

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair

Somerset House, London, 5 – 8 October 2017

1:54 announces FORUM programme, curated by Koyo Kouoh, for the fair's fifth London edition at Somerset House

- Eighth edition of FORUM, titled 'The Conversationists', will examine the role of public programmes in shaping artistic and critical discourse
- Conversations with Tumelo Mosaka, Sepake Angiama, Elvira Dyangani Ose and András Szántó
- Artist talks by Emeka Ogboh, Pascale Marthine Tayou and Senzeni Marasela
- Discussions on the reverberations of the so-called 'African art boom', the dialogic as an artistic and educational practice and the future role of programming



FORUM at 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, 2016. L-R: Serge Attukwei Clottey and Erin Jenoa Gilbert; Koyo Kouoh; Princess Alia Al-Senussi, Phoebe Boswell and Ifeanyi Oganwu. Images courtesy of 1:54 © Victor Raison.

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, the leading international art fair dedicated to contemporary African art, has announced details of FORUM, the fair's talks programme curated by Koyo Kouoh (Founding artistic director of Raw Material Company, Dakar), for its fifth London edition at Somerset House. FORUM will take place across three days, 6 – 8 October, during the fair, 5 – 8 October 2017.

1:54 will showcase 42 leading specialist galleries from 17 countries and more than 130 artists. Highlights of the Special Projects programme include a major solo exhibition of Hassan Hajjaj, a site-specific installation programme with new commissions by Pascale Marthine Tayou and Emeka Ogboh, a new performance programme with Hana Tefrati and Adejoke Tugbiyele, and the 1:54 Lounge designed by Yinka Ilori.

The eighth edition of FORUM will convene around the title, 'The Conversationists', with an aim to interrogate the role that educational programmes play in producing and sustaining an economy of knowledge. Contributions will be made from individuals working across visual and performing arts, education, writing and publishing, including, among others: Hans Ulrich Obrist (Artistic Director, Serpentine Galleries), Sepake Angiama (Head of Education, documenta 14), Emmanuel Iduma (co-curator, Nigerian Pavilion, Venice Biennale 2017) and artists Pascale Marthine Tayou, Emeka Ogboh and Michael Armitage.

FORUM will take the form of a series of inter-generational and cross-disciplinary conversations, attending to a range of strategies and perspectives. It will examine how public programming is performed and actioned across a range of cultural platforms and formats. FORUM has identified two guiding questions with the aim of pushing beyond their potential limitations: How to continue to engage with Africa and the African diaspora as a topography or sensibility within the context of an international narrative, and: Who

are the agents of critique, and how are shifts in knowledge and cultural production shaping critical discursive practices?

The programme intends to evaluate how the margins and centres for cultural exchange continue to be constituted and reconstituted, particularly by and for persons and communities of non-western backgrounds. It will take the last five years as a barometer for how structures of discourse in cultural arenas have shifted, echoing the lifespan of 1:54 and FORUM. The first FORUM was seen to arrive amidst a particular 'moment' in relation to regained awareness of Africa and the African diaspora as a geography and topic within the arts sector. The 2017 programme will look at how the stakes of conversation have since evolved.

Koyo Kouoh, FORUM Programme Curator: *"The fifth anniversary edition of FORUM, which I have had the pleasure to steer from the beginning, poses a timely pause for reflection. We will hear from a range of perspectives and voices to situate and expand both the role of and access to the expression of critique."*

FORUM: The Conversationists

Friday 6 October

13:30 – 14:00 **Introduction**
Koyo Kouoh (FORUM Programme Curator)

14:00 – 15:00 **Discussion: Re-visiting 'the after'**
What is 'the after' and what occurs in this implicit posterior phase? The opening panel addresses the reverberations of the so-called 'African art boom' in an effort to examine how to continue to engage with Africa as a subject, terrain or sensibility within the context of an international narrative, and in a manner that prioritises the development of Africa and diaspora-centred discourse. With speakers **Elvira Dyangani Ose** (Lecturer in the Department of Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths and Senior Curator at Creative Time) and **Sepake Angiama** (Head of Education at documenta 14), moderated by **George Shire** (cultural theorist and historian of ideas).

15:30 – 16:30 **Artist talk: Emeka Ogboh**
Nick Hackworth (Creative Director at Modern Forms) in conversation with artist **Emeka Ogboh** on aurality and sound as a vehicle for narrating and assembling sonic forms of resistance.

17:00 – 18:00 **Discussion: Situating conversation**
How and where do practitioners situate their practice, and how through one's practice, are spaces for critical exchange developed? From artist-led platforms to projects developed from within and in critique of institutional formats, this panel aims to engage with the dialogic as an artistic and educational practice. With **Michael Armitage** (artist and co-founder of The Gathering, Nairobi) and **Mukami Kuria** (writer and co-founder of The Gathering, Nairobi), moderated by Koyo Kouoh.

Saturday 7 October

14:00 – 15:00 **Discussion: The future of conversation**
What is the future role of programming? Which publics will be served, and how will these actions permeate and respond, beyond discursive reiterations, to the conditions of a wider community that the institution is a part of? This panel aims to unpack the role of discourse, what it can potentially achieve and its shortcomings as a productive or non-productive entity. With **András Szántó** (author and cultural consultant), **Adenrele Sonariwo** (Co-curator of the Nigerian Pavilion, Venice Biennale 2017) and **Tumelo Mosaka** (Curator of Cape Town Art Fair 2017), moderated by Koyo Kouoh.

- 15:30 – 17:00 **Discussion: Performing critique**
How do artists navigate the position of invited critic and self-directed agent of resistance, and where are the lines of agency drawn? This panel aims to examine whether and how practitioners are challenging and disrupting the notion of the 'essential critic' through collaborations, interventions/take overs, alternative modes of production and resistance aesthetics. With **Travis Alabanza** (performance artist, writer and theatre maker), **Evan Ifekoya** (artist) and **Jacob V Joyce** (artist), moderated by **Legacy Russell** (writer, artist and cultural producer).
- 17:30 – 19:00 **Artist talk: Pascale Marthine Tayou**
Nadine Bilong (independent curator) will lead a conversation with **Pascale Marthine Tayou** around the artist's current projects, including his site-specific artwork *Summer Surprise* (2017), installed at the fair in The Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court. (*in French with English interpretation*)

Sunday 8 October

- 13:00 – 14:30 **Discussion: Writing into history**
How are independent practitioners performing critique within and on the margins of cultural centres through forms of 'writing'? And what are the alternative narratives that are being prioritised? In this discussion, the panel engages with the expression of critique through the written and spoken word. With **Sofia Niazi** (Editor of OOMK Zine), **Belinda Zhawi** (writer, educator and 2016/17 Institute of Contemporary Arts Associate Poet) and Etienne Joseph (researcher, archivist and educator), moderated by **Hansi Momodu-Gordon** (curator, writer and producer).
- 15:00 – 16:00 **Conversation: Hans Ulrich Obrist and Emmanuel Iduma**
Hans Ulrich Obrist (Artistic Director of Serpentine Galleries) in conversation with **Emmanuel Iduma** (author, editor and co-curator of the Nigerian Pavilion, Venice Biennale 2017) on reactivating historical material through writing and conversation as a critical, poetic or speculative enquiry.
- 16:30 – 17:30 **Artist talk: Senzeni Marasela**
Koyo Kouoh in conversation with **Senzeni Marasela** (artist) on building conversation through durational performance and parafiction.

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Notes to Editors

About 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair

With annual editions in London, New York and Marrakech, 1:54 is the leading international art fair dedicated to contemporary art from Africa and its diaspora. Drawing reference to the fifty-four countries that constitute the African continent, 1:54 is a dynamic platform that is engaged in contemporary dialogue and exchange.

Initiated by Touria El Glaoui in 2013, October 2017 will mark its fifth consecutive edition at Somerset House, London, having returned from its third New York edition in May 2017. The fair will be launched in Marrakech, Morocco, in February 2018.

About Touria El Glaoui, Founding Director of 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair

Touria El Glaoui is the Founding Director of the leading international art fair dedicated to Africa, 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, which takes place in London, New York and Marrakech every year. She was listed among the 100 most powerful women in Africa by *Forbes* in 2016, the 50 most powerful women in Africa by *Jeune Afrique* in 2015 and the 100 most influential Africans in business by *NewAfrican* in 2013.

Born and raised in Morocco, El Glaoui completed her education in New York before beginning a career in the banking industry as a wealth management consultant. After 10 years, she relocated to London, where she initiated 1:54 in 2013. Parallel to her career, Touria has organised and co-curated exhibitions of her father's work, Moroccan artist Hassan El Glaoui, in London and Morocco. She has spoken widely and chaired numerous discussions on contemporary African art and women in leadership at international organisations.

About 1:54 FORUM

FORUM, 1:54's program of talks, explores convergences across artistic and cultural production, critical thinking and ideas. FORUM is curated by Koyo Kouoh (Artistic Director, RAW Material Company, Dakar) and supported by Gabriella Beckhurst and Kefiloe Siwisa (FORUM Curatorial Assistants).

About Floreat Group, 1:54 Main Sponsor

Floreat Group is a privately held, London-based independent financial group, with investments in public equities, private equity, real estate and debt. The group operates six UK businesses, and approach investments directly through their own funds and co-investment platforms.

About Somerset House

A unique part of the London cultural scene, Somerset House is an historic building where surprising and original work comes to life. From its 18th-century origins, Somerset House has been a centre for debate and discussion – an intellectual powerhouse for the nation. Somerset House is today a key cultural destination in London in which to experience a broad range of artistic activity, engage with artists, designers and makers and be a part of a major creative forum – an environment that is relaxed, welcoming, and inspirational to visit while providing a stimulating workplace for the cultural and creative industries.

Since its opening in 2000, Somerset House has built up a distinctive outdoor public programme including Skate, concerts, an open-air film season and a diverse range of temporary exhibitions throughout the site focusing on contemporary culture, with an extensive learning programme attached. In October 2016, Somerset House launched Somerset House Studios, a new experimental workspace connecting artists, makers and thinkers with audiences. The Studios provide a platform for new creative projects and collaboration, promoting work that pushes bold ideas, engages with urgent issues and pioneers new technologies. Somerset House is also one of the biggest community of creative organisations in London including The Courtauld Gallery and Institute of Art, King's College London Cultural Institute and over 100 other creative businesses. It currently attracts approximately 3.4 million visitors every year.

www.somerset house.org.uk

Full list of participating galleries

(S)ITOR / Sitor Senghor (Paris, France)
50 Golborne (London, United Kingdom)
Addis Fine Art (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
AFRONOVA GALLERY (Johannesburg, South Africa)
AGorgi Gallery (Tunis, Tunisia)
Arte de Gema (Maputo, Mozambique)
ARTLabAfrica (Nairobi, Kenya)
Barnard Gallery (Cape Town, South Africa)
Beardsmore Gallery (London, United Kingdom)
Circle Art Gallery (Nairobi, Kenya)
Ed Cross Fine Art (London, United Kingdom)
Elmarsa (Dubai, United Arab Emirates/Tunis, Tunisia)
Éric Hussenot Gallery (Paris, France)
Galerie 127 (Marrakech, Morocco)
Galerie Anne De Villepoix (Paris, France)
Galerie Cécile Fakhoury (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)
Gallery 1957 (Accra, Ghana)
Gallery of African Art (GAFRA) (London, United Kingdom)
Gallery MOMO (Johannesburg / Cape Town, South Africa)
IPSUM (Madrid, Spain)
Jack Bell Gallery (London, United Kingdom)
James Cohan (New York, United States)
L'Atelier 21 (Casablanca, Morocco)
Lawrie Shabibi (Dubai, United Arab Emirates)
MAGNIN-A (Paris, France)
Mariane Ibrahim Gallery (Seattle, United States)
October Gallery (London, United Kingdom)
Officine dell'Immagine (Milan, Italy)
Perve Galeria (Lisbon, Portugal)
Pippy Houldsworth Gallery (London, United Kingdom)
Plutschow Gallery (Zurich, Switzerland)
Primo Marella Gallery (Milan, Italy)
Purdy Hicks Gallery (London, United Kingdom)
Selma Feriani Gallery (Tunis, Tunisia)
SMAC Gallery (Cape Town / Johannesburg / Stellenbosch, South Africa)
SMO Contemporary Art (Lagos, Nigeria)
Sulger-Buel Lovell (London, United Kingdom)
TAFETA (London, United Kingdom)
Tiwani Contemporary (London, United Kingdom)
Tyburn Gallery (London, United Kingdom)
VOICE Gallery (Marrakech, Morocco)
WHATIFTHEWORLD (Cape Town, South Africa)

Public opening hours

Thursday 5 October	11:00 – 19:00
Friday 6 October	11:00 – 19:00
Saturday 7 October	11:00 – 19:00
Sunday 8 October	11:00 – 18:00

VIP & Press previews

Press preview: Tuesday 3 October, 16:00 – 18:00
Press and VIP preview: Wednesday 4 October, 9:00 – 18:00
Vernissage: Wednesday 4 October, 18:00 – 21:00

Social media

Website: 1-54.com/london

Twitter: [@154artfair](https://twitter.com/154artfair)

Instagram: [@154artfair](https://www.instagram.com/154artfair)

Facebook: [154ContemporaryAfricanArtFair](https://www.facebook.com/154ContemporaryAfricanArtFair)
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