

SULGER-BUEL GALLERY



Collin Sekajugo

Born 1980 in Masaka, Uganda

Lives and works between Rwanda and Uganda

In 2007 after traveling around Eastern and Southern Africa on a series of study tours Collin Sekajugo returned to Rwanda with a vision of “Using Art to Change Lives”. This mission led him to open the first visual arts space in Kigali under the name Ivuka. During this time, Rwanda was seen as a new born baby struggling to reconcile its turbulent past and reconstruct itself. Ivuka whose name connotes re-birth became a center of hope for ambitious youth eager to explore life’s meaning through the arts. An incubator for creative activities, Ivuka includes a joint studio space for aspiring visual artists and a children traditional dance troupe, Rwamakondera (Rwandan horns) that brings together disadvantaged children and teaches them dance as a means of healing, educating and instilling in them a sense of hope for their future.

Inspired by the success of Ivuka and eager to extend this vision of using arts to catalyze change in his father’s birthplace, Masaka, Uganda, this self-taught artist expanded his scope to the village of Ndegeya. In 2010 Sekajugo started transforming the village into an arts destination under an initiative that he named Ndegeya Foundation. Ironically, Ndegeya is the local name for a Weaver Bird, which is recognized for its artistically elaborate nests,

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reinforcing the image of this environ as a birthplace of creativity and innovation. Today Ndegeya village boasts a sculpture park with camping facilities; a village art gallery; children's library and a youth development center. Additionally, Sekajugo runs an artists-in-residency program called Weaver Bird Residency for creatives that are eager to enjoy and seek inspirations from this special village while developing their artistic practices.

In 2017, Ivuka Arts Kigali celebrated its 10th anniversary. This important milestone has given Collin Sekajugo pause to sit back and reflect on how his humble initiative has inspired its alumni to open similar spaces such as the Uburanga Arts Studio, Inema Art Centre, Yego Art Centre and Niyo Arts Gallery.

Sekajugo's own artwork reflects on his social conscience, highlighting the link between art and community in Africa. Sekajugo has travelled extensively in Africa, Europe and North America, participating in international artists' conferences, workshops and residencies through which he is quickly gaining international name recognition. His artwork holds the distinction of being a part of the permanent collection at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art in Washington, DC, as well as other notable private and corporate collections in the US, Europe, Africa and Asia. Collin Sekajugo is winner of the 2019 Human Rights Award Uganda.

Achievements

2010 Founder, RWAndA-n-Art Magazine,

2007 Founder, Ivuka Arts Center, Kigali, Rwanda
Founder, Weaver Bird Arts Community in Masaka, Uganda

Awards

2019 Human Rights Award, Chapter Four, Uganda

2016 Unframed 2016, Oregon, United States of America

2015 Africa Centre AIR Laureate - Cape Town, South Africa

Permanent Collections

Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C, United States of America

Residencies

2016 JWAR, Barcelona, Spain

2015 SpreadArt, Detroit, USA

2012 Kuona Trust Art Center, Nairobi, Kenya

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2010 Arte Studio Ginestrelle, Assisi, Italy

Solo Exhibitions

- 2020 *This is Uganda*, Sulger-Buel Gallery, London, The UK
2018 *What is Beautiful*, Afriart Gallery, Kampala, Uganda
2016 *The fist of Stella Nyanzi*, Weaver Bird Art Space, Kampala, Uganda
2013 *Baba mweusi*, Ivuka Arts Center, Kigali, Rwanda
2012 *Sekaplastic*, Kuona Trust Art Center, Nairobi, Kenya
2010 *As Rwanda turns*, Goethe Institut, Kigali, Rwanda
2009 *Rwandan jazz*, Closer Look, Chicago, United States of America

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2018 *Young Guns* curated by Andrew Lamprecht, Sulger-Buel Lovell, London, U.K
Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, South Africa
2017 *Uhuru*, Eclectica Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *Magicien d'Afrique*, ODA Gallery, Franschoek, Cape Town, South Africa

Select Reviews, Features and Articles

- 2019 African Digital Art, [Ugandan-Rwandan Contemporary Artist Collin Sekajugo](#) By Jephumba
2016 Culture Trip, [Interview With Rwandan-Ugandan Artist Collin Sekajugo](#) By Isabelle Pitman
2015 The East African, [Collin Sekajugo returns to the arts scene with collections inspired by parenthood](#) By Gilbert Mwijuke
2013 New York Times, [In Rwanda, Studio Space as Catalyst](#) By Ginanna Brownell
SJ Magazine of Contemporary Arts & Culture in East Africa, [Secolliville: An imaginary city in the public space](#) By Dominic Muwanguzi
2010 New Times, [Collin Sekajugo launches 'RWAndA-n-ART' magazine](#)

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