lettera 27 is the 27th letter of the alphabet
the missing letter
the letter that is yet to be
the hybrid sign
the empty box
the link between spoken and written words
the connection to the future
the intersection of analogue and digital.
**lettera27** is a Italian non-profit foundation, born in July 2006. It is based in the city of Milan.

*lettera27*’s mission is to support the right to literacy, education, and the access to knowledge and information, with a particular focus on the African continent.

*lettera27* aims to pursue sustainable innovative models to facilitate access and sharing of knowledge, stimulate critical debate and change the collective perception of the African continent.

*lettera27* operates in three main areas of intervention.
AREAS OF INTERVENTION:

- ART AND CULTURE FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION
- INNOVATIVE EDUCATION
- SUSTAINABLE CULTURE

Our approach:
- co-creation
- shared value
- scalability
- replicability
- sustainability
- cross-sectorial
AtWork is the key format of lettera27
“I think people who are confronted with art should be a bit freer to think about themselves and someone who is free is someone who is willing to transform their society.”

Simon Njami
AtWork is an educational format that started in 2012. It was conceived by lettera27 and Simon Njami, that uses the creative process to stimulate critical thinking and debate among young creative talents.

It contributes to building a new generation of thinkers.
Simon Njami is a Paris-based independent curator, lecturer, art critic and novelist. He is one of the most prolific and influential contemporary intellectuals from the African Continent. His internationally acclaimed exhibitions have redefined contemporary African Art and his shows reached more than 5M people worldwide.

He is the Artistic Director of the Dak’Art Biennale 2016.
THE ATWORK PROCESS

THE WORKSHOP

- Is led by an artist or a curator on the chosen topic.
- The topic stimulates the collective discussion and a personal self-reflection.
- As a final output each student produces a personalized notebook, which is a reflection of a thought at work.
- Two local educators participate to the workshop and are exposed to AtWork methodology in order to ensure the format’s replicability in the local context.
THE EXHIBITION

- Participants co-create the exhibition of the produced notebooks.

- The exhibition is the first occasion for sharing and bringing the discussion to a larger audience.

- The notebooks are showcased physically at the local art gallery alongside with the online exhibition of the rest of the collection.
COMMMUNITY

- Composed by the AtWork participants, the hosting cultural organizations, international artists and professionals of the contemporary art scene.

- A forum to discuss ideas, get visibility, connect with the international artistic network.
AtWork is conducted by outstanding creative personalities from the fields of arts and culture that with their charisma inspire young creative talents from all over the world.

MIRA NAIR, AtWork Kampala 2015
I'm grateful to AtWork for being an eye opener and making me discover a new talent in me.

Nourhan Refaat, AtWork Cairo participant

“Made me think greatly about who I am and who I want to be... Thank you for a new mind.”

Immy Mali, AtWork Kampala participant

“In only 5 days I have found myself, I became a risk taker, a rule breaker, I created a rebel.”

Miriam Namutebi, AtWork Kampala participant
AtWork takes inspiration from a collection of ‘artist notebooks’, unique pieces of art created by international artists on Moleskine notebooks and donated to lettera27 to support its activities.

The collection reflects the variety, wealth and complexity of contemporary art. The AtWork participants may choose to donate their notebooks to become part of lettera27’s collection alongside the prominent artists.
Few examples of artist notebooks

Maurice Pefura, *Nos Voyages immobiles*, 2014

Pascale-Marthine Tayou, *Many, Many (people)*, 2011

Ola-Dele Kuku, 2011

Maurizia Dova, *s.t.*, 2010

Marina Spadafora, *Storytelling textures*, 2015
ATWORK TO DATE

- AtWork Watou (2014)
- AtWork Florence (2015)
- AtWork Dakar (2012)
- AtWork Abidjan (2013)
- AtWork Kampala (2015)
- AtWork Venice (2015)
- AtWork Manama (2013)
- AtWork Cairo (2015)
- AtWork Modena (2016)
ATWORK IN NUMBERS TO DATE

10
AtWork Worshops

196
Students

385
On-line Community Members

30
Countries
Build a new generation of thinkers
FROM AN IDEA TO A PAN-AFRICAN EXPERIENCE
We aim to build an unprecedented PAN-AFRICAN NETWORK OF CREATIVE THINKERS where young creative minds can grow and flourish as well as contribute to building a new narrative of the continent.

How do we achieve this: Activate lettera27’s existing network of local cultural organizations, intellectuals and educators all around the African continent to enhance AtWork impact.
ATWORK STRATEGY: AtWork Pan-African experience 2017-19

- 20 AtWork Workshops
- 500 Students
- 20 AtWork Exhibitions
- 4000 Young exhibition visitors
- 20 Cultural Organizations Activated
- 40 Educators exposed to the AtWork methodology
- 3 International AtWork Exhibition
- 1000 Members of the on-line AtWork Community
“I’d say that if art has a role it’s to build the sensible and to re-enchant the world, to create that community of thought, of sensibility and of aesthetics, which is the only way to re-enchant the world”

Simon Njami, speech at the Dak'Art 2016 press conference