

76

percent of Africa's elephants are in transboundary populations, which means they are able to move freely across countries to gain access to water and food.



Of all the gold mined in history, nearly half has come from Witwatersrand, South Africa.

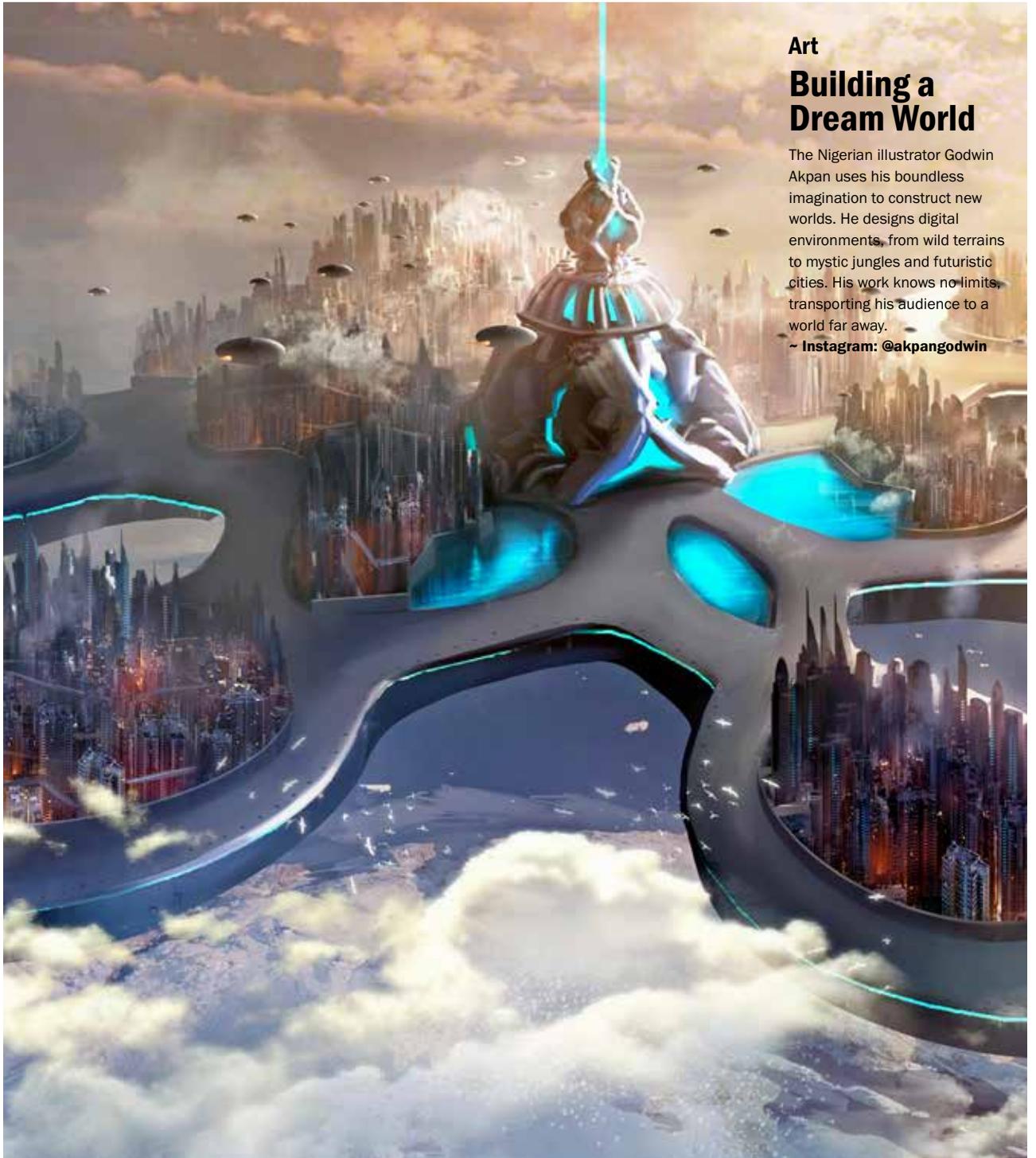
Habari

Art

Building a Dream World

The Nigerian illustrator Godwin Akpan uses his boundless imagination to construct new worlds. He designs digital environments, from wild terrains to mystic jungles and futuristic cities. His work knows no limits, transporting his audience to a world far away.

~ Instagram: @akpangodwin



The political capital of the Côte d'Ivoire is Yamoussoukro, but Abidjan is its largest city and economic hub.



Nairobi

Over half of the population of Africa is under 25 years old, which makes it the youngest population in the world.

Hotel

Tamarind Tree Hotel

It was only a matter of time, wasn't it? Tamarind Group already operates several successful restaurants and leisure operations in Africa, including: Carnivore, their flagship restaurant, which is popular with the carnivores (it remains a landmark of sorts in Kenya's restaurant scenery); the Simba Saloon; Tamambo Karen; Tamarind Nairobi; the famous Tamarind Dhow in Mombasa; Tamarind Mombasa; and the Clifftop Terrace. They also have the Golden Key Casino. Now they have opened Tamarind Tree Hotel, which has 160 rooms, a restaurant, a lounge aptly named Dawa – after their famous cocktail – a coffee shop, and meeting rooms. The hotel is located near Carnivore Restaurant, and it's just around the bend from Nairobi National Park.

~ tamarindtree-hotels.com



Nairobi page text: Jackson Biko

Food truck

Mama Rocks

We might disagree on many things as a city, but one thing we probably agree on, is that the burgers at Mama Rocks food truck, well, rock. It started with two sisters – Samantha and Natalie – who opened up at the Alchemist Bar in Westlands, throwing their hat in the ring of afro-cool street food. What's unique about their burgers? They use their own blend of rib eye, topside and chuck, from grass-fed, free-range, organic Borana cattle. Now they've opened a branch on Argwings Kodhek Road in Kilimani. Dig in.

~ mamarocksburgers.com



Restaurant

Bao-Box

This is the first restaurant that doesn't encourage eating or drinking alone. It's a bar with games (there are board games and there are cards). You pay US\$10 for unlimited games for the night. There's an open kitchen at Bao-Box, so you can see the chefs working. The bar is fully stocked, and there's great outside seating with a nice view of Nairobi's Westlands. As you can tell, it's great for friends who want to hang out and play some games.

“The youth can walk faster but the elder knows the road”

– African proverb –

What's On

The Goliath frog, the world's largest frog, is found in Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon.



While Egypt is famous for its pyramids, the Republic of Sudan actually has 223 pyramids of its own. That's twice as many as Egypt!



Festival

AfrikaBurn

AfrikaBurn, the African little sister of America's Burning Man festival, is back for another six days of freedom at Stonehenge Farm in the Tankwa Karoo National Park in South Africa. This spectacular festival is the brainchild of artists and performers from around the world who gather once a year to create a temporary city of art, costume, music and performance. The festival takes place from 23-29 April.

~ afrikaburn.com



Innovation

Swimma Caps

There's a new product taking the market by storm: special swim caps for high-volume hairstyles like dreads, braids, weaves and afros. Swimma Caps are made of silicone material to prevent damage to natural hair. Nomvuyo Treffers, a photographer from Cape Town and mother of two, developed the caps after struggling to find ones to fit her hair.

~ swimma.co.za

Habari text: Eva de Vries

Talent

Outstanding African Architects

Contemporary African architecture is extremely diverse, ranging from sustainable rural developments to luxury apartments and offices, schools, hospitals and splendid safari lodges. Meet three of Africa's most talented architects.



Diebedo Kéré | Burkina Faso

Born in the small town of Gando in Burkina Faso, Diebedo Francis Kéré was educated in Germany. Today his firm is based in Berlin, allowing him to focus on projects in Germany and beyond. No matter how far he travels, he continues to reinvest his knowledge in Burkina Faso. Currently, he is developing a new parliament building in the capital, Ouagadougou.

~ kere-architecture.com

David Adjaye | Ghana

Sir David Adjaye was born in Tanzania to Ghanaian parents and grew up in the UK. He now has offices in London, New York and Accra. His buildings, such as the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C., are famous worldwide. Adjaye is currently working on the Ghana National Museum on Slavery and Freedom.

~ adjaye.com



Olajumoke Adenowo | Nigeria

Olajumoke Adenowo of Nigeria is one of few women in a male-dominated industry. Her work focuses on industrial parks, institutional facilities, residences and offices and is mainly known in Nigeria and other African countries. She designed her first building, The Federal Ministry of Finance, in Abuja, at age 23. “To be a great architect, you have to understand art, history, culture, sociology, physics and sometimes even chemistry,” she says.

~ adconsultinglimited.com

The island of Mauritius is hit by several tropical cyclones every year between January and March.



Arts & Culture

There are more twins born in Benin than anywhere else in the world: 27 twins per 1,000 births. The world average is 13.6 twins per 1,000 births.



Q&A

It's all about the hair

“Hair sculptor” and aspiring fashion designer, Laetitia Ky from Côte d’Ivoire, treats her 62,000 Instagram followers to the most amazing pieces of art, all made with her own hair. From love hearts to angels, her work always contains a message.

Why do you use hair to create art?

I use hair because it’s a medium that I’m familiar with, and that I love. Ever since I was a little girl, I’ve been fascinated with hair. Hair is an excellent medium for showing off the aesthetic of black hair, which for a long time was considered less beautiful.

What do you want to tell people with your art?

I want to show people that they shouldn’t be afraid to be themselves and live their truth. Be original and don’t put limits on yourself. Self-expression is the first step to happiness.

Where do you get your ideas from?

I can’t really explain it. I find inspiration in everything and nothing at the same time. Generally, the ideas hit me like a flash. It’s all very intuitive. And when something comes to me, I try to think of ways to make it real.

What is your advice for other (young) artists?

My advice is to stay as true to yourself as possible. It’s the best way to achieve your best work, without wearing yourself out.

~ Instagram: @laetitiaky

Fashion film festival Bokeh

The Bokeh Festival has become one of the world’s most creative and inspiring fashion film festivals in the last couple of years. The event brings together creative visionaries in film, fashion, and other artistic and technical industries. The next festival will take place in April this year, serving fashion and film enthusiasts in both Cape Town and Johannesburg.

~ bokehfestival.co.za



Sport Shompole Wildlife Marathon

Kenya’s most scenic marathon takes place amid the wilderness of the Shompole Wildlife Conservancy, not far from the Tanzanian border. While running, participants might encounter zebras, wildebeest, giraffes and other animals. This spectacular running event is held on 18 March and includes 30-km, 20-km and 10-km race routes.

~ shompolemarathon.com



Design Furniture that tells a story

London-based designer Yinka Ilori specialises in upcycling vintage furniture inspired by the traditional Nigerian parables and African fabrics that remind him of his childhood. Each piece of furniture tells an interesting story, evoking themes like hope, sexuality and social status.

~ yinkailori.com

Tanzania's Zanzibar Archipelago is home to the largest anthropod in the world, the coconut crab.



People

Brazilian samba is believed to have originated in Angola, where it's known as "semba". The two dances are very similar. Angolan semba is known as "the music of the sea".



Cop Greenlights Gun Sale

A rap on my window. It's a hawker. He's selling a set of chrome kitchen knives. Using a carrot, he demonstrates the knives' sharpness by slicing it. He also has car wipers, if I'm interested. I shake my head and stare ahead. He stands there for a while in case I change my mind and buy a wiper for my car. His shadow moves on. Traffic inches forward slightly. Another guy comes to the window. He's selling a shaver. He shows me how it works by running it against his face. I shake my head. I'm looking grim. I have been told I don't have a face that is approachable, yet these hawkers are always trying to sell me carrot graters. The traffic jam is "man-made" because we don't trust our traffic lights in Nairobi, so we post traffic policemen at those lights to contradict them. So if it's green and time to go, the policeman will raise his hand to stop you. It's the only moment they get to be human. But this is Africa, and, as Africans, we're told that we're more likely to die of lifestyle diseases than by a lion eating us. So patience, my friend, is key; you can't bring disease into your heart by being calm.

But one man's meat is another man's poison, which means that while we grunt and moan and wear long faces in this traffic jam, another man is using this grand disruption of our lives to feed his children. The hawker. Talking of which, now there's another one at my window, this time with boiled eggs. Maybe it's my grim face; he probably thinks that boiled eggs will cheer me up. You can't win. Then there's another man selling "airtime". He's wearing mobile phones like a soldier would wear a machine-gun bullet belt. He presses a phone against my window. I pretend to be on the phone, which must mean that I do have "airtime". Then comes a boy selling water, which would have been useful for washing a boiled egg with, but the moment passed, sorry. A blind man shows up led by another boy. He rattles a metal tin that has a few coins in it. I don't feel bad for saying this, but I'm not sure if he really is blind. I've lived in this city long enough to know that what you see isn't always what you get. The couple understand that my sympathy hasn't been evoked, and I won't be contributing.

The trick to surviving this barrage of Nairobi hawkers is to not make eye contact. The moment you make eye contact you are toast. It shows that you're interested in buying a blender. And I made a mistake of making eye contact with one guy who was crossing in front of my car carrying a forest of plastic water guns. These chaps are pros, they can tell if you're a father. They can also tell which fathers want to buy toys for themselves. And that's why he came to my window. It's also why I rolled it down a little. The Nairobi summer heat and his charm leaped into my car. I pretended that I wasn't keen. I said my son had many plastic guns. Then I said I was trying to teach him to be non-violent. Then the hawker started cracking jokes, which I will admit were funny. So my mistake was to laugh, and once you've laughed with a hawker you

“This is the beauty of our traffic jams, you never know what you will go home with”

already have a gun to your head. So I bought his gun.

These chaps are a study in charm. They take no and they take another no, then they turn it into a yes. And once you roll down your window, it's pretty much a wrap. And this is the beauty of our traffic jams, you never know what you will go home with. It could be anything from a puppy to a wooden coat hanger.

Illustration: Hannah Wieslander

The Okavango Delta in Botswana is the largest inland delta in the world. When it's dry, it spans an area of 15,000 sq km.



Gadgets

Before colonial rule, Africa was comprised of nearly 10,000 states and autonomous groups with distinct languages and customs.

Travel gadgets

Health Trackers



Fridge friend Chill Bill

This handy little guy lives in your fridge to keep it smelling as fresh as the purest polar snow.

Ever feel the need to wrinkle your nose upon opening the fridge? Chill Bill, by Monkey Business, to the rescue. Just fill him up with baking soda and choose a shelf to sit him on. There, he will do his job, coolly absorbing all those unwanted odours. The friendly black-and-white design serves as a cheery welcome every time you open the door. Replace the soda regularly for the best results.

~ eu.mnkbusiness.com US\$14



iHealth View

Check your blood pressure and pulse at home or on the go with the iHealth View Wireless Wrist Blood Pressure Monitor. Clinically tested and FDA approved, it records your data in intuitive charts that can be easily shared with a doctor via your smartphone, tablet or laptop. ~ four.fit US\$99.99



FourFit Health Band

This lightweight health band has all the features you would expect from a fitness watch and then some. In addition to tracking your calories and sleep patterns, it keeps tabs on your blood pressure and oxygen levels too. ~ ihealthlabs.com €98



Garmin Vivoactive HR GPS Smart Watch

Whether you're running, cycling, skiing or surfing, this smartwatch can withstand the demands of even the sportiest types, measuring your heart rate the whole time. Strap it on and go, go, go! ~ buy.garmin.com US\$249.99



Beurer Wrist Blood Pressure Monitor BC 58

As well as measuring your blood pressure, here is a device that also detects heart rhythm disturbances, issuing an automatic warning in case of an emergency. The large LCD display is easy to read and features touch buttons. ~ Karibu US\$95



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