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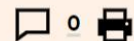
## 1-54 African art fair returns with craft and pop-ups

Founder Touria El Glaoui says it has been a global launch pad for younger artists



'The Village Giant' (2022) by Åsiko at Movart © Courtesy Movart

Tamara Kormornick 4 HOURS AGO



With a decade at Somerset House under its belt, contemporary African art fair 1-54 is about to have its biggest edition yet, showing work from 62 galleries from the continent and diaspora, up from 50 last year. Themes of identity, self-discovery, empowerment and challenging stereotypes run throughout, as well as a move towards traditional African mediums and materials where “artists are more crafty, using weaving, textile and ceramics”, says Touria El Glaoui, founding director.



'Afriquoi' (2022) by Romuald Hazoumè at October Gallery © Courtesy artist/gallery. Photo: Romuald Hazoumè

“When we started, there was no established international platform for contemporary African artists”, says El Glaoui. “New artists see 1-54 as an opportunity to enter the world stage, which was not the same for the older generation at the fair . . . In 10-25 years from now, this will be an important visual point in time, when we had an invasion of black portraiture on the market.”



'Não ser eu, para ser aceita' (2022) by Larissa de Souza at Albertz Benda © Courtesy artist/gallery



'Two Sure' (2022) by Adjei Tawiah at Gallery 1957 © Courtesy artist/gallery

This year marks 1-54's first London pop-up show, *Transatlantic Connections: Caribbean Narratives in Contemporary Art*, presented by Christie's, which spotlights artists from the main fair including Sonia Boyce, Helen Cammock and Zak Ové.

Considering the growing appetite for contemporary African art internationally among collectors, El Glaoui hopes to bring 1-54 to Asia and to launch pop-up fairs across the African continent, in addition to its annual London, New York and Marrakech counterparts. *October 12-15, [1-54.com](https://www.1-54.com)*