



# Where is South?

AtWork No. 16 Venice



Moleskine  
Foundation

**AtWork Venice**

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**Where is South?**

No. 16

September 9 - September 13 2019

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# Where is South?

AtWork No. 16 Venice

## Exhibition

**September 17 - November 24, 2019**

**Palazzo Querini, Fondazione Ugo e Olga Levi  
as part of “Rothko in Lampedusa” initiative**

Exhibition of the notebooks created by the participants  
during AtWork workshop conducted by

**Simon Njami** at

Palazzo Giustinian, Fondazione Ugo e Olga Levi.

AtWork is an itinerant educational format conceived  
by Moleskine Foundation and Simon Njami that wants  
to inspire a new generation of creative thinkers.



Moleskine  
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At  
Work





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# Where is South?

The impetus of this project is to search for South. A riddle that was introduced to us as we arrived in Venice.

*Are we sailors?*

We arrived in Venice floating in its unceasing water, lost in its canals, and thrown back and forth by the forceful waves of Poseidon, Simon Njami.

Day by day, we heard stories of loss, dreams, escape, yearning and displacement. Stories that most of us are mortified to tell or to remember. Our journey searching for South led us to be naked and reconnect again to ourselves. Poseidon sculpted us to confront our truths, fears, shames, maladies, memories and layers of impositions that have been preventing us to free our mind and soul. The process was never easy. We have been shaken and destroyed. We have become sailors navigating in an ocean of knowledge and nothingness searching for meanings under the violent rain of confusion, alienation, and disconnection.

At the end, we have found the shore.

The works that you will see in this catalogue are a phenomena, a reflection of multiple visions and an enquiry of people who were once lost and continuously seeking for refuge to another territory. These works are invitations for you to experience and confront realities that the world is living right now.

In this historical moment where borders and walls are created to divide us, aggravate madness and fear, revise and or erase history, we hope that sharing this experience with us will enrich you and spark new discourses that will fill in the spaces that separate us from seeing the world where we live in.

**Liryc Dela Cruz**  
*Editor In Chief*  
September 2019





# Curatorial statement

Our journey begins on a blank page soon enriched by a sensation of confusion that shakes our minds. All of a sudden, the dance of doubts, expectations and frightening lies begins and we surf on the desire to grow.

This new page seems to come from an absurd book but if we read it from our heart we are given new eyes to see the world. It is an awakening from a dream, a rebirth embracing our deepest roots.

We understood that in the space there are endless flying pages we can write on, we just need to choose ours and make it spectacular.

This exhibition invites you to discover this round trip from our South.

*Il nostro viaggio inizia su una pagina bianca, pervasa da una sensazione di confusione che scuote le nostre menti. All'improvviso incomincia la danza dei dubbi, delle aspettative e delle bugie spaventose e navighiamo verso un desiderio di crescere.*

*Questa pagina sembra venire da un libro assurdo, ma se lo leggiamo con il cuore vediamo il mondo con occhi nuovi. E' come svegliarsi da un sogno, una rinascita che abbraccia le nostre radici.*

*Iniziamo a comprendere che nello spazio fluttuano infinite pagine su cui possiamo scrivere, dobbiamo solo scegliere la nostra e renderla spettacolare.*

*Questa mostra vi invita a sperimentare il viaggio di andata e ritorno dal nostro Sud.*

**Victor Reginald Bob Abbey-Hart**  
**Kuete Franky**  
**Rebeca Giaietto**  
**Felix Junior Omoigui**  
**Teresa Soldini**  
**Wendorlink Zerpa**  
*Curators*  
*September 2019*



# My South is **glitz.**



**VICTOR R. B.  
ABBEY-HART**

*"Life is a beautiful dress"*

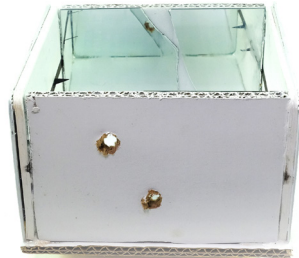
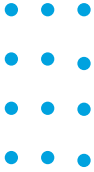
Beauty is never perfect.  
It is deceived by the illusion of sparkle.  
Glitz and glamour fade out of time.  
Style says who you are.  
Fashion is nothing unless you believe in it.

Victor is 27 and born in Ghana. He studied fashion and design in Haute Future Fashion Academy in Milan. He is a fashion freelancer and cool hunter.

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# My South is a link.



## FEDERICO ALCARO

*"The Peeping Paradox"*

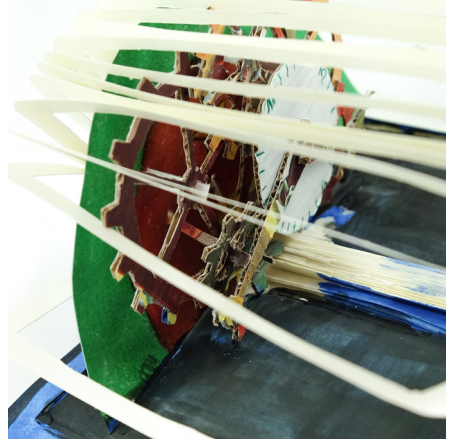
A space with no walls, no references, no limits.  
An endless line on the floor linking the possibilities to the opportunities.  
Walking and walking.  
A chained freedom between infinite starts and infinite ends.



Federico Alcaro, Architect.  
He works in the social field and he is interested in the role of architecture in emergency contexts and developing countries.  
*"What I do is what I like."*

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My South is **foundation.**



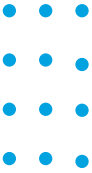
**MOISE EMILE  
BILONG MBILLA**  
*"Fondazione"*

The tree is indispensable to us to understand the world. It gives all the necessary keys to satisfy the nature of an immense beauty defining a particular expression, healthy and serving as an asylum to other beings.

Emile is born in Eseka, Cameroon. He is currently a student. He loves visual arts and he likes to work on canvas.



# My South is **spectacular.**



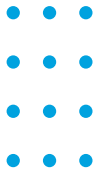
## **ENOGUNMWENGIE BRIGHT**

*“Basketball player flying  
over the car to dunk the ball”*

Inspiration mentally stimulates us to do or feel something.  
It is a brilliant idea that helps us to achieve goals and drives our creativity.



Bright studied Public Administration at Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria. He is an Executive Producer of “Platform Hope,” a television show.



# My South is **rebirth.**



## **LIRYC DELA CRUZ**

*“Handumanan sa Bagyo  
ug Kinalimtang Yugto  
(Memories of the Storm and  
the Forgotten Period)”*

The land devastated by storm dies as well as memories and visions.

The decaying bodies become soil and regenerate life.

The dead surface of the barren land becomes the ground of a new life form.

Storms after storms, we live and we die waiting for another storm to destroy us again.

Death is rebirth.

Liryc Dela Cruz, 27, is a film maker from Mindanao in Southern Philippines. He likes to pray always. He is associated with the slow cinema movement. He is currently based in Rome and Zurich.

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# My South is a page.



## LAMIN D. DRAMMEH

*"Wonderland"*

A settlement filled with earthly riches.

People dwelling in this wonderful land walking on gold, diamond, and coltan but they can't see the beauty, they can't live in luxury and die of hunger, starvation, and war.

They migrate in rubber boats and drown in thousands. The only resting place for them is up in the sky, where they die.

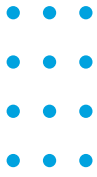
Up there, time is infinite.



Lamin is from Gambia and currently residing in Trento and studying in Pavia.

He is a poet, a writer and he loves to travel to create new beginnings and connections.

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# My South is **lies.**



## **NOSAKHARE EKHATOR**

*"Freedom"*

Our mentality is being caged, which makes it difficult for us to question the lies of the universe. It has been made to make us believe. Lies is an enticing bridge that leads us to destructions, to break out from it, and let our mind grow and soar to new possibilities.

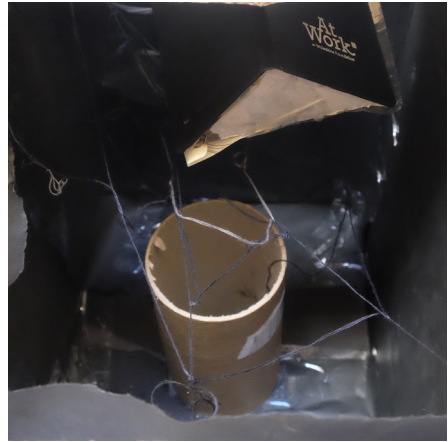
Nosakhare is from Nigeria and currently living in Italy where he found his South. He wants to become a fashion stylist and he has his own brand called NOSA COLLEZIONE.

Contact: [delvinnosakhare@gmail.com](mailto:delvinnosakhare@gmail.com)  
facebook and Instagram: [nosa\\_collezione](#)





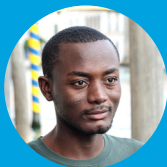
# My South is myth.



## KUETE FRANKY

*"Fear"*

South is on a web wandering in the middle of nowhere.  
It is a fear that limits perspective.



Kuete is the dream, the pleasure, and the desire of both; to be just and unjust connected by the bond of a common idea.

*"Je suis se qui je suis, quand je suis."*



# My South is **infinity**.



## **REBECA GIAIETTO**

*"Bloom"*

When I think of infinity, what comes to my mind immediately is the image of a dark universe. It is a place that has not been defined totally yet, we can still think of its immense infinity which is full of bright and shining "bubble-planets" and natural events.

Rebeca is a consultant at the United Nations. She holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Crime and Justice. She is a black belter in Aikido and a climber. She loves adrenaline!

Contact: [r.giaietto@gmail.com](mailto:r.giaietto@gmail.com)



# My South is a house.



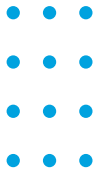
## USMAN HAMISU

*"My heart"*

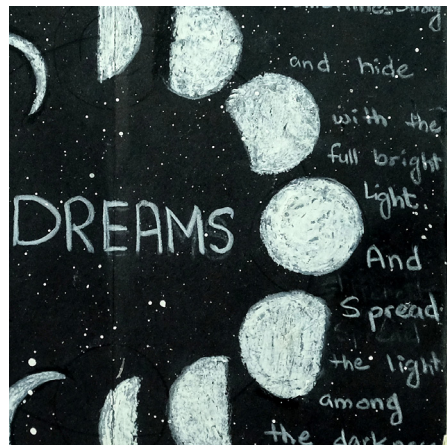
The heart keeps everything.  
You can find a nice place in the heart, yet you might hear an uncomfortable sound that you don't want to hear. It is also a comfortable place where you can be with yourself and a place that can accept everything.



Usman Hamisu, 18, was born in Kano, Nigeria. He currently lives in Torino. He is currently studying Italian language.



# My South is **dreams.**



## **HINA JOHN**

*"Moon"*

The moon is a metaphor.  
Sometimes weak, sometimes strong.  
Sometimes it disappears, sometimes it hides, and sometimes it is in its full brightness.  
Each day it comes in a different phase and it spreads its light in the darkest night.

Hina John is a refugee from Pakistan. She worked as secretary for seven years. In Italy she works as a tailor. She has a lot of dreams and she looks forward to exploring more opportunities.



# My South is **absurdity.**



## **MORTEZA KHALEGHI**

*"Absurd Injustice"*

There are millions of people in the world who are forced to leave their homes due to conflicts, wars and climate change.

These people find exile as the last opportunity to live in peace and serenity. Denied to move freely, they try to cross the violent borders to reach a relative peace. In Venice, there are millions of people who come to visit with their "right passports."

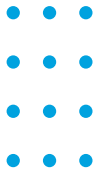
I wish I could ask them if they know the story of the world in which we are trapped together.



Morteza doesn't know how to present himself.

...

He just writes these words to fill an empty space.



My South is **a kite.**



**FELIX JUNIOR  
OMOIGUI**

*"A plastic bag"*

The object moves from one place to another, from one point to another, from one direction to another, through the help of the wind that directs it in the atmosphere.

Felix, 26, was born in Nigeria. He is a mechanical engineer and an artist. He also recently studied ceramic techniques in Perugia.





# My South is **mind.**



## **LAMIN SAIDY**

*"Unit"*

In this library there are people that you can read to free yourself and seek new knowledge.

South is Us.



Lamin Saidy is from Gambia and currently working with Talking Hands, a non-profit organization in Treviso, Italy.



# My South is **confusion.**



## **TERESA SOLDINI**

*"To grow confusion"*

Confusion is a messy room. Sometimes I feel overwhelmed in it, even if it's my own mess. I feel like I'll never find what I'm looking for. But then, just by standing in it for a while, eventually I do find it. My mess becomes a fertile land, it just depends on what I'm ready to see in it.

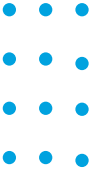
Confusion may be in the process but it creates something anyway.

Teresa is a human being but she never had a penguin. One day, she hopes to understand better.





My South is **curiosity.**



## SHAROON VICTOR

*"Curiosity"*

Curiosity is a desire to know something and to pose questions. It makes us think out of the box so we can go further and discover the undiscovered possibilities. Curiosity is like a fire burning in the heart which pushes us to search for answers, it is a mysterious journey that invites us to keep searching for answers.



Sharoon, 25, was born in Pakistan. He studied science and he wants to become an automobile engineer.



# My South is **goals.**



## **KOMAL WAKASH**

*"Dart"*

Playing dart needs concentration, driving force, and focus to play.

The same things that we need in life to achieve our goals.

Komal Wakash is 27 and from Pakistan. She is a teacher. She is currently living in Latina, Italy.



# My South is **sensation.**



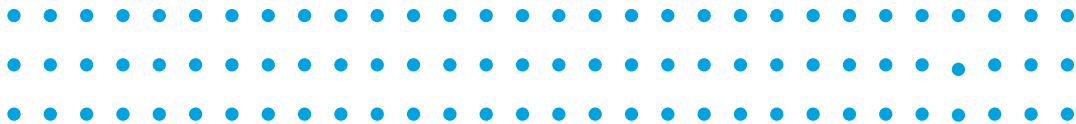
## **WENDORLINK ZERPA**

*"Il mare"*

The sea connects life.  
It exists between tranquility and pressures, fear and  
freedom.  
It links the infinity and beyond.



Wendorlink is from Venezuela. She is a creative person and loves art, especially painting. She also loves to dance.



# Partners:

Main partner:



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**B&W - Black & White**, "the migrating trend" is a project of Nation25, under the artistic direction of Caterina Pecchioli, in collaboration with FUM STUDIO.

The project was born as an intercultural platform-laboratory in order to research, consolidate and give visibility to the style of the migrants, a tendency capable of telling the history of the world, of its commercial exchanges, of colonial and media powers, of its myths.

"Black & White" is the cultural partner of "Where is South?" because they share the goal of questioning the ideologies and stereotypes linked to the South of the world. Migrant fashion shows a simultaneity of different influences and traditions that liberates and confuses a pre-established image by clearing a precise ideological position of the cardinal points.

The participants of B&W: John Hina from *Atelier Trame Libere*, Delvin Nosakhare Ekhatore from *Nosa Collection*, Lamin Saïdy from *Talking Hands - With hands I tell you* and Wendorlink Zerpa, selected for "Where is South?" to deepen during AtWork, in a collective and intimate way, new aspects linked to this rethinking of the perspective with respect to oneself and to the position in the world. The young participants will bring this experience to enrich the second laboratory phase "B&W - Black & White, the trend of migrants" in residence at MACRO - Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome from 1 to 13 October 2019.





# Many thanks to

Hamed Ahmadi, Raffaele Bellezza, Alberto Bobbio, Loris Bonamassa – L'uomo del sonno, Arianna Gandolfi, Francesca Giubilei, Giovanna Li Perni, Massimo Maggiore, Barbara Molinario, Melissa Morozzo, Fabio Naccari, Cristina Pittarello, Laura Principi, Virginia Ryan, Silvia Salvadori, Cristina Scateni, Rocco Soldini, Nina Stricker, BBDO Milano, Save the Children Milano, Civico Zero Milano, Civico Zero Torino, Talking Hands, Refugees Welcome Italia, Orient Experience, Cartoleria Belle Arti San Trovaso, Azienda Bonaventura Maschio, Venice Art Factory, Maria Sebregondi, Fabio Rosciglione, Roberto di Puma, Adama Sanneh, Rossella Zanelli, Tania Giancesin and Elena Korzhenevich, team Moleskine Foundation for creating a place and a space to commune, explore and become.

## **From the Venice AtWorkers:**

With a grateful heart we would like to acknowledge everyone for sharing his own book and for becoming part of library of ourselves.

Thanks for the laughs, the respect and the trust.

A special thanks to Simon Njami for believing in us even if he did not. While we were looking for South we ended up finding ourselves.

## **In Tomato we Trust!**

*We warmly thank all those who have donated a scholarship, contributed to the dissemination of the call for participation, collaborated for the success of the chapter, the generosity and passion. The list is really long: our gratitude goes to all of you.*



