

There is much in a name, they say, but no single name seems to have the potential of encompassing, containing, signifying, expressing all that this body of water stands for, tells, sings or invokes. It is too complex, too deep, too vast and pregnant with a plenitude of histories, to carry just one name. No matter the number of names with which this body adorns itself or is graced with, what is for certain is that rather than divide, it connects geographies, cultures, peoples, languages, foods, sounds, winds, waters, economies, philosophies and more. The ocean as a fluid joint, a junction of and for affinities and realignments prior to nation-state allegiances.

Author and researcher John Njenga Karugia addresses the "Afrasian Sea World" through the dynamic perspective of connective memory research, and perhaps nowhere is this more evident than the way culinary technologies and delicacies have been defined by the tastes and labours of Indian Ocean trade routes and coastlines. It is clear through

archaeobotanical and zooarchaeological methods that far more than the Silk Road, Indian Ocean traffic led to massive movement of flora and fauna, food grains and animal species for centuries. Artist Ayesha Hameed dives into chronicles of the coconut, tracing its lineage across the seas, following how each part of it from oil to husk is used by coastal communities in the Indian Ocean world. Her research at coconut plantations took her to Southern India and Sri Lanka. What unfolds is an engagement with material stories through a set of cyanotypes and an acoustic reading.

Thania Petersen traces olfactory memory routes with an installation that links the intimacy of clothing and linen drawers with a history of migrations from the Silk Road connecting North Africa to the Indonesian Archipelago - to the forced movements via sea to the Cape. Brought with the Dhikr, rituals of remembrance of the Prophet Muhammed – is a celebration that speaks of love, whilst invoking the lands



from which Petersen's ancestors were forcibly taken. Rampies Sny (2022) consists of hundreds of small organza bags, filled with freshly cut citrus leaves, infused with frankincense and precious essential oils, usually gifted to men coming for the Dhikr. Permeating the exhibition halls will be what Petersen calls, 'smells that recall a thousand places'.

Malala Andrialavidrazana's series of photomontages titled Figures (2015 - ongoing) is a deep reflection on the problematics of cartography, the violence and finiteness of maps. As Lee Maracle aptly puts it in her poem Maps: "Maps are pretentious arrogantly purporting to know where everything is. Pretending power where none is. Maps are finite. Maps are always old."

Figures reads like an exhumation and recomposition of pictorial, symbolic and representational legacies. It brings together historical personalities alongside the faces of ordinary men and women whose roles, conditions and destinies have been overlooked across times and geographies. Fascinating both for their historical heft and their absurdities, they inform about political deviation, intellectual manipulation, systems of privilege, and domination



south to the Southern Ocean.

Australia in the east, and stretching

bordering Asia on the north, engulfing

spreads between the East African coast,

the world's ocean total area and which

history, and which covers some 20% of

particular body of water that has been

the Pakistani and Indonesian subjects

which are mentioned by Ari, Ayanna,

plethora of names used — some of

or Bahari Hindi are just a few of the

Afrasian Sea, the Indian Ocean,

and thinkers.

Ziwa Kuu, the Swahili Sea, the

Ratnakara, Eastern Ocean, Indic Ocean,

artists, filmmakers, musicians, writers

Asian continents with contemporary

and bigger historical, cultural, and

linguistic links between the African and

Dragonfly Sea — to characterise a

in Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor's The

dubbed the oldest continuum in human

and shed light on some of the smaller Stories is an effort to investigate, unpack exhibition Indigo Waves and Other The research and multi-chapter

bygone exploits. power while echoing from the annals of gaze that restores the symmetries of rather than re-centering the colonial forgetfulness' as Françoise Vergès notes, hybridity—addressing 'the politics of this oceanic geography is of perpetual unveils relationalities anchored in The perspective from which this project through currents of mercantile empire. of forced and unforced movements from which to read Afrasian histories Ocean serves as a communal horizon and cultural belonging. The Indian reconsidering the notion of the diaspora dispersion. An engagement that means rethink the histories and processes of It is a certainty that we need to

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

your vast archive of desire sənspən şsol to musum your library of drowned stories

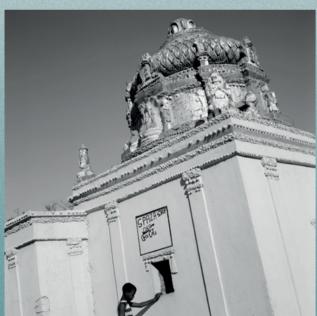
and submarine roots

your migrant routes

praise your tidalectics

praise your capacity to remember

səuoq fo fəəx uvuny praise your watery grave our shipwrecks and ruined cities ρναίς γουν ςαραςίτη το bury



nations. It overlays the graphic reliefs of telegraphic cables, river systems, and journeys of sacred philosophy with civilizational imagery of paradoxes and proximity. In Andrialavidrazana's deavour, one finds a path toward navigating collective truth and sovereign forms of place making, echoing Kei Miller's reflections in *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion* (2014):

to anticipate the ironic question: how did we find ourselves here? My job is to untangle the tangled, to unworry the concerned, to guide you out from cul-de-sacs into which you may have wrongly turned.

Cetus Chin Yun-Kuo's video Cartographer (2020) carries us further into the intimate geography of a

migrant labour. The sea has a haunting presence; it is held at bay through forested cover, finally being sensed as 'salty moisture' before glistening to the surface from an open road.

Shiraz Bayjoo co-creates talismans that carry the weight of mourning, survival and 'being in relation,' recollecting foremothers and their struggle in the Indian Ocean world, particularly from the shorelines of Mauritius, and most recently his research in South Africa. Bayjoo listens for buried archives, often these lie far beyond the museum in traversing graveyards, ruins, literary texts, court records, and botanical gardens. His pursuit carries on the tidalectics of remembrance, bearing witness to creole formations and notations of marronage and in the new installation

for this iteration of the exhibition which includes dialogue with Traci Kwaai as well as historical loans, incorporating objects that connects to particular narratives and histories of the sea, and the close connection of fishing communities in the Cape. In their percussive charting, Sancintya Mohini Simpson and Isha Ram Das resound clay vessels (Lotas) as carriers of coolie mnemonics, theirs are familial narratives of indentured labour at sugarcane fields, movement and sugarcane fields, movement and rhythms carried from India to Natal

At night-time, when the sea becomes a stranger and yet one who is alluring a ritual and festivities begin to unravel fire and water to arrive at a heightene state of anguish, fear, and rapture. In vows and commemorations hummed. Entering, then clashing with the waves they continue a liquid state of trance

as well as ultimate release as blessings and forgiveness are sought out. Sohrab Hura's short film *The Coast* (2020) is a howl recording the ocean as a divine and restless force. Nearby, the singular oil painting *Izilo Zomlambo* 2 (2019) by Cinga Samson appears to rise from a spiritual blossoming bringing together characters embracing forms of magic,pain, and mutual recognition – inhabiting coastal fauna, rocky terrains and the sky beyond, while disputing a hegemonic gaze. They boldly consider mortality and transience in synchronicity with the Cape's horizon Indian oceans. Samson quietly reflects on what a language of fluidity might say to us and upon Xhosa beliefs, that suggest long departed ancestors sometimes appear by riverbanks.

Akinbode Akinbiyi's photographic series Kampala (2021) and eThekwin (1993) are pregnant with meanings and histories of Indian/Asian presences in both cities, of spatial demarcations





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RE-NAVIGATING

THE AFRASIAN SEA



AND NOTIONS OF DIASPORA

30 JUNE 2022 ~ 29 JANUARY 2023



and categorisations, of economic ramifications of the colonial enterprises and their extractives machinations, of the aftershocks of long histories of segregation and displacements. To follow Akinbiyi — at least his gaze, his movements, his listening of the grounds — in these geographies is to get lost in these histories, then to be found as so recognise and situate yourself with and through some parts of the puzzle of history, only to be lost again because of the sheer magnitude and impossibility of piecing the shards of history together to make a whole.

But it is also the art of telling histories in minuscule and not only in majuscule. The shared legacies that litter the streets, carving themselves out of billboards that announce the fashions they deal in Saris, Punjabi suits, Sukas, Gomesis and much more as well as culinary affiliations. If pidginisation ever made sense, then it is this self-evidence of multiple cultures accommodating the same space, informing each other without necessarily undoing each other. Street names call to the surface

past violences that condition on what corner of the beach we can or cannot occupy. Luvuyo Equiano Nyawose's eBhish' (2021 - ongoing) is exhibited in dialogue with Akinbiyi's photographic series. Belonging to two generations, they interrogate the spatial dynamics of coastal cities, producing archives of leisure and tenderness while weighing grave injustices in terms of access to water bodies. For Nyawose, his documentation of black beachgoers in eThekwini is to understand the 'nuances of Black social life ebhishi (at the beach)'... where ulwandle, the ocean, becomes a witness, and a subject, which holds memory. Through sound recordings Nyawose further attends to the invisibility and silencing of what he notes as 'Black oceanic presence.'

Predating the colonial history of Réunion and Seychelles, for Hasawa the sea is a portal. Like gateways conjoining islands and archipelagos across the ocean, his installations and poetry are means to channel sacred access to spirit beings and ancestral vaults. Titled Silent Poets (2022), Hasawa's

shamanic sculptures are guardians that reveal and protect metaphorical passages, as witness to the thousandyear-old encounters between the people who inhabit these seas. Ceremonial and ritual practices, integral to his physical engagement upon driftwood and salvaged cordage, lead Hasawa to recompose oceanic memories living in kinship ties, creole worlds and indigenous relationality.

Oscar Murillo's series surge (social cataracts) (2019 - ongoing) invokes the aesthetics of Claude Monet's water-lily pond paintings to reflect on the plethora of signifiers that bodies of water embody. No matter how gentle some waters are, their undercurrents seem to tell other stories. Murillo's social cataracts seem to unravel the stories told by the undercurrents. It is difficult to think of the bodies of water that connect the African continent to the rest of the world without bearing witness to traumas that lay underneath the swirling waves. As Amiri Baraka put it: 'At the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean there's a railroad made of human bones'. Murillo uses stitched together patches of canvas,

broad agitated strokes of blue, green, red, yellow paint to express the voices of the undercurrents. Although Murillo takes his cue for this series from the story of Monet's suffering from cataracts when he painted the water lilies, the work itself invites us to think of the colonial enterprise as an impairment of vision that still throws a dense cloud over humanity — thus coloniality is a social cataract. With the enthralling beauty of these paintings, we are reminded that despite all the odds, waters still connect, waters transcend borders, disrespect maps and are the life-bearers of the planet. As Fela Kuti put it: 'water no get

Towards the conclusion of this exhibition, Myriam Omar Awadi's pieces Les feux que vos derniers souffles ravivent Mouvement 2, Tromba and Lullaby to the Patriarchy, Penis also crying (2022) are a manifestation to her long-term research on poetical and political songs of desire (especially sexual) and resistances (against patriarchal, colonial, religious or otherwise authorities) by women from Comoros (Moheli, Anjouan, Grande Comore, Mayotte), Madagascar and



Hasawa, Silent Poets, 2022, sculptural installation & ritual performance remnants, dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist. Commissioned by Zeitz



detail from Lamer Vide, Later Ruz, 2022, glazed ceramic, Sapele wood, brass, satin print, voile print, Shewshew batik, kanga fabric, archive photographic print, acrylic paint on wood, coral stone, sea shell, sea kelp, hemp coil and ox blood, metal hook and lead weight faux pearls, 1808 East India Company coin, copper sheathing tacks from the 1794 slave ship São José Paquete Africa (courtesy of Iziko Juseums of South Africa), cloth doily with bead embroidery and axe head from Khoi San people middle stone age (courtesy of Simon's Town Museum), dimensions variable. Courtesy of Shiraz Bayjoo/ Copperfield Gallery. Commissioned by Zeitz MOCAA and Gropius

9 other islands of the Swahili sea. Awadi explores the ability of these songs to facilitate the transition into a state of trance — a social space-time where gender is constantly questioned, the body is sacred, voices become multiple and taboos are transgressed. These "possessed" women maintain this social status in their everyday life, even after the rituals. Awadi is also interested in songs that feel "sentimental" but are essential in the oral transmission of multiple histories. In her current work for the exhibition, Awadi is zooming in on the Debe — a ritual practised by returnee Moroni and Mitsamiouli women in Grande Comore, who had fled to Zanzibar upon French occupation. Facilitated by the work of anthropologist Damir Ben Ali, Awadi researches the Debe practice of the mid 19th century, in the Comoros, where women gathered in the moonlight in public places that were normally occupied during the day to discuss the laws of the city. At nightfall, when local, colonial and religious authorities slept, these public places

became the resonance of other voices,

as they sang, danced their loves, their dislikes, their powerful sexualities.

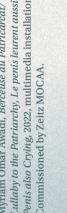
What does oceanic 'Re-memory' look like and how to correspond and commemorate this terrain that is equally one of connection as it is of indenture and trauma? As we transmit the knowledge that is harbored within many of us as water beings, Indigo Waves and Other Stories seeks to set up reciprocal motions that unsettle established geopolitical assessments and the dominance in academia around the North Atlantic. Instead, we attend to open tides of acculturation, Afrasian imaginaries, an atmosphere of multiple tongues and monsoon cycles of the Indian Ocean system.

"as if there is a path where beings truly meet, as if I am rounding the human corners" —Linda Hogan, The Turtle Watchers (2008)











10 ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

rded the STERN reportage si was awarded the STERN reportage stipend to work in the cities of Lagos, Kano and Dakar in 1987. In 1993 he co-founded UMZANZSI, a cultural center in Clermont Township, Durks large sprawling megacities. The artist wander understand and deeply engage with the mode metropolis. He works primarily in and on the cities of Lagos, Cairo, Kinshasa and Johannesburg, as well as Khartoum, Addis Ababa, Dakar, and Bamako. He currently lives and works in Berlin. 2 Ayesha Hameed legacies of indentureship and slavery through the figures of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans Her Afrofuturist approach combine erformance, sound essays, videos, and power of these media - their capacity to nsform the body into a body that remembe ration stories and materialities, and, more broadly, on the relations between human beings ordinary romances. Her work questions the and what they imagine as nature. She is currently a Senior Lecturer in Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths University of London and a Kone Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. She is living and working in London, England. **3 Cetus** Africa) An artist, curator, filmmaker, and Chin-Yun Kuo (b.1989, Taichung, Taiwan) Kuo researcher. Nyawose's current work and is an artist-researcher and filmmaker. She relocated to Berlin in 2016, before returning n in 2018. Kuo studied at Berlin University of the Arts (UdK) and graduated from Weißensee Academy of Art Berlin. Her work focuses on the interactions between people and the spaces which they occupy. Her research often occurs in anthropogenic landscapes, in which she intervenes with an aim to challenge the rationales of a collective, omniscient

consciousness forged in the context of

currently works in both Berlin and Taipei.

4 Cinga Samson (b.1986, Cape Town, Sou
Africa) Samson is a self-taught artist who n between the Fastern Cane and Cane Tow South Africa. He creates large and small-scale image. His work reflects on the complexity of South African society and the artist's own were and outbority and inhabit a world almost secret, holy, and distant. In 2015, Sams He is currently living and working in Cape Town South Africa. **5 Myriam Omar Awadi (b.1983, Paris, France)** A Franco-Comorian artist living and working in Réunion Island, where she has been teaching performance practices at the École supérieure d'art of Réunion since 2013, and a member of the La Box/ Run space collective since 2016. Awadi graduated in Fine Arts from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts of the and performance, she weaves the fabric of ways in which we inhabit empty spaces by taking apart the spectacle, getting rid of what fascinates us in favour of what stings, and attacking the world with a love song. **6** Luvuyo Equiano Nyawose (b.1994, eThekwini, South research unpack notions of intimacy, spatiality, public communion and Black Oceanic Humanities of the Indian Ocean. Interested in developing and cultivating research and artistic methodologies around Black cultural production in Africa and its diaspora. In 2021 he obtained MFA at the Michaelis School of Fine Arts, University of Cape Town, a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Curatorship from the Centre for Curating the Archive, UCT (2018) and a Bachelor of Arts in Motion Picture Medium from

ominee and due to commence i me roum University in September 2022. **7 Than** tersen (b.1980, Cape Town, South Africa) Creating awareness on Islamic religious, and and traditional practices. She uppacks and traditional practices. She unpacks
contemporary trends of Islamophobia, the
continuing impact of Euro-American
imperialism and colonialism in Africa, Asia an
the Middle East, and the increasing influence ight-wing ideologies. Colonialism and the cio-cultural impact of Western consume and Sufi Islamic religious ceremonies. Peterser lives and works in Cape Town. **8 Sohrab Hura** (b.1981, Chinsurah, India) Hura's work lies at urnal-like approach, many of his work attempt to question a constantly shifting world and his own place within it. *The Coast* 2020) premiered at Berlinale 2021 and many of his films have been widely shown in awards. Hura has self-published five books under the imprint *UGLY DOG*, including *The Coast* (2019) which won The Aperture - Paris Photo PhotoBook of the Year Award 2019. Hura lives and works in New Delhi, India. **9 Isha Ram** Das (b.1993, Cessnock, Australia) Das is a composer and sound artist primarily concerned with ecologies of environment and culture. He recordings. He has performed at institutions such as the Sydney Opera House; Black Dot Gallery, Melbourne; Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane; Metro Arts, Brisbane; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; and Boxcopy, Brisbane. His ongoing projects include his collaborative practice with sibling Sancintya Mohini Simpson, and *Untitled (Death Song)* with Megan Cope as musical director. In 2019 he was the recipient of the Lionel Gell Award for

Simpson (b.1991, South Brisbane, Australia) colonial archive. Che moves between pointir her matrilineal lineage. Her poetry has been published in *Cordite Poetry Review* and *Peril Magazine*. Simpson is based in Brishane. Australia. 10 Oscar Murillo (b. 1986, La Paila, Iniversity of Westminster and an MA from the oyal College of Art, London. In 2019, Murillo was one of four artists to collectively be awarde the prestigious Turner Prize. The artist's distinc works can be seen to constitute a sustained and created a visual language encompassing across a wide range of media, includin painting, video work, room-sized installation locations. 11 Shiraz Bayjoo (b. 1979, Port Louis, us) Bayjoo is a contemporary multi-ary artist who works with film, paintir photography, performance, and installation. His research-based practice focuses on personal and public archives addressing cultural memory the Arts Council of England. He was an artist in residence at the Delfina Foundation in 2021 and has recently been awarded the Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship. In 2022 Bayjoo has Encounters. He currently lives and works in London, England. 12 Malala Andrialavidrazana (b.1971, Madagascar) Graduating from the National Architecture School of Paris-La Villette (1996), her career began by extending

biased norms, and reinstating unsung figure ile evidencing a profound engagement wit ives and works in Paris, France. **13 Hasawa** Mahé, Seychelles) A triple nationality artist who paints, draws, and sculpts. He is an associate artist at la Cité des Arts la Réunion and a founding member of two artistic collectives: FatFingers and Fukushin. A polyglot who at minimum plays with English, French, and the numerous creoles of the Indian Ocean, and at necklaces composed of glyph seeds. The use of anguage is an artistic act that leads to creative activities including poetry. Hi installations are merged with poetic spoken performance, where the work is part ritual and not just sculpture. The work is a relic/artifact, Réunion Island. 14 Traci Kwaai (b.1973, Cape Town, South Africa) Traci Kwaai is a creative, teacher and storyteller and a six generation Kalk Bay descendant. Her work is immersive. She tells stories of the marginalisation of the fishers tells stories of the marginalisation of the fishers because of slavery, colonialism and apartheid. She makes products which portray the memory and history of her community and the communities of Cape Town.















13 CURATORS' BIOGRAPHIES

inge at Grophs has, I Colomboscope in Sri Lanka and the 13th wangju Biennale with Defne Ayas (2021). Inwala has curated Contour Biennale 8, Ginwaia nas curated Contour Biennaie 8, Polyphonic Worlds: Justice as Medium and y Colomboscone Festival (2019): Arrival Incisio Indian Moderniem as Deriverteis Vi in the framework of *"Hello World. Revising a* für Gegenwart, Berlin, 2018: *Riots: Slow* Everybody Knows with e-flux. New York. 2015. Ginwala was a member of the artistic tea for the 8th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Rhythm, at Taipei Biennial 2012 and at Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz, 2016-17. Ginwala writes regularly on contemporary art and visual culture. Recent co-edited volumes include Stronger than Bone (Archive Books and Gwangju Biennale dation) and Nights of the Dispossessed

Dr. Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung (b.1977, curator, author and biotechnologist. He is founder and artistic director of SAVVY Contemporary in Berlin and the artistic director of sonsbeek20–24, a quadrennial contemporary art exhibition in Arnhem, the Netherlands. Ndikung was the curator-atlarge for Adam Szymczyk's Documenta 14 in Athens, Greece and Kassel, Germany in 2017; a Interviu. guest curator of the Dak'Art biennale in Dakar, Senegal, in 2018; and the artistic director of the 12th Bamako Encounters photography biennial in Mali last year. Together with the Miracle Workers Collective, he curated the Finland Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2019 and

Berlin and is also a recipient of the first OCAD Cilia di Tanta i 2000 I 2000 l awarded the Verdienstorden des Landes Berlin the Order of Merit of Berlin, the highest award of

Michelangelo Corsaro (b. 1986, Bagno a Ripoli, Italy) is a curator and writer currently based in Berlin. He was Associate Curator of the 13th Gwangju Biennale, *Minds Rising, Spirit*. Tuning, directed by Defne Ayas and Natasha In 2016 he curated Socratis Socratous solo exhibition Casts of an Island, at Point Centre for Contemporary Art, Nicosia, and the group show Handsome, Young, and Unemployed, at Komplot, Brussels. He was twice fellow curator at the Schwarz Foundation in 2013 and 2014, borating on Slavs and Tatars' Long Legged Athena where he contributed to developing a programme of exhibitions and live events. As part of the editorial team of South as a State of Mind he contributed to several printed issues ArtReview, South as a State of Mind, CAC