

The logo for 'At Work' is displayed in white text on a solid black rectangular background. The word 'At' is positioned above 'Work'. The 'A' in 'At' is a tall, thin, sans-serif capital letter. The 't' is a lowercase sans-serif letter. 'Work' is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the right of the word 'Work'.

At
Work®

ATWORK KAMPALA 2015
FEBRUARY 9 - 13

**WE NEED PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT ONLY ARTISTS, BUT THINKERS.
SOME ARE ALREADY OUT THERE. WE NEED TO SEE THE NEW
GENERATION.**

Simon Njami, Kampala 2014

LOCATION / CONTEXT

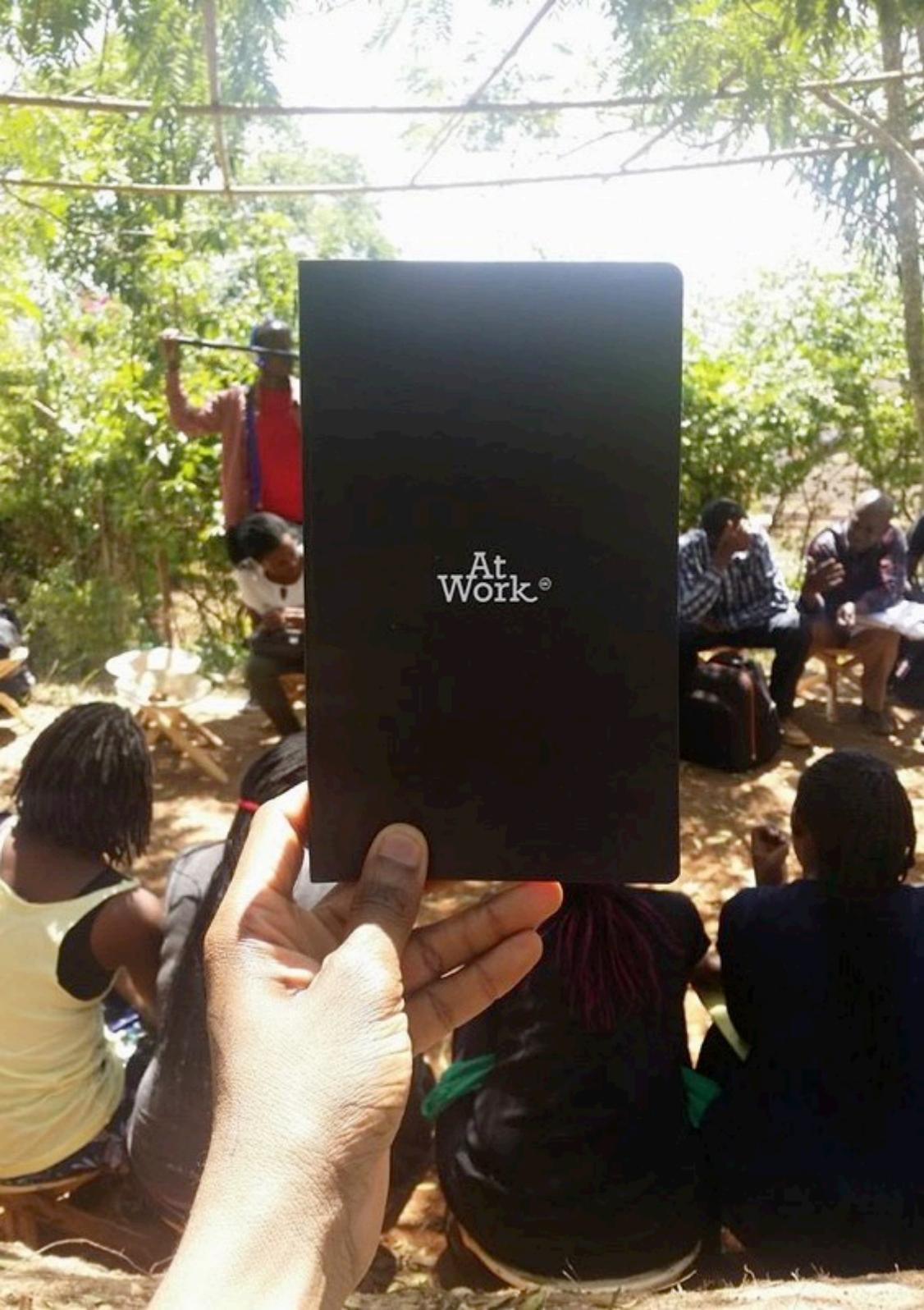
Uganda is a relatively small, very densely populated country in East Africa. By far the majority of the population is younger than 25 years. The capital city Kampala lies in the Kingdom of Buganda.

Founded in 1922, Makerere University is one of the oldest universities on the continent. The beginnings of Margaret Trowell School of Industrial and Fine Arts date back to the late 1930s. Maisha Foundation was established 10 years ago to empower young East African artists to tell their stories through film making.



A first encounter with an “at work” project in Kampala took place when the itinerant exhibition project *Visionary Africa - Art at Work* came to town in 2012, on the occasion of Uganda’s 50 years of independence. The link between the two events is their initiator Simon Njami and the focus on the processuality of art and exhibitions.

That is where this story began.



IDEA / BACKGROUND

AtWork started from a simple notebook, a small black one that many people have to capture their thoughts, ideas, sketches. A notebook is a very personal item, which in the context of AtWork transits from the private to the public sphere. Different artists have agreed to share their thoughts and to donate their work on Moleskine notebooks to *lettera27* to support its activities. The collection is presented in the online exhibition AtWork, allowing the artworks to circulate with a Creative Commons license.

AtWork is dedicated to critical thinking, considering learning and knowledge as integral and constitutive parts of the creative process. The format is conceived to be adaptable to various venues and contexts.

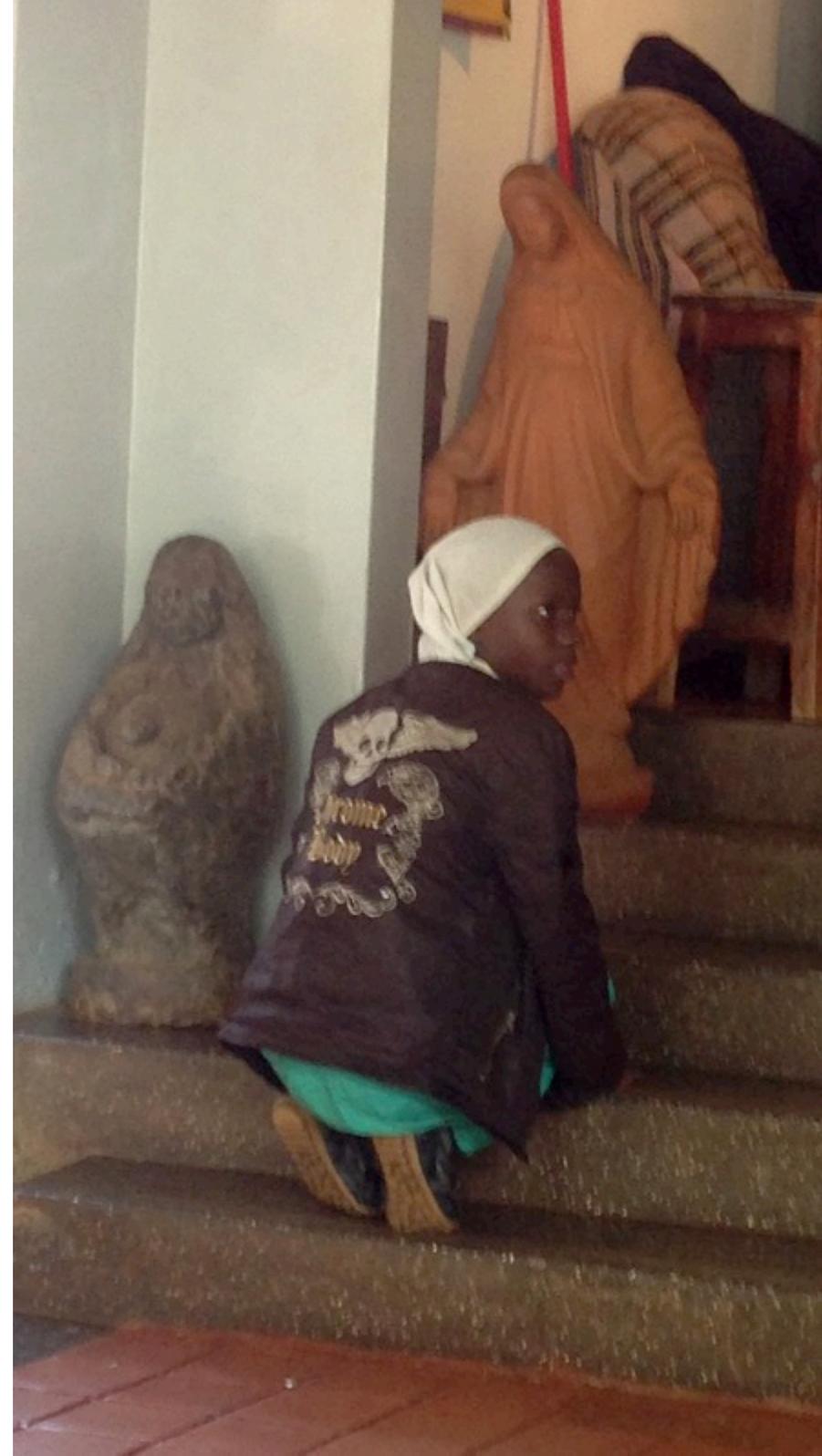


In the workshop the notebook becomes a tool and an object. The process of the critical debate among the participants and those interacting is captured and preserved by everyone individually in a notebook. Each notebook takes on its own character and is the reflection of thoughts at work. The outcome in the form of those notebooks as objects and works of art is presented in a public exhibition and may continue online if the participants opt for publishing their work with a Creative Commons license.

WORKSHOP / THEME

Makerere University's art gallery Makerere Art Gallery/Institute of Heritage Conservation and Restoration together with Margaret Trowell School of Industrial and Fine Arts have adopted the AtWork format and invited 20 students and young artists. The applicants replied to an open call with a motivational letter reflecting on the question "Do I have to take off my shoes?"

Two schoolgirls had come to the gallery for the first time and asked this before entering, faced with a Mary statue they kneeled down. The simple question recalling that moment of entering sacred and unknown places was an invitation to reflect on the symbolism of crossing door sills. The theme triggered lively debates about issues of identity, knowledge, culture, religion, and language. Further, the expression "to take off my shoes" became a metaphor for taking risks and leaving one's comfort zone.





The workshop has been implemented in different countries worldwide in partnership with local cultural organizations and the support of Moleskine. Previous chapters in Africa took place in collaboration with Kër Thiossane in Dakar, Senegal, in 2012 and with Fondation Donwahi in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in 2013. AtWork Kampala, Uganda 2015 is the chapter implemented in partnership with one of the most important universities on the continent.

For the first three days of the workshop the participants were in residency together and spent most of their time at Maisha Garden, a landscaped garden and future cultural centre, created by renowned film director Mira Nair. The rest of the workshop took place at Makerere Art Gallery, which also hosts the exhibition of the notebooks produced during the workshop.











PARTICIPANTS

Adriko Joseph
Akoth Rebecca
Babirye Leilah
Gillian Stacey
Kagimu Joshua Godwin
Kazungu Martha
Kiconco Gloria
Kyambadde Frank
Mali Immy
Mugisha Batte
Mukyala Hasifah
Muzahuura Andrew Stuart
Muzoora Robert
Mwesiga Ian
Nabukenya Hellen
Namutebi Miriam
Nansubuga Robinah
Nantume Violet
Serubiri Moses
Ssewaya Megan
Suubi Sandra
Wasswa James
Watsala Harrison Davis



INTERACTANTS

Simon Njami

advisor

Mira Nair

inspiration

Lilian Nabulime, George Kyeyune

facilitation

Katrin Peters-Klaphake

Makerere Art Gallery/IHCR

Aida Mbowa

Maisha Garden

Fibby Kiora

Maisha Film Lab

Adama Sanneh, Elena Korzhenevich

lettera27

Osi Otsemobor

research

Solomon E Okurut - *camera*

Ogwang Jimmy John - *sound*

Nabaale Frances - *editing*

James Zeere, Nicholas Busobozi

Creative Commons licenses

Margaret Nagawa, Said Adrus

discussion



REFLECTION AT WORK



"Do I have to take off my Shoes"
lets take a moment, and maybe try to
replace shoes with the "socially constructed
attitude" or "culturally built ego" of
oneself.

I would take off my shoes in self discovery
potential exploration and looking at
things differently.

And Yes, I would ask to take off
my shoes" as a sign of respect, courtesy
in that moment. I need it sometimes
to be humble.

- Stuart -
9/12/2014

09-02-2015.

"Can I take off my shoes?"

If it gives me the happiness
I want, perfect. Let me take them off.
Risk taking is perfect. Take a risk
to achieve what is expected out of
it. Let it not be calculated
because

"A calculated risk is not
a risk"
stacey Gillian.

CREATION AT WORK



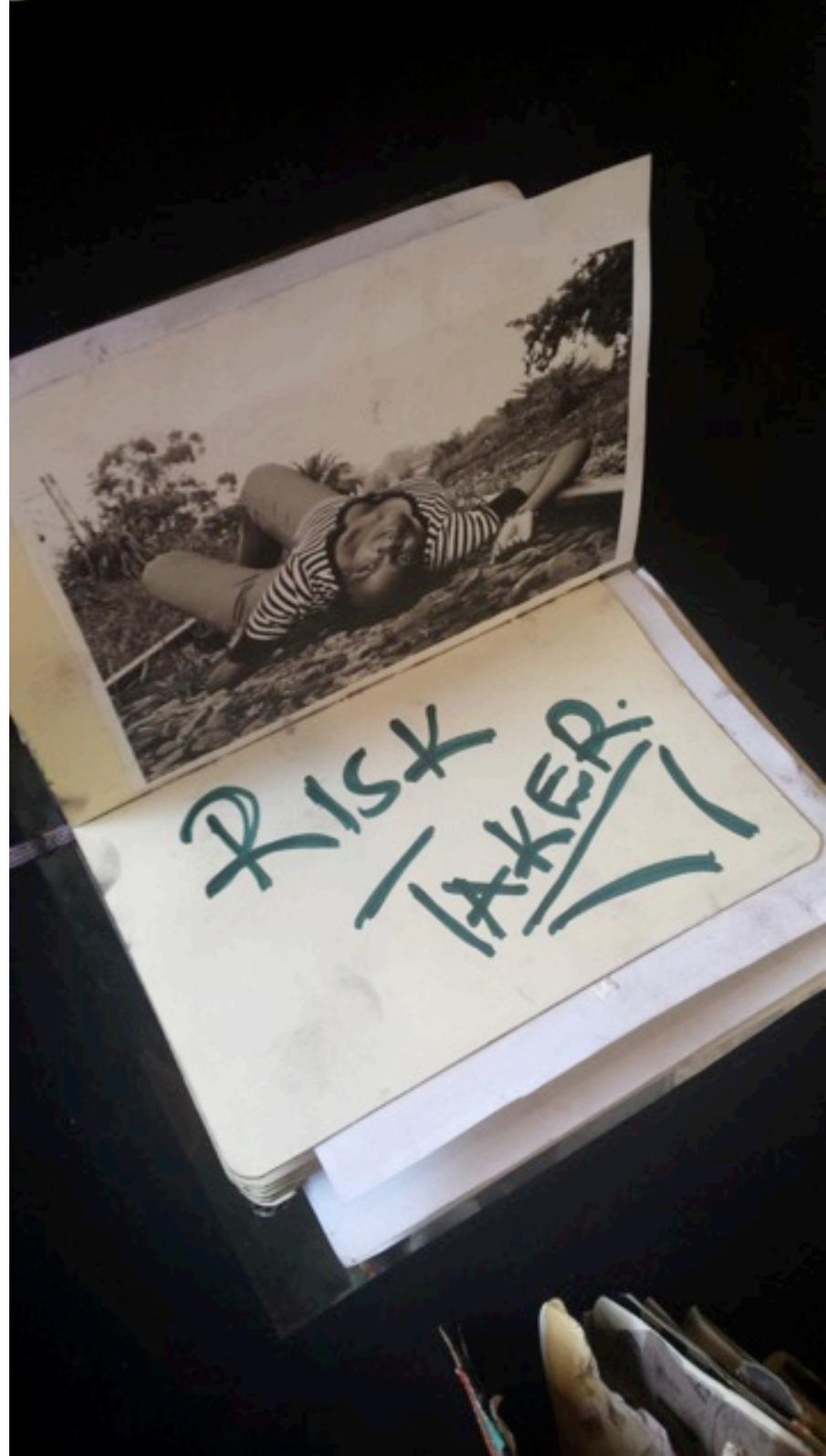
MOLESKINE®
www.moleskine.com

Shoes

TAKE !!!







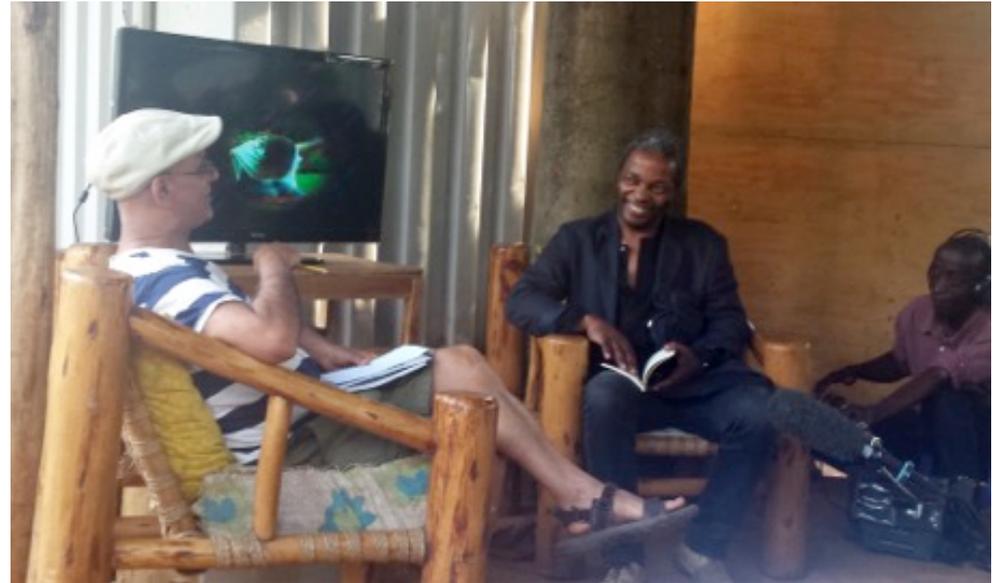
DOCUMENTATION



CONVERSATIONS



After the screening of her film "Salaam Bombay" movie director and Maisha founder Mira Nair and casting director Dinaz Stafford gave a talk to the group. Currently, both are working together again on the Disney production "Queen of Katwe" starring Lupita Nyong'o and shot in Uganda and South Africa.



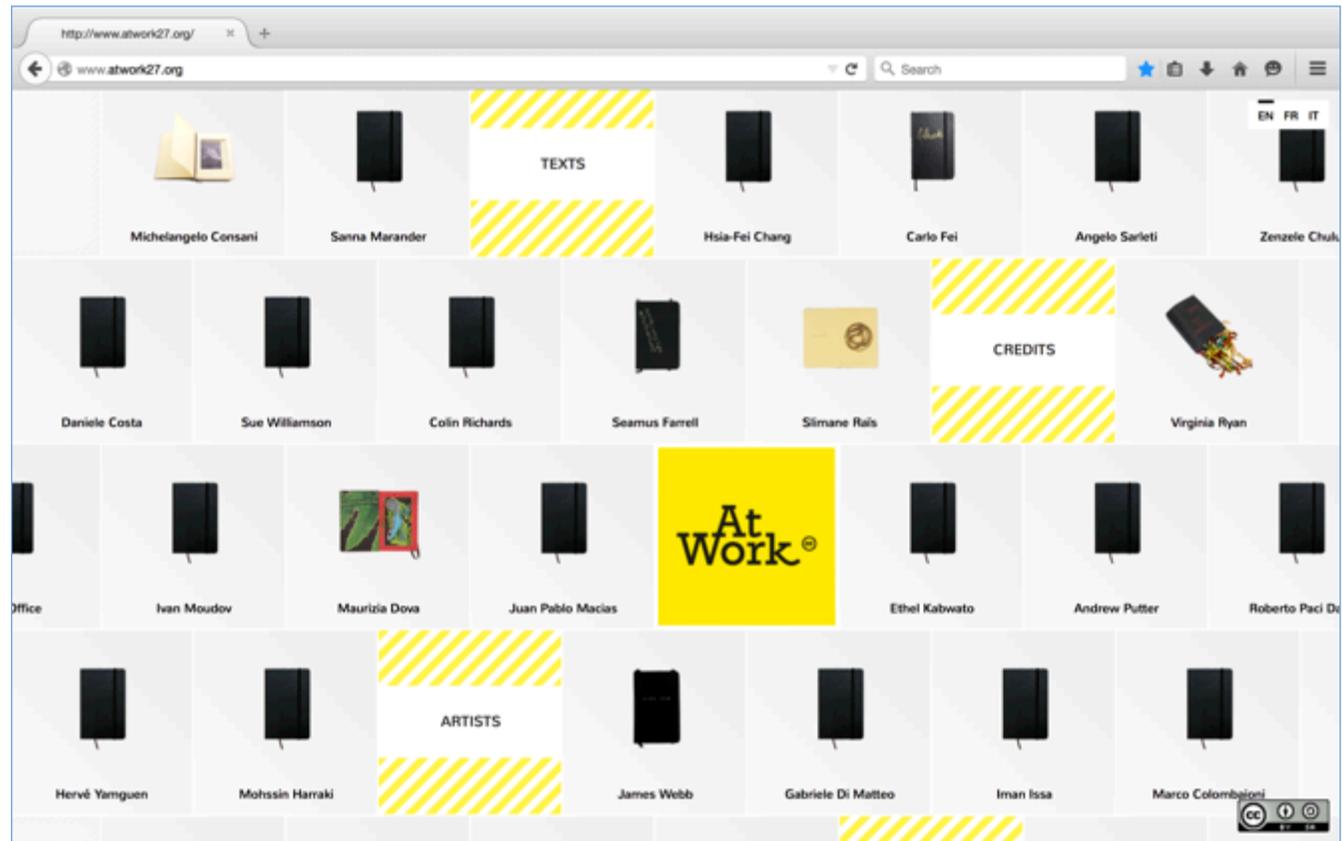
Simon Njami in conversation with Said Adrus, a London based multimedia artist who was born in Uganda and came back for the first time after he and his family were expelled from the country during the rule of Idi Amin in the early 1970s. The talk took place at 32° East Ugandan Arts Trust, where Said Adrus spent one month as artist in residency.

COMMUNICATION / SOCIAL NETWORKING



An AtWork group was created on Facebook, where participants can share their thoughts on the workshop, post pictures/videos/articles related to the workshop experience and to their artistic practices in general. The community is meant to be a space for the participants to interact with each other, as well as with the hosting cultural organizations, curators, artists and other AtWork chapters' participants, creating an international network to exchange, get exposure for their work and find out about various calls and residencies opportunities. The participants actively embraced the Facebook community and continue to engage with it even after the workshop is over.

COLLECTING / SHARING



AtWork promotes the sharing of knowledge and makes the works of art available under a 'free' license (CC BY-SA), which authorizes the use of the pictures on two conditions: the source must be acknowledged and all derivative works must be released under the same license.

The Creative Commons license and the web turn AtWork into a knowledge platform inspired by a *share, remix, reuse legally logic*, where visitors are simultaneously users, contributors and stakeholders. Exhibition of the notebook collection: atwork27.org

KEEP WORKING



Unlike · Comment · Share

👍 You, Robinah Nansubuga, Stacey Gillian, Violet Lynus Nantume and 18 others like this.

↪ 1 share

 **Nabulime Lilian** It has been a humbling and rewarding experience. It was amazing to see the young artists getting off their shoes (out of the box) come up with new art ideas/forms confident and openly to talk about their work. Thanks go to the Participants and Katrina, Simon, Elena, Adama, Osi George, Nagawa, Hasyfah, Okruit, Mbowa and Maisha, Lettera Ventisette (Namba 27), Makerere art gallery (MTSIFA), and others God bless you all for your contribution. I (We) pray and hope that the ideas gained will be shared with others.

Team Atwork...it was disturbing, mind probing and finally exciting working with u all.... keep moving...

Immy Mali, 12 February at 21:17

More photos from the workshop on [flickr/AtWork Kampala](https://www.flickr.com/photos/atworkkampala/)

[AtWork in Progress](#), in *Startjournal*
[Which African language do you speak?](#)
on *Doppiozero - Why Africa?*

both by Gloria Kiconco

[AtWork Kampala 2015: an alternative learning environment](#) by Margaret Nagawa, on *Kampala - Addis Ababa Art Tour*

Further information on lettera27.org

EXHIBITION PREPARATION AT WORK





AtWork Kampala 03 Chapter

A project by *lettera27*

In partnership with

Makerere Art Gallery/IHCR

makerereartgallery.wordpress.com

Margaret Trowell School of Industrial and Fine Arts

cedat.mak.ac.ug/academics/schools/mtsifa.html

Maisha Foundation

maishafilmlab.org



Photos by

Solomon E. Okurut, Clare McLay, Elena Korzhenevich, Katrin Peters-Klaphake, Margaret Nagawa



With the support of **MOLESKINE**