

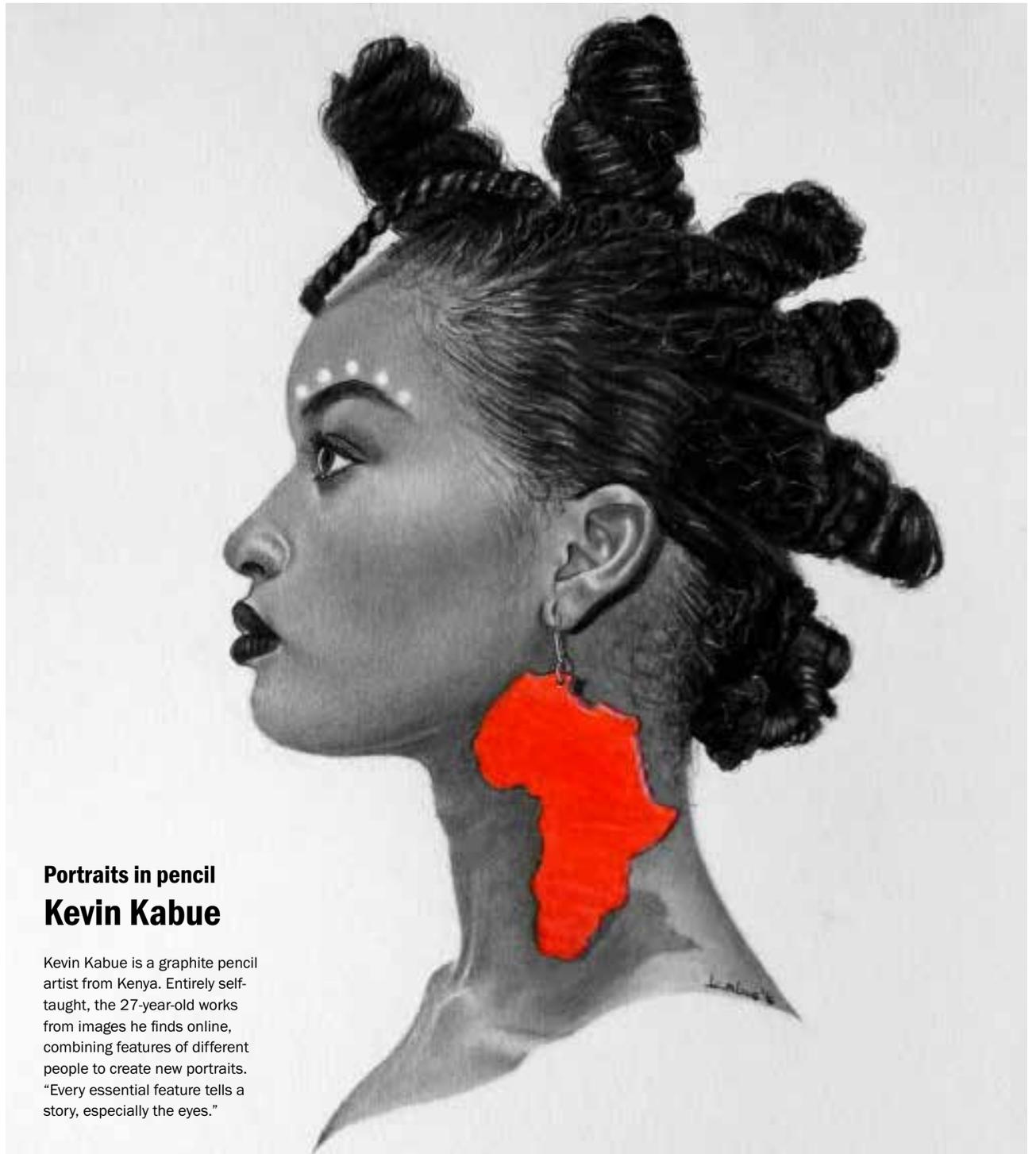
80

percent of the animals and plants on Madagascar are unique to the island and the diversity is staggering. There are more than 70 species of lemur.



The Blue Nile is originating at Lake Tana in Ethiopia. With the White Nile, that is formed at Lake Victoria, it is one of the two major tributaries of the Nile.

# Habari



## Portraits in pencil Kevin Kabue

Kevin Kabue is a graphite pencil artist from Kenya. Entirely self-taught, the 27-year-old works from images he finds online, combining features of different people to create new portraits. "Every essential feature tells a story, especially the eyes."

Feeding wild hyenas in Ethiopia's Harar is an unforgettable experience.



## Nairobi

The Pan African Highway stretches from Cape Town to Cairo, and is more than 10,000 km long.



### Sunday shopping

## K1 Flea Market

Like moths to a flame, Nairobians gravitate towards any event that promises art, food, music and a chance to dress up and have sangria before midday. Even better if it's on a Sunday. Here you can buy anything, from bead-work mementos and packaged local chilli, to potted flowers, afro-wear and paintings. Plus you can eat away a hangover with a massive (and possibly unhealthy) brunch.

~ K1 Klub House, Parklands Ojijo Road



### Upper Hill gem

## Crowne Plaza Annexe



Nairobi's Upper Hill is like a giant rousing from a long slumber. Amid Nairobi's bustling new business ecosystem, the Crowne Plaza Hotel built its Annexe wing, a mixed-use development catering for both commercial and hospitality clients spanning fourteen floors and measuring some 2,800 square metres. The office space is lettable and tenants have access to the facilities of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, which include conference facilities, a world-class gym, pool and spa, a hotel and high-end dining.

~ Kenya Road, Upper Hill, Nairobi

### Oven-fresh patisserie

## French Sweetness

If there ever was a slice of France in Kenya, Le Grenier à Pain it is. You can almost smell the fresh bread and pastries through the glass. The decor is warm and inviting – just like the traditional baked goods emerging from the ovens, which are visible to the public. Yan Wellfens, the proprietor, fusses around because he wants to make everything just perfect. And here, perfection comes in many forms, from the famous crusty baguettes and buttery croissants, to sweet lemon tarts and tempting macaroons. This no doubt explains the success of the French bakery chain, with over 30 branches across the globe, from Paris to Tokyo and now Nairobi.

~ 9 Riverside, legrenierapain.co.ke



Text: Jackson Bikio

# “For a successful business, start small and dream big”

– Aliko Dangote, CEO Dangote Group –

The Giraffe Centre in Nairobi is a sanctuary for Rothschild giraffes. Over the last 30 years, the global giraffe population has dropped by 40 percent.



## Arts & Culture

UNESCO has designated 135 World Heritage Sites in Africa, located in 33 countries.



### Event

## MTN Bushfire

Along with a diverse main stage line-up including Kwaito superstars TKZee, Congolese-born rapper Baloji, and Cape Town-raised musician Petite Noir, the latest edition of the MTN Bushfire Festival presents performance art, exhibitions, talks and lots of family-friendly activities. From 26 to 28 May, some 25,000 music fans from across the globe gather in the scenic Malkerns Valleys of Swaziland for this acclaimed event.

~ bush-fire.com

### Cultural hub

## Inema Arts Center

In 2012, brothers and self-taught painters Emmanuel Nkuranga and Innocent Nkurunziza established the Inema Arts Center in Rwanda. A blend of their first names, Inema also means a blessing, talent or gift in the Kinyarwanda language. The centre's mission is to spur creativity for personal, social and economic growth. It provides space for work by contemporary African artists and is home to innovative projects, workshops and training programmes.

~ inemaartcenter.com



### Q&A

## Unscrambling Africa

Photographers Mutua Matheka and Joe Were, graphic designer Lulu Kitololo and filmmaker Josh Kizamwa combined their talents and founded the Unscrambling Africa project, an effort to document contemporary urban life on the continent.

### What's it about?

We wanted to visually document people, subcultures and the built environment of Africa, so we went on a road trip, taking photographs, filming and writing stories along the way. So Unscrambling Africa is really an effort to explore what defines urbanity on our continent from Nairobi to Durban. So far, we have visited thirteen cities in ten Southern African countries.

### What does the name mean?

It has to do with the partition of Africa in the 1880s and 1890s, which scrambled our identities and totally interfered with Africa's progress and its social and economic life. More than a century later, we still feel its effects. Through storytelling, we want to paint a clearer picture of Africa for Africans.

### Why cities?

There are already more than a billion people living in Africa and they project that in the coming 15 years, half of us will live in cities. We are proud citizens of Nairobi, and we have seen our city grow and evolve so rapidly in the last ten years. We know we have been shaped by these developments, and others are too.

Use the hashtag #unscramblingafrica to follow their work on Instagram

# “Street art can even teach people who've never been to school”

– Bonfils Ngabonziza –  
Rwandan artist

Text: Eva de Vries

Luanda, Angola, ranks as Africa's **most expensive city**, according consulting agency Mercer's 2016 list.



## Culture & Sport

The lowest point in Africa is **Lake Assal** in Djibouti, which lies at 155 metres below sea level.



**Documentary**

### Act of Empowerment

"I'm going to show you a side to my country that you barely knew existed," says Sorious Samura, a Bafta and Emmy award-winning film director when introducing a documentary he has made about his former teacher, the inspiring playwright and theatre director, Charlie Haffner. The movie, *Sierra Leone: An Artist's Journey*, follows Haffner as he tries to stage the most ambitious play in his country's history and inspire those considering migration to Europe to stay and help rebuild their nation. He aims to remind his fellow citizens that Sierra Leone is so much more than its recent Ebola epidemic, history of civil war and poverty. "We used to be known as the Athens of West Africa, but today, we are not. I hope we can revive that status," he says in the film. He fights real odds, starting with the fact that Sierra Leone does not have a single theatre. Taking creative steps, he stages his plays in the heart of communities, using town squares as sets and local residents as actors. "Despite the challenges, Charlie just keeps on going," Samura says. "He really believes that art can empower a nation."

~ [insighttwi.com](http://insighttwi.com)

**Lifestyle**

### Riebeek Valley Olive Festival

Now in its 17th year, the annual Riebeek Valley Olive Festival has outgrown its initial focus on olives and wine. It now celebrates the wineries, cellars, restaurants and craft breweries of the Swartland region of South Africa's Western Cape. This year's event is on 6 and 7 May.

~ [riebeekvalleyolivefestival.co.za](http://riebeekvalleyolivefestival.co.za)



**Sporting life**

### Mauritius Marathon



The Mauritius Marathon is quickly becoming an important attraction to the Indian Ocean islands each year. The course follows the coastal road along white beaches and palm trees, with a spectacular view over the Baie du Cap lagoon through the UNESCO-protected mountain of Le Morne. The 8th edition takes place on 16 July this year, with a classical Marathon, a Half-Marathon and a 10km-race on the same day.

~ [mauritiusharathon.com](http://mauritiusharathon.com)

**"If you don't like someone's story, write your own"**

– *Chinua Achebe* –  
Nigerian novelist

**Film festival**

### Encounters

Encounters South African International Documentary Festival, which takes place annually in Cape Town and Johannesburg, showcases African and international documentaries and shorts. It is one of the top African festivals devoted to the genre, welcoming 10,000 filmgoers a year. Its 19th edition takes place from 1 to 11 June, and also includes virtual reality and immersive media films.

~ [encounters.co.za](http://encounters.co.za)

Ethiopia's Addis Ababa has the most expensive hotel room prices in Africa, averaging about US \$230.

**People**

Jackson Biko is a well-known Kenyan writer and blogger. Follow him on [bikozulu.co.ke](http://bikozulu.co.ke)

Follow this

**Instagram Shutterbugs**



*“So many events occurring here should be made known to the outside world”*

**Ley Uwera**

**@leyuwera1, 66k followers**  
A freelance photojournalist based in Goma, Uwera posts documentary-style colour photos from Congo and beyond. Her portraits of street life and street style have an impromptu feel.



*“I come from a matriarchal society. Women in my part of the world are very strong”*

**Nana Kofi Acquah,**

**@africashowboy, 95k followers**  
This Ghana-based assignment photographer for Getty Images aims to make women's lives more visible. Acquah makes use of his journalism and advertising backgrounds to create images that display a keen appreciation of light, texture and composition.

**Sarah Waiswa**

**@lafrohemian, 34k followers**  
Nairobi-based Instagrammer Waiswa, also known as the Afrohemian Nomad, directs her street photographs as if she was in the studio. Her subjects include graffiti artists, fashion models, school children and beach fanatics on the Kenyan coast.



**Andrew Esiebo**

**@andrewesiebo, 91k followers**  
A self-taught Lagos-based photographer, Esiebo posts a visual diary of images of labourers, children, street scenes, interiors and landscapes, that are beautifully composed and balanced. His award-winning photography has been widely exhibited and published.



*“Instagram can be seen as an extension of my professional practice”*



**Jackson Biko**

**15 Minutes of Fame**

A friend of mine who works for a new international company in Nairobi was about to host some important bosses from its main office in the States. She had ants in her pants because she didn't know where to take them. I told her, “Take them to see the elephants at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.” Those chaps do a great job of rescuing orphaned elephants. “Will you accompany us?” she asked. I agreed because I also like baby elephants. Who doesn't?

Three weeks later, she and I and three of her colleagues (all wearing corny safari hats) were at David Sheldrick. They stroked and fed the baby elephants and cooed. Then one of them asked if elephants have teeth. My friend turned to me, like I'm the official spokesman for elephants. I said, I didn't know, but possibly they do because they eat grass and shrubs.

“How many teeth do they have?” he persisted. He was a big man with a well-trimmed moustache. I guessed, “Forty-five?” because that was the first number that popped into my head. (I have since learned that they actually have 26). Then he said, “I learned somewhere that elephants don't produce gas like human beings.” I was tempted to ask, “Was that on Fox News?” But I didn't because my friend really loves her job.

Instead I changed the subject. “Did you gentlemen know that the elephant's closest relative is a guinea pig look-alike called the rock hyrax?” They stared at me. The baby elephant they were stroking lifted its trunk and sneezed, or maybe sniggered, we will never know. Then one of the rangers came and stole my thunder by providing them with actual elephant facts. Thus ended my fifteen minutes of fame.

Gas-less elephants notwithstanding, we all had a great time. It was a brilliant day, the sun was out. They posed with the elephants. “You should adopt one,” I urged one of them, “then you can call her Pingul!” I was ignored. Deservedly so.

Something about those baby elephants, with their beady innocent eyes and big feet, just softens your heart. One day elephants will rule the world. Nobody believes me now, but you'll see – it's coming.

Hannah Wieslander (Illustration: Jackson Biko)

One of the most beautiful and luxurious lodges in Africa is the **&Beyond Ngorongoro Crater Lodge** in Tanzania.

**Gadgets**

Nairobi, Cape Town and Lagos are exciting African cities for entrepreneurs, with helpful incubators and business development support.

Travel gadgets

**Always Charged**



Solar power

**Window Sticker**

*This circular solar-powered charger combines appealing design with functionality. And it sticks straight to any window.* The Port solar charger by XD Design can charge your cell phone at home, in the car or even during a flight. All you need is a window. The strong suction pad will keep it in place. Inside is a 1,000mAh, rechargeable lithium battery to store the collected solar energy. Don't worry if the sun isn't shining, you can still charge your phone with the integrated USB cable. Lightweight and easy to use, this little orb will keep you powered up wherever you go. It's available in five different colours, so you'll always know whose is whose.

~ [xd-design.com](http://xd-design.com) €59.95

**1 Slimming it**

PoGo stands for Power On The Go, and this device – the PoGo Super Slim Power Bank 5,000mAh – really does deliver. It provides at least two full charges to any smartphone and can work without being plugged into a power source. The slim design also means it can slip easily into either pocket or purse.  
~ [thepogo.com](http://thepogo.com) US \$16.99

**2 Rough & rugged**

A power charger for the real outdoorsman (or woman), the GoalZero Venture 30 solar recharging kit has a 7,800mAh capacity. Made to be taken off the beaten path, it can charge phones, tablets or cameras in any weather.

Use the USB or solar panel supplied. And, because fate regularly seems to make multiple devices lose power simultaneously, this charger has two high-speed USB ports, for dual charging. The 65-lumen light helps you to still see what you're doing after the sun goes down.  
~ [goalzero.com](http://goalzero.com) US \$169.95

**3 Ultra-mini**

Is it a lipstick? No! It's a charger. This stylish stick – the Jackery Mini – is incredibly compact, measuring only 9.3 cm in length and 2.2 cm in width. Despite it's size, it still packs in a decent amount of power, with a capacity of 3,350mAh. Suitable for smartphones and tablets.  
~ [jackery.com](http://jackery.com) US \$29.99

1



**Inspired to buy?**  
See our shopping magazine *Karibu*.

2



3



Text: Annemarie Hoeve