aspen Art Museum as well as solo shows at The Gonzo Gallery, Skye Gallery and Fat City Gallery.



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