



OF AFRICA

**HISTORIES
COLLECTIONS
REFLECTIONS**

OCTOBER 23 - 25
2014

Of Africa

HISTORIES, COLLECTIONS, REFLECTIONS

Thursday October 23rd, 2014

I am an Imaginer Riding Africa's Glorious Terrible Hurricane

Boko Haram and Booming Banks. Ebola and tumbling borders. Gays, lesbians, and a sexual revolution in Whatsapp. Africa Rising: roads, tens of millions of newly banked

citizens. A thousand new writers, musicians, film-makers a year. Africa tumbles, grows, suddened into a hurricane of change. How do black people, Africans Imaginers prepare our thoughts to deal with the adventure, it's horrors, pleasures and opportunities?

Let's talk about transport systems of dreams, desires, and thoughts. The political economy of romantic love, the avenues and streets of the metaphysical lives of people, and the architecture of bodies wounded, re-engineering for a future with pasts unforgotten, with our future reimagined. It is a good time to be an African.



Binyavanga Wainaina
Photo credit: Jerry Riley

Friday October 24th, 2014

10:00 AM Doors Open

10:30 AM Welcome and Introductions

PANEL 1 **Round Table**
Learning from *Into the Heart of Africa*

Afua Cooper
Geraldine Mariba
"Yaw" Oluwasanjo Akyeaw
Dan Rahimi

Discussants' comments and Q&A
Moderator: Honor Ford-Smith

12:15 - 1:30 PM Lunch Break:

PANEL 2 **Africa and the Diaspora in
Western institutions**

Kenneth Montague,
Wedge Curatorial Projects
*Position as Desired: Learning from
the ROM Exhibition Experience*

Olubukola A. Gbadegesin,
St. Louis University
*Content and Context: Examining the
Disciplinary Landscape of
African Art History.*

Zoe Whitley
Tate Modern
*Field Survey: Museum Mission and
Curating the Porous Boundaries of the
African Diaspora*

Discussants' comments and Q&A
Moderator: Andrea Fatona

3:00 - 3:30 PM Coffee Break

PANEL 3

African Modernities

Pablo Idahosa,
York University

*Re-engraving the multiple Africa's out
of the one development*

Elizabeth Harney
University of Toronto

*Of the Essence:
Art, Africa, and Temporality*

Ato Quayson,
University of Toronto

Modernity and the African City

Fatimah Tuggar,
OCADU

*Refocusing Perceptions and Shifting
Viewpoints Through Art Making*

Discussants' comments and Q&A
Moderator: Karen Milbourn

5:20 PM

End of Day 2

6:00 pm

Bisi Silva
delivering a Power Talk at the
Toronto Art Fair

Saturday October 25th, 2014

10:00 AM Doors Open

10:30 AM Welcome

PANEL 4 Canonical understanding and politics of representation

Christa Clarke,
Newark Museum Of Art
*Collecting Beyond the Canon:
An African-American Encounter with
Pre-Apartheid South Africa*

Ciraj Rassool,
University of Western Cape
*Rethinking Race in Museums in
Cape Town*

Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi,
Hood Museum of Art,
Dartmouth College
*At work in the Museum: Between the
Danger of a Single Story and
White-Savior Industrial Complex*

Discussants' comments and Q&A
Moderator: Warren Crichlow

12:30 2:00 PM Lunch Break

PANEL 5 African curatorial networks

Meskerem Assegued,
Independent Curator

Dominique Malaquais
SPARK
*On SPARK: Concept(ion), Process,
Speculation*

Bisi Silva
CCA Lagos
*Curating Africa? The Shifting Curatori
al Paradigm*

Discussants' comments and Q&A
Moderator: Elizabeth Harney

4:30 PM:

Performance
Nástio Mosquito
African, I Guess

5:30 PM

End of the day



Binyavanga Wainaina

Kenyan author, publisher, cultural worker.

He is the founding editor of one of Africa's leading literary institutions Kwani? (www.kwani.org).

Binyavanga's *How to Write About Africa* attracted wide attention. His memoir, *One Day I Will Write About This Place* has been translated into several languages. In 2007, Binyavanga was nominated by the World Economic Forum as a "Young Global Leader". He declined the award.

Binyavanga Wainaina has been a Sterling Brown Fellow at Williams College, Massachusetts, a Lannan Fellow, a Visiting Writer at Union College, NY. Until 2012, he was the Director of the Chinua Achebe Center for African Writers and Artists at Bard College.

For over eleven years Binyavanga has sought, worked with, published, mentored and promoted some of Africa's most exciting new literary talent. In 2014, he came out publicly as gay. In 2014 he was named as by Time magazine as one of 100 most influential people in the world.

ROM
SPEAKS

Of Africa, a three year multi-disciplinary program, is committed to provide a space for continued presence of African and diasporic themes, histories, and artists within the ROM's programming for the benefit all Ontario audiences.

As one of Canada's largest museums, the ROM is committed to connecting visitors to their world and to one another. *Of Africa* interrogates monolithic representations of Africa, collections, and colonial histories by broadening the discussion and presentation of what constitutes Africa and African art. Our goal is to present stories and perspectives, and introduce audiences to historical and contemporary expressions, both cultural and artistic. Crucial to these initiatives is the ROM's engagement with members of the African and African diasporic communities in Toronto and Canada. Conscious of the past, *Of Africa* engages the present to open up dialogues that may shape the future. Through its various activities and engagements, *Of Africa* wants to affect change in the ways Canadian audiences view Africa and its diaspora.

Of Africa encompasses:

- Lectures
- Live performances
- Exhibits
- Workshops
- Film screenings
- Residencies
- Educational programs
- Selected partnerships with other cultural institutions

Genesis of the project:

Of Africa stems from an original idea of independent curators Dr. Julie Crooks and Dominique Fontaine. Since 2013, Crooks and Fontaine have been working with ROM curator Dr. Silvia Farni to develop a platform that would enable a more open and dynamic presentation of the diversity and creativity of the African continent. With *Of Africa*, the curators will present and promote historical and contemporary cultural and artistic production in Africa and its Diasporas to highlight issues that impact the present and evoke the potential of an *infrastructure*.

REGISTER NOW!

www.rom.on.ca/ofafrica

416.586.5797