

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair
Somerset House, London, 5 – 8 October 2017

Gallery list announced for fifth London edition of the fair

- **42 galleries from across Europe, Africa, the Middle East and North America**
- **18 galleries from Africa, 6 of them exhibiting at the London fair for the first time**
- **More than 130 artists, including 8 solo exhibitions**



1:54 London 2016 © Victor Raison

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, the leading international art fair dedicated to contemporary African art, has announced the galleries exhibiting in its fifth London edition, taking place at Somerset House, 5 – 8 October, with a VIP & Press preview on 4 October 2017. Floreat is 1:54 London Main Sponsor for the second consecutive year while Nando's returns as Silver Sponsor.

1:54 strives to promote a diverse set of African perspectives from around the world and has carefully selected 42 leading galleries specialising in contemporary African art from 17 countries across Europe, Africa, the Middle East and North America: Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Among the exhibitors this year are 18 galleries from Africa: Addis Fine Art, AFRONOVA GALLERY, AGorgi Gallery, Arte de Gema, ARTLabAfrica, Barnard Gallery, Circle Art Gallery, Elmarsa, Galerie 127, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Gallery 1957, Gallery MOMO, L'Atelier 21, Selma Feriani Gallery, SMAC Gallery, SMO Contemporary Art, VOICE Gallery and WHATIFTHEWORLD.

Of the 41 exhibitors, 11 galleries will be welcomed to the fair for the first time: Arte de Gema, Beardsmore Gallery, Elmarsa, Galerie 127, Gallery MOMO, Ipsum Galeria, Lawrie Shabibi, Perve Galeria, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, Plutschow Gallery and SMO Contemporary Art.

The fair will showcase the work of more than 130 emerging and established African and African diaspora artists, working in a wide variety of mediums and from a spread of geographical backgrounds comprising 32 countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Haiti, Italy, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Portugal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Trinidad, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zimbabwe.

Eight solo exhibitions have been announced: **Nidhal Chamekh** (Selma Feriani Gallery), **Safaa Erruas** (L'Atelier 21), **Ahmed Keshta** (Ipsium Galeria), **Atta Kwami** (Beardsmore Gallery), **Nelson Makamo** (Gallery of African Art GAFRA), **Ndikhumbule Ngqinambi** (Barnard Gallery), **Abe Odedina** (Ed Cross Fine Art) and **Zineb Sedira** (Plutschow Gallery).

Several artists will be presented at the fair for the first time, including: Cameroonian photographer **Samuel Fosso**, recognised as a master of studio portrait photography; Somali-Swedish mixed-media artist **Ayan Farah**, celebrated for her formally minimal, yet materially complex paintings; South African artist **Buhlebezwe Siwani**, who places the body at the centre of her performance, sculpture and installation works; and French-Algerian artist **Zineb Sedira** whose photographic and video work explores the consequences of cultural displacement and migration.

Building on the success of their expanded programme of non-profit Special Projects for the 2016 edition of the London fair, 1:54 will also present a number of collateral exhibitions in Somerset House.

For the fifth year in a row, 1:54 will be accompanied by FORUM, the fair's extensive talks and events programme, including artist talks, film screenings and panel discussions with international curators, artists and cultural producers. FORUM is curated by Koyo Kouoh, Artistic Director of RAW Material Company, Dakar. The full programme will be announced in September.

Founding Director of 1:54, Touria El Glaoui, commented: *"We are thrilled to announce such a wonderful mix of exhibitors for our fifth London edition. It is very exciting to welcome some new galleries and countries presenting for the first time, as well as many returning friends, and we're especially proud to have such a strong contingent of galleries from Africa this year."*

Press contact

Lisa Hill at SUTTON
lisa@suttonpr.com | +44 (0)20 7183 3577

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)

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 sustainable and 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, 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.somersethouse.org.uk

Public opening hours

Thursday 5 October	11am – 7pm
Friday 6 October	11am – 7pm
Saturday 7 October	11am – 7pm
Sunday 8 October	11am – 6pm

VIP & Press previews

Press preview: Tuesday 3 October, 4 – 6pm
Press and VIP preview: Wednesday 4 October, 9am – 6pm
Vernissage: Wednesday 4 October, 6 – 9pm

Social media

Website: 1-54.com/london
Twitter: @154artfair
Instagram: @154artfair
Facebook: 154ContemporaryAfricanArtFair
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