

ANDILE MAGENGELELE

"Beings imagine and engage their own futures. Without this dimension of futurity and imagination, we can hardly write a name we can call ours or articulate a voice we can recognize as ours" – Achille Mbembe, Contemporary African Art: Negotiating the Terms of Recognition

"By all means it is necessary to reclaim the support of international and central organizations so that the art of the periphery can be shown internationally by the periphery itself" – Gerardo Mosquera, Cuban art critic, Global Visions Toward A New Internationalism In Visual Arts

I am South Africa born, and Zurich based exhibition-maker (with a curatorial eye) and fine art dealer. With two decades plus experience I have developed the "in-betweenness" of both roles – beginning as an independent curator, I curated and organized a number of contemporary art exhibitions and later hybrid art shows that stages curated selling exhibitions leaning towards commercial art ecosystem – without compromising scholarship and canon. I have a diverse approach to expressing national and transnational artistic ecologies and how to mediate the value of art in economic and critical discourse. It has always been my mission to connect and bridge the gap between artists, institutions, collectors and art lovers. My commitment is to work with artists from a range of generations, geographies and cultures, while nurturing and cultivating appreciation for contemporary art by staging engaging exhibititons.

My trajectory within the arts has taken me from Africa, Europe, South America and the U.S – this gave me a good grounding in all the artistic genres and in both western and non-western artistic practices – and has led to my interest in how cross-cultural aesthetic and cultural hybridity relate to global art history and how it connects African/Diaspora art (post-Black) to a global art scene and a break from 'traditional anthropological' approach. This coupled with my experience of having been involved in almost all spheres within the African contemporary art sector – as an artistic director; curator; commentator including working within an art fair environment – as a booth host, moderator at art institutions such as The Market Theatre Photography School and Wits University MFA Final Year Program, Visual Arts Network of South Africa, speaker in various talk programs and a panelist. I have moderated discussion panel at the Basel Art Fair, Cape Town Art Fair and Johannesburg Art Fair with a panel of gallerist's, artists, art historians, museum directors, auctioneers and art collectors. In my work life I have engaged and interacted with international cultural agencies, arts organization and artists in Africa and Diaspora, US, Europe and Asia. This experience gave me a global perspective and cross-cultural sensibilities. To borrow from Homi Bhabha, the Indian-British scholar and a cultural theorist, I see myself as 'glocal' – or 'local in spirit but global in character.

My involvement in contemporary art includes being a member of South African Department of Arts and Culture's Ministerial Visual Arts Task Team (VATT) – the main task being to assist with policy advice on the visual arts sector, board member Visual Arts Fund in National Arts Council of South Africa, City of Johannesburg Heritage and Architectural Board, member Johannesburg Art Museum Acquisition Committee amongst others. In the past seven years the museum has increased its collection on both female artists and artists from the Global South.

From 2013 to present, I have been an Artistic Director of Kauru Contemporary Art Exhibitions (www.kauru.co.za) – a Pan-African and Diaspora contemporary African art platform which has programmed some of the most cutting edge artists and more emphasis on addressing the underrepresentation of woman narratives in art, a committee member of South African Artist Selection Committee for South African Pavilion in Venice Biennale. I am also a founding member of Black Collectors Forum – a platform for the encouragement of new art buyers and art appreciation.

Since living in Switzerland in the past four years, my focus is to open up new perspectives that engage with art from a wider angle, including interest in both the decentralization of art production and the richness and depth of artistic expression with artists not only from Africa as that will be 'ghettoizing' but Switzerland and beyond. Being 'new' in the city of Zurich, has given me a luxury of observation (being an outsider yet inside). My current interest is to create new connections and audiences that are enriched by multiplicity of dialogues. I am passionate, engaged, and informed about the most recent developments in contemporary art.

Recent Projects:

2021

STPI Creative Workshop and Gallery, Singapore
Art Basel, 2021. Booth host

STPI is a creative workshop and contemporary art gallery in Singapore. It is a not-for-profit organization committed to promoting artistic experimentation in the mediums of print and paper and is one of the most cutting-edge destinations for contemporary art in Asia.

Artists showcased:

Haegue Yang
Jason Martin
Anri Sala
Carsten Holler
Rirkit Tiravanija
Do Hu Suh
Tobias Rehberger

2022, New York

Susan Sheehan Gallery, New York
Art Basel, 2022. Booth host

Susan Sheehan Gallery specializes in Post-War prints and works on paper, within art historical context of the “American print renaissance” – Abstract Expressionism and Color Field master prints. The gallery puts great emphasis on scholarship.

Artists showcased in the booth:

Alexander Calder
Bernett Newman
Helen Frankenthaler
Brice Marden
John MacLoughlin
Ellsworth Kelly
Donald Judd
Kerry James Marshall
Louise Bourgoise
Josef Albers
Ed Ruscha
Andy Warhol
Jasper Johns
Willem de Kooning
Cy Twombly
Vija Celmins

2022

Shaping Dreams: Noria Mabasa, 23, May – 6, June 2022
Guest curator: In collaboration with NIROX Foundation Sculpture Park,
Johannesburg, South Africa

This was a solo exhibition of auto-didactic sculptor and ceramist Noria Mabasa whose work deals with the metaphysical and feminine, particular issues pertaining to women, mythology and spirituality.

Worldmaking: Kipwani Kiwanga, Zurich Art Prize Winner, 2022
Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich
Roundtable Panelist with Dr. Melanie Boehi (Scholar and Historian), Andile Magengelele (exhibition maker and art dealer), Dr. Chanelle Adams (Artist and Art Historian), and Percy Zvomuya (Writer and Art Journalist)

2023

Hands On: Contemporary Craft and Design Exhibition, Women's Liberation Museum, 30, March – 27 May, 2023 Pretoria, South Africa

The exhibition was a look at the connection between traditional forms of craft practice and contemporary craft practice and interplay with traditional aesthetic, new materials and technology through a multidisciplinary approach.

Botaki Factory (Art Collective Group Show (Off-Space), 29, June – 29, July, 2023 District 3, Zurich

Group show of Botaki Art Collective, a grassroots effort whose mission is to create space where art itself is the center of conversation with all the contradictory and complex issues it raises. The showcase formed part “of a journey in creative dialogue” between members of the artist collective and myself to bring what has been happening in their shared *atelier* into the view of public and to encourage viewers to find affinities between the works. It was also my attempt as an independent exhibition maker to shed a new light, shift perceptions and preconceptions on artists that are not part of commercial gallery circuit. The show featured photography, paintings, drawings and sculpture.

Confluence: Art. Poetry. Talks. Moving Image. Music

A group show of ten Swiss based contemporary artists showcasing paintings, sculpture, photography and works on paper. Featured artists include:

Orlando Morosini
The Juice
Marving Kangsen
Patrick Planter
Aimée Mundjilo
Ekin Senan
Rudi
Chike Morrison
Bence
Thabiso Phepeng

Current

Artistic Director, Kauru Contemporary Art (kauru.co.za)

Though now based in Zurich I still do selected hybrid projects as an Artistic Director of Kauru Contemporary Art, a Johannesburg based art platform that stages art and touring exhibitions. Part of the works I have been doing included developing programs on art exhibitions and art talks that expand the canon and stimulate rigorous discourse on contemporary art developments. Including fund raising in addition to overseeing planning and implementing all aspects of

artistic/curatorial long-term vision for the organization. I identify and hire curators, collaborate with curators in selection of theme and artists for each project and also articulate the project vision to the artists – liaise with galleries, museums, art historians, publishers and academic institutions. Setting up exhibition schedules/timelines as well as ensuring that exhibitions are produced within planned and detailed budgets – including how best to represent the concept visually. Some of the artists we have worked with include:

Zanele Muholi (South Africa)
Mary Evans (United Kingdom)
Diana Wabira (Zimbabwe)
Ghada Amer (Egypt)
Henry Tayali (Zambia)
Henry “Mzili” Mujonga (Uganda)
Lady Skollie (South Africa)
Yaye Kasamali (USA)
Ayana Jackson (USA)
Aida Muluneh (Ethiopia)
Ato Malinda (Kenya)
Zohra Opoku (Ghana)
Pamela Phatsimo (Canada)
Edson Chagas (Angola)
Mario Macilau (Mozambique)
Egnaldo Vilanculos (Cape Verde)

2022 -2023

Curator:

Botaki Factory, Zurich

“Sharing a studio is a journey in creative dialogue...where ideas are formed and exchanged”

Botaki Factory

Botaki Factory is an alternative art platform for emerging and established artists. It is an artist run art space with a mission to create a space where art itself is the center of conversation with all the contradictory and complex issues that it raises. As much as it is a meeting place of artistic minds, the collective is also a space that does not provide answers...but more of a space that provoke questions about the unknown. Botaki Factory is a grassroots effort that aims to provide a platform for local creative community. The ‘Factory’ does not represent artists, but instead “champion” them. BC firmly believe that arts should never be seen in isolation, but instead in relation to society - in community, contemporary debates rather than being seen as peripheral or exclusive.

PROGRAMMING:

BC programming intends giving voice to specific communities. It promotes artistic collaborations, cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary understanding. This program will include perspective from poetry/literary, sonic intervention/music, art to environmental talks from margins to the mainstream.

Collaborations with various the art curators include:

Thembinkosi Goniwe (South Africa), Professor of Wits University, South Africa
writer, curator of the South African Pavilion, 54 Venice Biennale,

Nontobeko Ntombela (South Africa) Appointed member of the Curatorial
Committee by Cecilia Alemani, curator Venice Biennale, 2022

Paula Nascimento (Angola) – Winner Lions Award (Venice Biennale), Curator of
the Angola Pavillion, Venice Biennale

Raphael Chikukwa (Zimbabwe) Senior Curator, National Museum of Zimbabwe
and Curator of the Zimbabwe Pavillion, Venice Biennale

Joseph Gaylard – Director, Pro-Helvetia, South Africa

Gilane Tawadros – Curator, writer and former Director of International Institute
of Visual Art, London