

MÁRIO MACILAU



Mário Macilau (b. 1984 Mozambique) is a multidisciplinary artist and activist, best known for his photographic work and he is considered one of the 'key figures' among the new generation of Mozambican artists. He was born in 1984 in Maputo, as do many children, working hard to help support his family in what were difficult circumstances in Mozambique. By 2003 he had taken up photography and spent his early career learning and developing his skills. Over the years Mário Macilau has developed an art style that evokes emotion through his unique choice of subjects and his ability to connect with them. His photographs highlight identity, political issues and environmental conditions, at times working with socially isolated groups to make his audience aware not only of the many social injustices and inequalities in the world. His photographs reveal how particular environments affect individuals in their domestic and working lives, always seeking to establish a level of trust with his subjects to prevent the physical presence of his camera becoming a mental or emotional barrier for them. Macilau's work has been featured regularly in solo and group exhibitions in his home country and abroad. He has a strong presence at international institutional spaces and events, such as: Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA; Tate Modern, London, UK; 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, IT; Saatchi Gallery London, UK; Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR; Guggenheim, Bilbao, SP among others.

Main Exhibitions

Solo

- 2021** – 'Sombras Do Tempo'. MOVART gallery, (Lisbon, Portugal)
- 2019** – 'Fé'. Fundação Leite Couto, (Maputo, Mozambique)
- 2019** – 'Faith'. Guns and Rain gallery, (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2018** – Investec Cape Town Art Fair. Ed Cross gallery, (Cape Town, South Africa)
- 2018** – 'Speaking... and there is still no one to hear me'. AKKA Projects, (Dubai, United Emirates)
- 2018** – 'I don't' Like Black People but I do Like You'. Paulo Nunes Gallery, (Vila Franca, Portugal)
- 2017** – Art Paris Art Fair. Ed Cross gallery, (Paris, France)
- 2017** – 'One Way'. MOVART gallery, (Luanda, Angola)
- 2017** – 'Moments of Transition'. Art Africa Fair, (Cape Town, South Africa)
- 2016** – Volta Art Fair. Ed Cross gallery, (New York, USA)
- 2016** – 'Rostos e Espaços'. Espaço Luanda Arte, (Luanda, Angola). Curated by Keyezua
- 2015** – 'The Road Not Taken'. The Auction Room, (London, United Kingdom)
- 2015** – 'Nada Como O Tempo'. Kulungwana gallery, (Maputo, Mozambique). Curated by Berry Bickle
- 2015** – 'Discover Show'. Fotofestival Łódź, (Łódź, Poland)
- 2014** – 'The Price of Cement'. Jatad gallery, (Houston, Texas, USA)

2014 – 'Moments of Transition'. Belo-Galsterer gallery, (Lisbon, Portugal)

2014 – 'Fora Da Cidade'. Blank projects, (Cape Town, South Africa)

2013 – 'Tempo'. Belo-Galsterer gallery, (Lisbon, Portugal)

2012 – 'Taking Place'. Influx Contemporary gallery, (Lisbon, Portugal)

2012 – 'Living on the Edge'. Kuona Art Trust (Nairobi, Kenya)

2011 – 'Wood and Deforestation'. Kokopelli Festival, (Gullegem, Belgium)

2011 – 'Life goes on'. Mediateca do BCI, (Maputo, Mozambique)

2009 – 'Terra de Boa Gente'. Instituto Camões, (Maputo, Mozambique)

Collective

2024 – 'Polirritmia'. MOVART gallery in collaboration with World African Artists United and MEXTO, (Lisbon, Portugal)

2024 – Investec Cape Town Art Fair. MOVART gallery, (Cape Town, South Africa)

2024 – 'Liberdade. Portugal, lugar de encontros'. UCCLA – União das Cidades Capitais da Língua Portuguesa, (Lisbon, Portugal). Curated by João Pinharanda

2023 – AKAA Fair. MOVART gallery, (Paris, France)

2023 – 1-54 Fair. MOVART gallery, (London, United Kingdom)

2023 – 'A World In Common. Contemporary African Photography'. Tate Modern Museum, (London, United Kingdom)

2023 – 'As Máscaras Do Corpo'. MOVART gallery (Lisbon, Portugal)

2022 – Investec Cape Town Fair. MOVART gallery (Cape Town, South Africa)

2021 – 'In The Beginning'. Ed Cross gallery (London, UK)

2021 – AKAA Fair (Paris, France)

- 2020** – Photo London, (London, UK)
- 2019** – ‘Private Selection’. MOVART gallery, (Luanda, Angola)
- 2019** – ARCO Lisboa. (Lisboa, Portugal)
- 2019** – Art Madrid. (Madrid, Spain)
- 2018** – Third Beijing Photo Biennial. (Beijing, China)
- 2018** – Unseen Amsterdam: Photography Fair. (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- 2018** – 1-54 Art Fair. (London, UK)
- 2018** – If So What. (San Francisco, USA)
- 2017** – ‘I don’t like Black People but I like You’. Paulo Nunes gallery, (Lisbon, Portugal)
- 2017** – ‘Songes d’hier, Rêveries du présent’. Musee de la Photographie de St Louis, (St Louis, Senegal)
- 2017** – FNB Joburg Art Fair. (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2017** – FotoFever. (Arles, France)
- 2016** – AAKA Fair, Ed Cross gallery. (Paris, France)
- 2016** – FNB Joburg Art Fair. Espaço Luanda Arte gallery, (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2015** – Pavilion of the Holy See at the 56th Venice Biennale. (Venice, Italy)
- 2015** – ‘Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design’. Vitra Design Museum, (Weil am Rhein, Germany)
- 2015** – ‘ENTRY PROHIBITED TO FOREIGNERS’. Havremagasinet Art Center, (Boden, Sweden). Curated by Elise Atangana
- 2015** – 1:54 Contemporary Art Fair. Ed Cross gallery, (London, United Kingdom)
- 2015** – FNB Joburg Art Fair. Blank projects (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2014** – ‘Pangaea: New Art from Africa and Latin America’. Saatchi Gallery, (London, United Kingdom)

2014 – Fotofest Biennial. (Houston, USA)

2014 – No Fixed Abode, The New Church Museum, Cape Town, South Africa

2014 – Next thing you know, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

2014 – Embodied Reflections, Galerie SANAA, Utrecht, The Netherlands

2014 – International Biennial of Casablanca. (Casablanca, Morocco)

2014 – FNB Joburg Art Fair. Blank projects, (Johannesburg, South Africa)

2013 – 'NATURA, Paisagem e Natureza'. Museu Nogueira da Silva, (Braga, Portugal).

Curated by Alda Galsterer

2012 – 'Convergências'. Alliance Française, (Madrid, Spain & King's Place, London, United Kingdom)

2012 – Dak'art Biennial OFF. (Dakar, Senegal)

2012 – Crossing Point Residency. Les Rencontres d'Arles, (Arles, France)

2012 – The KLM. (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

2011 – 'Africa. See me, see you'. (Pekin, China)

2011 – Photo Spring Festival. (Beijing, China)

2011 – VI Chobi Mela Photo Festival, Dhaka, Bangladesh

2011 – BESPhoto, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil 2011

BESPhoto, Berardo Museum Collection, Lisbon, Portugal

2011 – São Tomé Biennial, São Tomé Island 2011 Bamako Biennial, Mali

2011 – Lagos Photo, Lagos, Nigeria

2011 – 'Common Language'. PLMJ Foundation, (Lisbon, Portugal). Curated by Miguel Amado

2011 – 'South is the new North'. Influx Contemporary Art gallery, (Lisbon, Portugal)

- 2011** – Hasselblad Master Finalist. Studio, (London, United Kingdom)
- 2011** – Hasselblad Master Finalist. Siren Studios, (Los Angeles, USA)
- 2011** – Hasselblad Master Finalist. Shoot NYC, La Venue, (New York City, USA)
- 2011** – Hasselblad Master Finalist, Delight Studios, Berlin, Germany
- 2011** – Pinacoteca de Estado de São Paulo. (São Paulo, Brasil)
- 2010** – Festival de Cine Africano de Tarifa. (Tarifa, Spain)
- 2010** – VI Certamen de Fotografia Digital. (Santa Lucia, Spain)
- 2010** – 32st Internationaal Fotofestival. (Knokke-Heist, Belgium)
- 2010** – LagosPhoto. (Lagos, Nigeria)
- 2010** – ‘Mulheres e Fronteiras’. Centro Cultural Franco-Moçambicano (Maputo, Mozambique)
- 2010** – Dockanema Film Festival. (Maputo, Mozambique)
- 2010** – ‘Bamako – Maputo’. Centro Cultural Franco-Moçambicano, (Maputo, Mozambique)
- 2010** – ‘FotoArt’. Centro Cultural Franco-Moçambicano, (Maputo, Mozambique)
- 2010** – Gwanza Photo Festival. Harare National Museum of Art, (Harare, Zimbabwe)
- 2009** – Bienal da TDM. Maputo Museum of Art, (Maputo, Mozambique)
- 2009** – Gwanza Photo Festival. Harare National Museum of Art, (Harare, Zimbabwe)
- 2009** – Month of Photography. (Cape Town, South Africa)
- 2009** – ‘Sonhos Perdidos’. Rua de Arte, (Maputo, Mozambique)

Institutions & Collections

Centre Pompidou, (Paris, France)

Guggenheim Bilbao, (Bilbao, Spain)

PLMJ Foundation, (Lisbon, Portugal)

Prizes & Awards

2023 – Shortlisted for Norval Sovereign African Art Prize

2013 – Shortlisted for The Sovereign Middle East and African Art Prize

2013 – Centro de Formação e Documentação Fotográfica, (Maputo, Mozambique)

2012 – Nominated for The Prix Pictet

2012 – ‘Photographers’ Portfolio Meeting’ by Goethe Institut Johannesburg the artist integrates the curatorial and artist residency with Goethe Institut Johannesburg to be held in Congo

2012 – First Prize awarded by The Protection Project, Photography Contest, (Washington DC, USA)

2011 – Hasselblad Master Finalist

2011 – Nominated for BES Photo Prize 2011, Lisbon-São Paulo

2011 – 3rd Prize from Stiftung EVZ, 8th Photography Competition

2011 – 3rd Prize at Biennial of TDM, Maputo

2011 – Mozambican Talent Award from the French Embassy and French Cultural Centre for the ‘Women with Power Award Photo Contest

2011 – Award for Creation, by the AECID (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo) and The Spanish Embassy in Mozambique

2011 – Santa Lucia Award. (Santa Lucia, Spain)

2011 – CACAU - Casa das Artes Criação Ambiente Utopias. (São Tomé island, São Tomé é Príncipe)

2009 – Nominated Unicef Photo of The Year

2009 – Honorable Mention – National Museum of Art, Maputo, Mozambique

2009 – 1st prize – Amandla Magazine, Johannesburg, South Africa

2009 – 2nd prize – Festival da Baía, Maputo, Mozambique

Residencies

2012 – VISA pour la Création, Residency Grant by the French Institute (L'Institut Français, Paris)

2012 – Residency in Kuona Trust. Centre for Visual Arts, (Nairobi, Kenya)

2012 – Curatorial and artist residency with Goethe Institut, Johannesburg, held in Congo. (Kinsasa, Congo)

2012 – Crossing Point Residency Program during the Rencontres d'Arles 2012

2011 – Bag Factory Artist Residency Program, (Johannesburg, South Africa)