

## 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair Will be Bigger and Better in 2016

Sarah Cascone, Tuesday, February 9, 2016



1:54 New York 2015 at Pioneer Works, Brooklyn.

Photo: © Katrina Sorrentino, courtesy 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair.

"We came in as a pop-up last year trying to see if there was a market for us," [1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair](#) director Touria El Glaoui told artnet News in a phone interview. Based on [2015's inaugural success](#), the fair, which will take place at [Pioneer Works](#) in Brooklyn from May 6–8, will be even more robust in its second year in New York, with a carefully-curated selection of 17 galleries.

In its Brooklyn edition, it can afford to be choosy. Unlike the original London fair, which was founded in 2013 and accepts applications, 1:54 New York is strictly invitation-only. The fair takes its name from the 54 countries in Africa, and does its best to be fully-representative of

the continent. To that end, the 60 artists featured in this year's fair hail from an impressive 25 countries.

"We are filling this void in New York, where contemporary African artists are not as well-represented as the rest of the world's artists," said El Glaoui.



1:54 New York 2015, Pioneer Works, Brooklyn.

Photo: © Katrina Sorrentino, courtesy 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair.

Julie Taylor, founder and director of online South African gallery Guns and Rain, sees 1:54 as a sign of positive change. "African art is perhaps 'becoming ordinary,'" she told artnet News in an e-mail. "If 'ordinary' equates to securing the independence, recognition, and respect that African art professionals have long sought, then African contemporary art is certainly much closer to coming of age."

**Pioneer Works has offered a slot in its artists residency program to 1:54 artist Omar Victor Diop, whose showing at Paris's Magnin-A gallery was one of the standouts of the 2015 edition, according to El Glaoui. "He's quite an interesting photographer and he has done this amazing series of important Africans in history," she said.**

This year, over half of the roster is new at the fair, with just eight returning galleries from the inaugural New York run. Of the additions, five have previously shown with 1:54 in London, while four, including New York's Richard Taittinger Gallery and Milan's Officine dell'Immagine, have never participated in the fair on either side of the Atlantic.

Although 1:54 purposely varied its New York slate of dealers in order to provide exposure for a new group of artists, at least one gallery isn't back for a reason. Arabella Bennett, founder of Cape Town's Bennett Contemporary blamed "the depreciating South African rand" for her decision not to show in 2016, telling artnet News in a phone conversation that while "we enjoyed ourselves very much... it's a very expensive fair for the number of sales that we made."

Despite its small scale, the fair's international scope is impressive, with galleries from South Africa, Italy, Kenya, Switzerland, the US, France, Côte d'Ivoire, Spain, and the UK. Programming, curated by Koyo Kouoh, of Daka'r RAW Material Company, will include a lecture series and panel discussions.

See the full list of participating galleries and artists below:

Afronova (Johannesburg, South Africa)  
APALAZZOGALLERY (Brescia, Italy)  
ARTLabAfrica (Nairobi, Kenya)  
Art Bärtschi & Cie (Geneva, Switzerland)  
Axis Gallery (New York, USA)  
David Krut Projects (Johannesburg, South Africa & New York, USA)  
Galerie Anne De Villepoix (Paris, France)  
Galerie Cécile Fakhoury (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)  
In Situ / Fabienne Leclerc (Paris, France)  
Jack Bell Gallery (London, United Kingdom)  
**Magnin-A (Paris, France)**  
Mariane Ibrahim Gallery (Seattle, USA)  
Officine dell'Immagine (Milan, Italy)  
Richard Taittinger Gallery (New York, USA)  
Sabrina Amrani Gallery (Madrid, Spain)  
(S)ITOR / Sitor Senghor (Paris, France)  
Tafeta (London, United Kingdom)

Aboudia  
Derrick Adams  
Leonce Raphael Agbodjelou  
Joseph Moise Agbodjelou  
ruby oyinyechi amanze  
Emma Amos  
Joel Andrianomearisoa  
Mustapha Azeroual  
Omar Ba  
Sammy Baloji  
Steve Bandoma  
Armand Boua  
Nathalie Boutté  
Sonia Boyce  
Edson Chagas  
Jim Chuchu  
Endale Desalegn  
Safaa Erruas  
Theo Eshetu  
Em'Kal Eyongakpa  
Meschac Gaba  
Frances Goodman  
Mwangi Hutter  
Ayana V. Jackson  
William Kentridge

Farah Khelil  
Yashua Klos  
Lawrence Lemaona  
John Liebenberg  
Ndary Lo  
Gonçalo Mabunda  
Ibrahim Mahama  
Hamidou Maiga  
Houston Maludi  
Abu Bakarr Mansaray  
Misheck Masamvu  
Vincent Michéa  
Fabrice Monteiro  
Aida Muluneh  
Cheikh Ndiaye  
Otobong Nkanga  
Boris Nzebo  
Uche Okpa-iroha  
Babajide Olatunji  
Adeniyi Olagunju  
Paul Onditi  
Zohra Opoku  
Athi-Patra Ruga  
William Sagna  
Kura Shomali  
Gor Soudan  
Uman  
Nontsikelelo Veleko  
Diane Victor  
Béatrice Wanjiku  
Graeme Williams  
Sue Williamson  
Yéanzi  
Billie Zangewa  
Dominique Zinkpé

*[1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair](#) is on view at [Pioneer Works](#), 159 Pioneer Street, Red Hook, Brooklyn, May 6–8, 2016.*



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