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South Africa offers superb sightings of the largest mammal on Earth: the blue whale, which can grow up to 33 m in length.

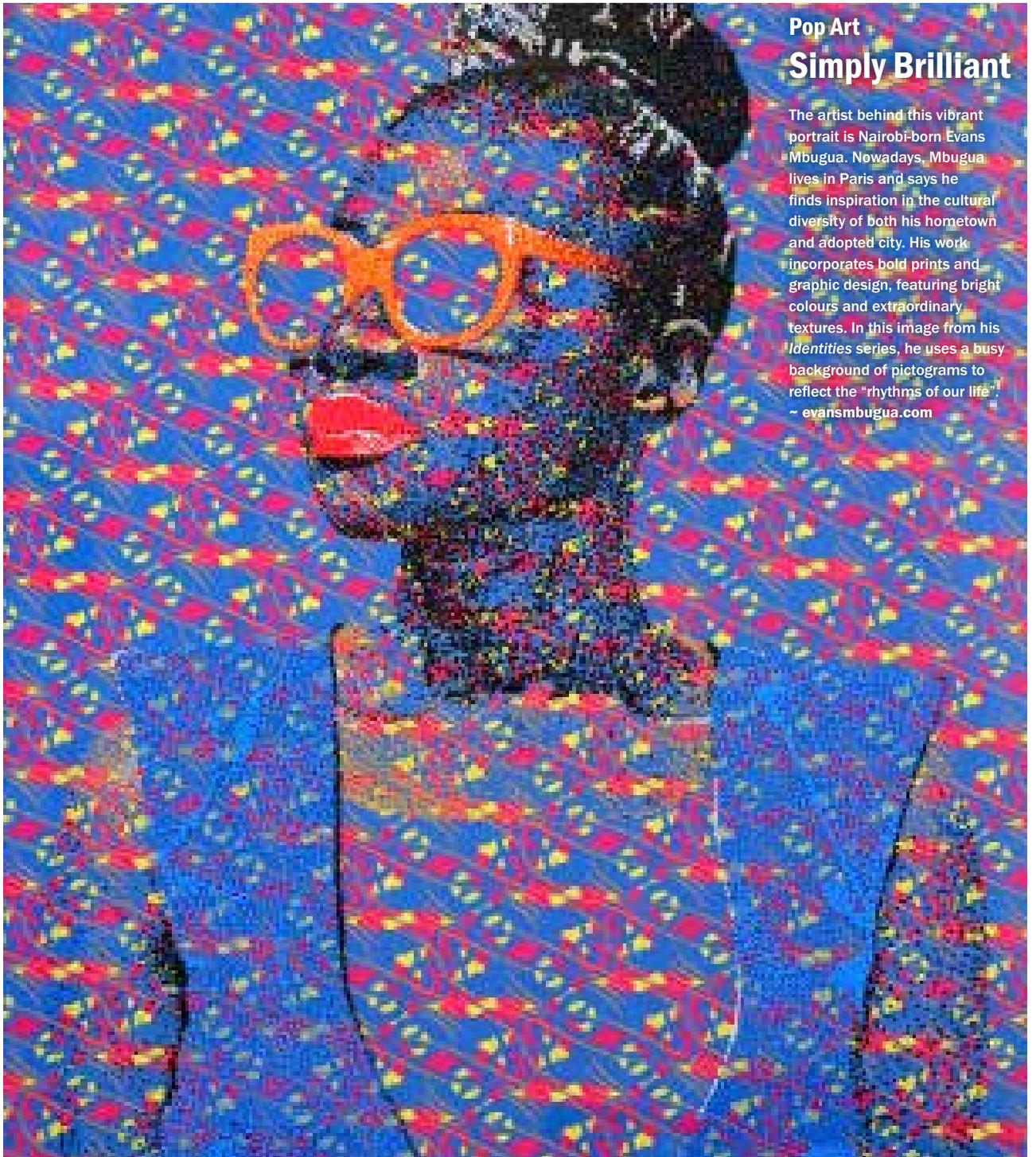


Tucked away in Thika, just north of Nairobi, the Fourteen Falls are ranked among the longest and steepest waterfalls in East Africa.

Habari

Pop Art Simply Brilliant

The artist behind this vibrant portrait is Nairobi-born Evans Mbugua. Nowadays, Mbugua lives in Paris and says he finds inspiration in the cultural diversity of both his hometown and adopted city. His work incorporates bold prints and graphic design, featuring bright colours and extraordinary textures. In this image from his *Identities* series, he uses a busy background of pictograms to reflect the "rhythms of our life".
~ evansmbugua.com



Ugandans are accustomed to using bananas in all sorts of recipes, even wine.



Nairobi

Kenyan environmentalist Professor Wangari Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, making her the first African woman to receive the honour.



Safari Into The Wild

You have a night on your safari schedule? Just one free night before you proceed to Maasai Mara and the Amboseli? Book yourself into this luxury tent camp by the lake, which means you get the bush and lake experience. Think golden back acacia trees under the shadow of the ancient volcanoes. Think game driver in the Soysambu Conservancy where it sits. Lions have been spotted many times (you might see one yourself). Think campfire at sundown at one of the astonishing viewpoints. Think silence. All these experiences are just a two-hour drive from Nairobi. But as you happily drown in silence, you won't be able to tell.

~ serenahotels.com



Micro-brewery Brew Bistro

Big Breweries have nailed down a great concept with their Brew Bistro chain of lounges. Apart from Ngong Road and Westlands lounges, they just opened a new one at the Galleria Mall on Langata Road. The decor is industrial-chic. A glass wall separates the brewery from the main bar, so you can see how the sausage is made, so to speak. There is a great jazz band on Fridays.

~ thebigfivebreweries.com

Talking tables

Nairobi's Foodie Favourites

Asian food

Pan Asian Yao

Got any plans for Sunday brunch? If not, are you willing to go to United Nations Avenue in Gigiri? At Pan Asian Yao you will find Bento trays (cuisine from Malaysia, China, Indonesia and India) and a hot pot menu (broths, chicken, fish, duck, crab, mushrooms, noodles and prawns). It's an Asian Jamboree of sorts. It would help if you came with an appetite.

~ Kitisuru, Nairobi

Local food

Manor 540

You want traditional food cooked in a traditional way: local organic vegetables, chicken, fish, plantains. You want to have it in an open space, under a banda in a garden, washing your hands from a jug. You also want a cold Tusker after to "digest" the food, as Kenyans say. What you are looking for is The Manor 540, a sprawling former colonial home once owned by a colonial governor.

~ Muthangari Road, Lavington



Nairobi page text: Jackson Biko

"Unity is strength, division is weakness"

– Swahili Proverb –

The Ethiopian calendar has 13 months, celebrating New Year's Day on 11 September.



What's On

Most tourists in Tanzania flock to the nature areas in the north, but there are many regions to the south worth visiting, such as Kitulo National Park.

African art Dak'Art Biennial

Throughout May, the Senegalese capital, Dakar, is the place to be for art lovers because Dak'Art, or the Dakar Biennial of Contemporary African Art, is dominating the city. The 13th edition of this prestigious event, which takes place from 3 May until 2 June, is called The Red Hour and focuses on coming of age and metamorphosis.

~ biennaledakar.org



Q&A

Sailing Against The Plastic Tide



On Lamu Island, a dedicated team is hard at work building a 50-tonne dhow boat from recycled plastic waste such as old flip-flops. The Flipflop Dhow is set to depart at the end of the year, sailing 5,250 km from the Kenyan coast southwards to Cape Town. Why? Expedition founder Ben Morison explains.

What makes this project so important?

Africans all over the continent are rapidly embracing the many faces of consumerism. This project aims to play a vital role in talking about how we can do this responsibly when it comes to plastic. The core message is recycle, re-use and innovate, which is what Kenyans are best at!

Why use a boat to spread the message?

Half of the plastic drifting ashore is from other countries, so it is clear that solving the issue locally means addressing it internationally. What better envoy could we have than a big dhow made from that exact same plastic we collected from Lamu beaches?

What is the project's biggest achievement so far?

We have helped kickstart a plastic revolution! Globally, between 2016 and 2018, there has been an enormous increase in awareness about plastic pollution. I am happy to have played a role in this transformation.

~ theflipflop.com



Festival Beer, Beer, Beer

In Pretoria on 16 June? Head for the Capital Craft Beer Festival. With more than 200 brews on tap, this popular event attracts over 10,000 people each year. There are also plenty of non-alcoholic drinks to choose from, live music, plus a kids' play area.

~ capitalcraft.co.za

Habari text: Eva de Vries

The Lekki Market in Lagos is one of Nigeria's most popular markets, an epicentre for local arts and crafts.



Column

There are many myths in Madagascar that maintain that lemurs and humans share a common ancestry.



Jackson Biko

Box X

“Put her over there,” I told the two men who had carried her into my house. They placed her against the wall, under a trophy I had won in some dodgy competition that I entered after losing a dare. We all stood back and looked at her in appreciation. Such a beauty. She belonged. She was now home. Her age didn't show, but if you were knowledgeable about these things, you would know that she was knocking on 63. I ran my hands over her after the men left and felt the music inside her, trapped there for all those decades. She was still in perfect shape. I brought my face close to her. Then I did something ungentlemanly: I smelled her. (You never smell a lady; not an aged one, at least.) I got a lungful of her. Yes, she smelled old all right.

She smelled of post World War II, but she wasn't ugly; she was beautiful and graceful and she had a presence. She smelled of the year the first *Guinness Book of Records* was published, or the year Bill Gates, Whoopi Goldberg and Mata Amritanandamayi (just Google her) were born. But mostly, she smelled of someone else; of men she had been with before, perhaps some women too. She smelled of their adoration and appreciation, and she smelled of their lives. But she was now mine and she would eventually smell of me as well. Still, I felt the distinct feeling that she could never really be mine exclusively, she's German after all. If we are honest with ourselves here, we all want a piece of German, don't we? The Mercedes, the Porsche, the Audi. We might own German, but we can never really embody that spirit, can we? Nevertheless, it's that spirit that was now sitting in my house. A musical spirit.

Ignorant guests – because I get ignorant guests coming over to drink my whisky under the pretence of talking about politics – always point at her and ask, “Did you buy a cupboard?” Like this is the '80s. Nobody buys cupboards anymore, apart from quantity surveyors. “That's a vintage Grundig record player, you twerp,” I say. Very few understand why anyone would buy a vintage record player built in 1955. They ask annoying questions like, “What's the use when you can stream music?” So I normally just mumble, “This is beyond you and your Bluetooth.”

Children are worse – as guests, mostly – because they walk into your bedroom and open things without permission. Firstly, they don't comprehend that there was a time like the '50s. They ask silly questions like: “Did they have legs and walk like us?” And, “What did they wear?” Secondly, they are used to music that fits in the palm of their hand. One called it a “box”. “Uncle Biko, what's in that box?” Like I had a coffin in my house. I showed him how it plays using the Isley Brothers album, *Go For Your Guns*. After placing the record, I watched the arm swing over the rotating album and, finally, I marvelled as the stylus settled into a groove. They looked at it like I was performing magic. The look that said, “There is no way music will come out of this ancient thing.” There was that scratchy

“They looked at it like I was performing magic”

sound as the stylus moved along the grooves, the lovely sound of history. Then music trickled like water from a spring. “It's cool,” he said and walked away to find something on Netflix.

And that's the thing: not everybody understands her. But nobody has to understand her. She's like quantum theory, most people know of it but not everybody understands it. Okay, maybe that's the wrong example. It's like Putin. There are people who get him even when he's shirtless on horseback, and then there are those who don't, even when he's in a suit and tie. I get Putin. Shirtless or not. And I get her in all her woodiness.

Illustration: Hannah Wieslander

One of the best things to do in Gabon is relax on Pointe Denis Beach. If you're lucky, you might see a few turtles.



Arts & Culture

Swaziland's official name is the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Marathon Run with The Big Five

How about combining a marathon with a classic African safari? Runners from around the world can do both in the Big Five Marathon in South Africa. The route traverses the habitats of elephants, rhinos, buffaloes, lions and leopards. Did we mention that there are no fences? This year's event is on 23 June.

~ big-five-marathon.com



Design Tutu 2.0

This colourful piece of art is more than just a lamp. As winner of a competition organised by the well-known Design Indaba Conference, it is 2017's Most Beautiful Object in South Africa. Designed by Thabisa Mjo, the Tutu 2.0 Pendant Light is inspired by Western and African fashion styles and takes the form of an elegant ballerina tutu.

~ [@mashtdesignstudio](http://mashtdesignstudio)



Heritage Lake Turkana

Get ready for another edition of the Marsabit-Lake Turkana Cultural Festival. This year's event takes place from 28 to 30 June. Visitors will be treated to unique performances and cultural traditions from 14 ethnic communities, featuring costumes, arts, dance and music. The goal of the festival is to promote peace in the region and welcome visitors and locals alike to the breathtaking Lake Turkana area with its green waters, rocky desert landscapes and giant crocodiles.

~ laketurkanaculturalfestival.com



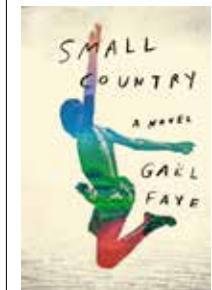
Film Urban Stories

African film fans take note! This *African Metropolis* DVD box set features six short urban tales of life in six African cities: Abidjan, Cairo, Dakar, Johannesburg, Lagos and Nairobi.

~ thisisthenest.com

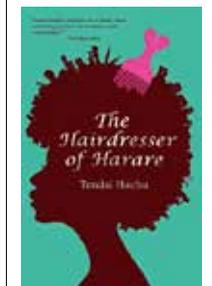
Books African Literature

The list of must-read books by contemporary African authors seems to be getting longer and longer. With so many incredible books to choose from, where to start? Here is our pick of three unforgettable works.



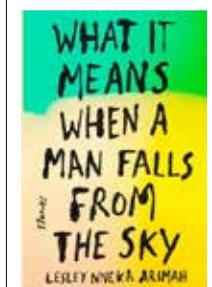
Small Country by Gaël Faye

This powerful novel follows the life of a boy, Gabriel, and his family in Burundi during the Rwandan genocide. It describes a devastating end of innocence as seen through the eyes of a young child caught in the maelstrom of history. *Small Country* is a stirring tribute to a time of tragedy and to the bright days that came before it.



The Hairdresser of Harare by Tendai Huchu

A stylish, funny and sophisticated first-hand account of life today in Zimbabwe's capital city. It defies stereotypes and challenges injustice with fearlessness. *The Hairdresser of Harare* is an upbeat, charming, at times heartbreaking, story of friendship, prejudice and forgiveness from the heart of contemporary Africa.



What It Means When a Man Falls from the Sky by Lesley Nneka Arimah

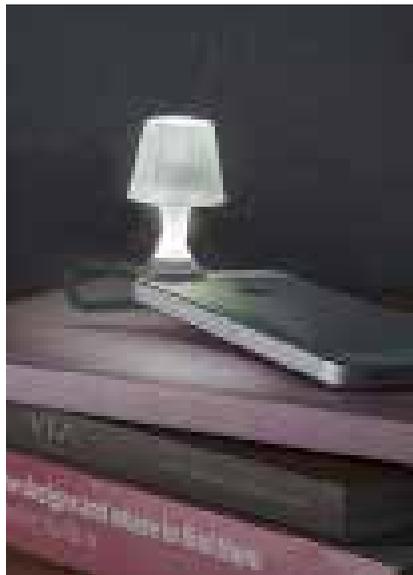
This dazzlingly accomplished debut collection of short stories explores the ties that bind parents and children, husbands and wives, lovers and friends to one another and to the places they call home.

Located along the Ugandan border, Mount Stanley is the only peak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to exceed 5,000 m.



Gadgets

The Senegal and Niger Rivers make southern Mali the most fertile region in the country.



Tech talk Tiny Lamp

Ever been temporarily blinded by the harsh glare of your smartphone's inbuilt flashlight? Here's a nifty little add-on that's altogether more atmospheric.

This tiny lampshade can instantly transform your smartphone into a cute, miniature nightlight. Just clip it on, switch on the flashlight function and enjoy the soft ambience. The light is still strong enough for reading. Available in red, grey or blue, Luma was created by Peleg Design in collaboration with Maor Aharon and the Holon Institute of Technology.

~ peleg-design.com US\$10



Portable speakers

Boom, Boom, Boom

① B&O Play Beolit 17

A Bluetooth speaker oozing design appeal, this little beauty is big on sound, with a 360-degree speaker. Offering up to 24-hours of battery life, it packs in enough juice for a decent day out and there is a special app that shows just how much time you have left.

~ beoplay.com US\$499

② XQISIT S30 Bluetooth Speaker

With twin 2W speakers and a 6W subwoofer, this speaker has the power to amp-up any beach party or barbeque, while its flat design makes it compact enough to easily fit into a bag or backpack. It offers 15 hours of uninterrupted play time and can be quickly recharged afterwards

via USB. Fitted with Bluetooth 4.0 for optimal performance and easy pairing, it also has an inbuilt microphone for handsfree conversations.

~ Karibu US\$99.95

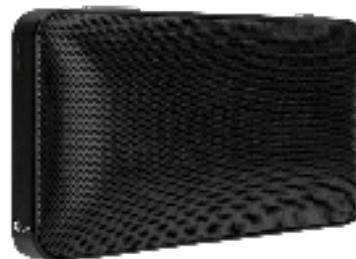
③ JBL Charge 3

Available in a rainbow of colours, this oblong speaker is perfect for the poolside, as it can survive an accidental splash or dunking. It has its own battery pack, so you can listen to your favourite tunes while keeping your phone or tablet charged. A 6000mAh power bank supports up to 20 hours of playback and there's a speakerphone function for calls. The hardest thing is choosing the colour. The rest is easy.

~ jbl.com US\$149.95



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②

Inspired to buy? See our shopping magazine Karibu.



③