

CONTACT ZONES NAIROBI

Special Archive

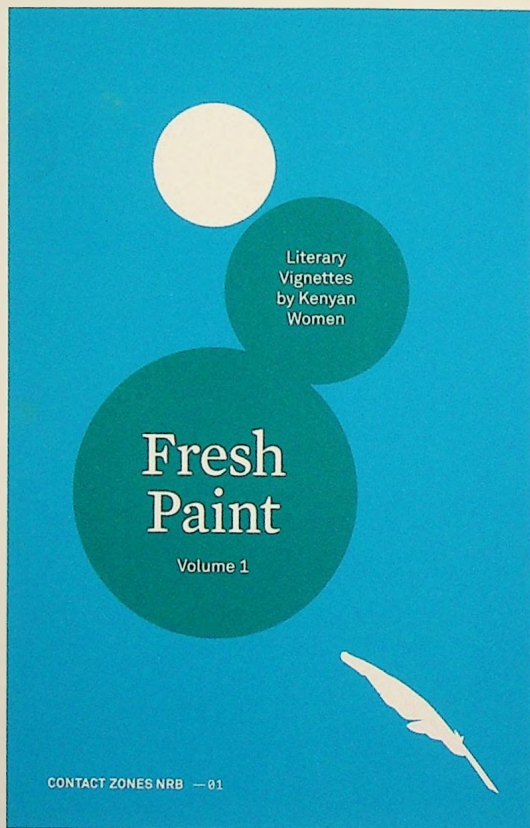
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Art
Photography
Literature
Society

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Contact Zones NRB attempts to fill some of the gaps in East African and global publishing. Artists and intellectuals from the Global South are increasingly included in the global art world and academia, but still there exists a complex process of trying to renegotiate the old orders of hegemony. Presence and representation continue to be real challenges; contact zones are lacking. For people in the arts, locally and globally, both professional and non, there are very few possibilities to learn about non-represented art scenes, for instance in East Africa and Kenya. In addition, on a local level, two things seem to be lacking: an archive of art production and knowledge about the production of art. In the humanities, the majority of books are published with publishers in the North-Atlantic zone; therefore some of the most important intellectual contributions from East Africa haven't been published.

Contact Zones NRB attempts to fill both gaps. It publishes art books that serve as information sources, archives and places of knowledge about the production of art from East Africa, alongside important intellectual and academic contributions. Occasionally, the series will include contributions from other fields, such as literature. Published and edited in Nairobi, the series aims to serve as a contact zone for art and thought from Kenya and East Africa.



This anthology is a valuable addition to the Kenyan literary landscape. The stories are simple, yet deep, reflecting the fears, challenges, hopes and aspirations of the Kenyan woman. — Lydia Gaitirira,

AMKA, Space for Women's Creativity

120 pages, English.
Published by Contact Zones
NRB, 2nd Edition 2012.
ISBN: 978-996615530-6

Volume 01 of Contact Zones NRB is edited by Tom Odhiambo and Eliphas Nyamogo. This anthology of poems and short stories is the culmination of a joint literary project by Amka – Space for Women's Creativity – and Goethe-Institut Kenya. It is the first collection of writings presented by the young writers, discussed during more than 30 literature forums, that take place every last Saturday of the month.

SAM HOPKINS

CONTACT ZONES NRB 02

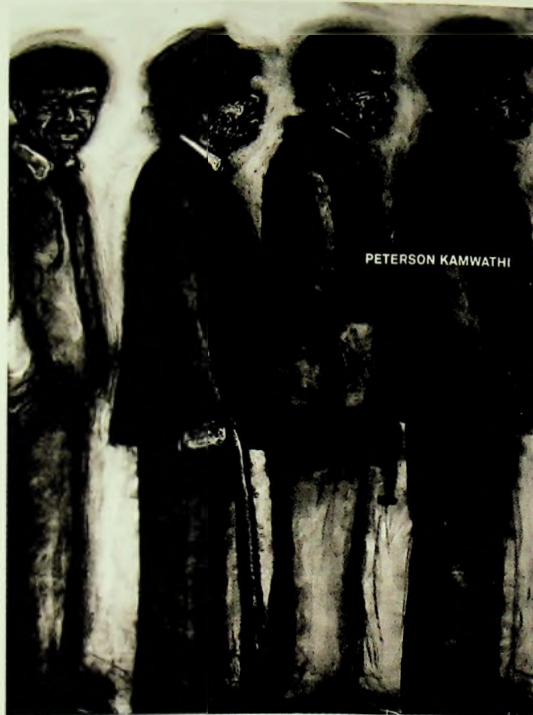
[...] as well as seeing context as the chief defining element of my work. I am also interested in this idea of an autonomous artwork that does not require previous specialist knowledge, be it art historical or about any specific discourse. — Sam Hopkins

Volume 02 of Contact Zones NRB is dedicated to the visual artist Sam Hopkins. In the tradition of „relational art“, many of Hopkins' interventions are participatory or collaborative. Often playful, surprising and ironic and using different media such as public art, photography, video and installations, his works depict the many worlds and perspectives Nairobi is made of: from the advertisements of witchdoctors revealing the wishes of Nairobi citizens, to the pets in a pet-unlikely place such as Kibera, from the wish machines of street photography to the Diamonds the omnipresent shattered glass on the streets of Nairobi may form.

128 pages, English. Published by Contact Zones NRB, 2011.

ISBN: 978-9966-1553-1-3

Contributors: Lucrezia Cippitelli, Katharina Greven, Maida Gruden, John Kamau, Alice W. Kingoina, Franziska Lukas, Rand Pearson



[...] his art is important for what it means to East African art, where clarity of expression, technical innovation and thinking for oneself are not in oversupply. With hindsight, it becomes clearer that the artist is creating an integrated narrative of his country, which is novel in Kenya. In time, it might be possible to read the psychological Kenya of Kamwathi's time through his works, for he has put more effort into capturing it than his contemporaries have. — David Kaiza

Volume 03 of Contact Zones NRB is dedicated to Peterson Kamwathi. Kamwathi has created a substantial corpus of works that has made him known as one of the most radical and aesthetically interesting artists from East Africa who has developed his own style in a quite short period of time with impressive coherence. Kamwathi's works are highly conceptual – in long spans of time on distinct topics – and at the same time with technical mastery in his medium – drawing. The themes, formatted in series, are social, political and cultural, emitting from the Kenyan context he is working in. As almost all of his works have been sold to private collectors or galleries in Europe, this book serves as an archive of Kamwathi's career.

124 pages, English. Published by
Contact Zones NRB, 2011.
ISBN: 978-3-86984-273-8
Contributors: David Kaiza,
Sam Hopkins, Tom Odhiambo,
Johannes Hossfeld, Ulf Vierke



Hybridity exists on many levels. Malinda, while facing her own inner challenge to come to terms with her descent, sex, colour, social status, context, etc., transforms what is projected onto her into projections of her own. — Nancy Hoffmann

128 pages, English. Published by
Contact Zones NRB, 2011.
ISBN: 978-9966-1553-2-0
Contributors: Nathalie Mba Bikoro,
Nancy Hoffmann, Ato Malinda,
Simon Njami, Didier Schaub

Volume 04 of Contact Zones NRB documents the work of Ato Malinda who lives and works in Nairobi. Malinda has created a significant corpus of works which stands almost alone in the art world of East Africa: She is a performance artist, working in addition with the media of video and photography. Her work is heavily concept based and informed by postcolonial and postmodern theory, it gravitate around the topics of colonial history, gender, memory, power. This book documents her major works, giving it accessibility beyond its ephemeral form of performance, installation and projection.

