

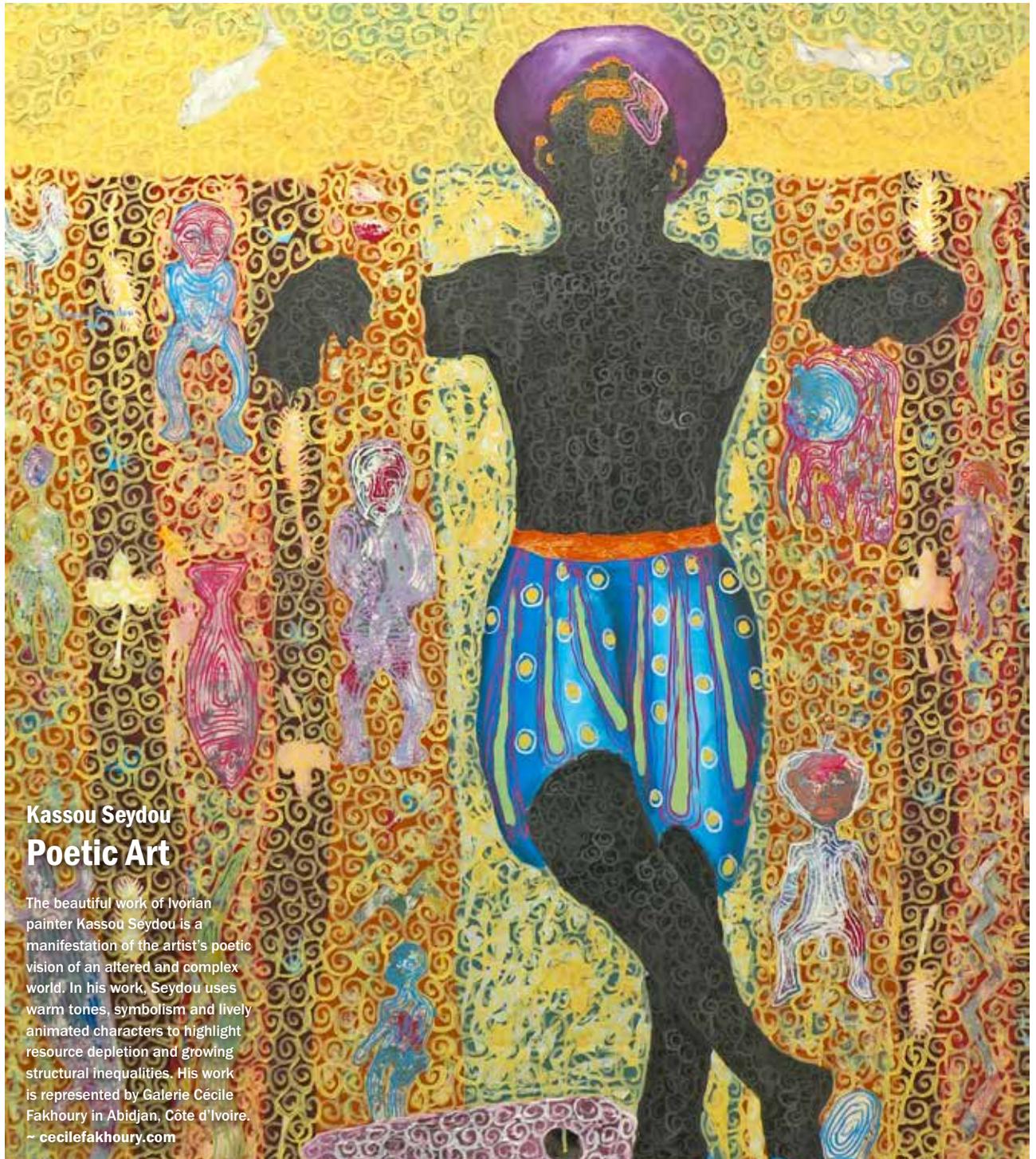
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Kenya is also home to the Marine Big Five: dolphin, turtle, whale, shark and dugong.



Malawi's beautiful Zomba Plateau is 1,800 m high, and is characterised by forests, flowers, waterfalls and spectacular views.

Habari



Kassou Seydou Poetic Art

The beautiful work of Ivorian painter Kassou Seydou is a manifestation of the artist's poetic vision of an altered and complex world. In his work, Seydou uses warm tones, symbolism and lively animated characters to highlight resource depletion and growing structural inequalities. His work is represented by Galerie Cécile Fakhoury in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
~ cecilefakhoury.com

King Mswati III of Swaziland recently changed his country's name to eSwatini.



Nairobi

Mozambique's capital, Maputo, was known as Lourenço Marques before it gained independence.



Westlands Gypsy Bar

Gypsy Bar has been going strong since 1994. It consists of four themed bars and a restaurant. The crowd is mainly eclectic and mostly expatriates. If you come for dinner, order the steak from their grill menu. But to get the best of Gypsy Bar, go after 10 p.m. because the place doesn't abate until the early hours of the morning.

Westlands Sierra Burger and Wine

Sierra brewery was brewing craft beer before it became trendy in Kenya. Their new place, Sierra Burger and Wine, introduces delectable and much-lauded burgers made from Black Angus beef. To wash them down are numerous South African wines and craft beers. Great for fine dining. Sit outside on the balcony for a more relaxed experience.

~ sierrapremium.com



Day out The Forest

Spend a day in nature and pack it with outdoor activities. Thirty minutes' drive from Nairobi, in Kereita Forest in the scenic and lush Rift Valley you can ride a zip line, play paintball, do archery, ride a horse, fly fish, camp, walk, plant a tree and, when done, sit down in a wonderful restaurant in the woods for a meal. Then get back to your hotel in time for a drink at the hotel bar.

~ theforest.co.ke



"I belong deeply to myself"

— Warsan Shire —
Somali-British Poet

Dinner surprises Giraffe Manor

Picture 48,000 sq m of private land within 500,000 sq m of indigenous forest in the Langata area of Nairobi. Now imagine a history that goes back to the 1930s, when European settlers set up camp in their safari hats. Think iconic buildings untouched by time; elegant interiors, green gardens, sun-filled terraces and courtyards. This is Giraffe Manor. But its biggest attraction are the Rothschild's giraffes that poke their necks through the restaurant windows for treats from guest's hands. Ellen DeGeneres was recently here, if that helps.

~ thesafaricollection.com



Nairobi page text: Jackson Biko

The most famous volcano in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the 3,470-m high **Nyiragongo**, located in the Virunga National Park.



What's On

Loango National Park in Gabon offers one of the world's most exhilarating safari experiences thanks to its irresistible combination of scenery and wildlife.



Shopping Made in Kenya

The name says it all. This shop partners with designers, producers and other creatives from Nairobi – and beyond – to sell unique products, from table settings to luxury leather bags, delicious chocolate and eye-catching jewellery. The shop is located at the Alchemist Bar in Nairobi, and is open from Tuesday to Sunday, from 12–8 p.m.

~ madeinkenya.xyz



Sport Amazing Maasai Marathon

The high altitude, heat, dust and dirt roads are just a few of the factors that make the Amazing Maasai Marathon (11 August) one of the most challenging races in Kenya. But the beautiful landscape and encounters with antelopes, zebras and giraffes make the race well worth the struggle. Not only that, the event generates income for its hosts: the local Maasai community.

~ marathontours.com

Habari text: Eva de Vries

Event 100% Design

This five-day event is a high-end, contemporary showcase of the most inspirational designs and designers from Africa and beyond. Featuring everything from extraordinary furniture, fabrics and lighting, to hotel designs and trendy minimalist offices, the event highlights what's hip. From 8–12 August in Johannesburg.

~ 100percentdesign.co.za



Our picks Street Artists

In most African cities, street art comes in the form of beautifully painted shop fronts, creative political campaigns and murals designed to inspire. Msafiri highlights three African street artists making waves.



Falko One | South Africa
The South African spray paint maestro Falko One is famous among street-art

fanatics all over the world. Over the last 30 years, he has been adding colour to cities everywhere – from his hometown of Cape Town to Mumbai – inspiring new generations wherever he goes. Many of his murals come to life through interaction with real people. Instagram: @falko1graffiti.



Collin Sekajugo | Rwanda & Uganda
Rwandan-Ugandan visual artist Collin Sekajugo believes

strongly in the role of art in social transformation. With his impressive art installations, he raises awareness for issues such as discrimination, environmental change and segregation. His work has also been exhibited outside of Africa. Instagram: @collin_sekajugo.



Wise Two | Kenya
Wise Two began his international painting career as a seven-year-old boy in Nairobi. His

work is marked by vibrant colours and fascinating patterns, influenced by African culture with a touch of Egyptian hieroglyphs and his Indian heritage. Together with other Kenyan artists, he has been involved in numerous social justice street art campaigns. On Instagram: @WiseTwo.

Akagera National Park is the largest park in Rwanda and one of the oldest in Africa. Lions and rhinos were recently reintroduced here.



Column

The beautiful **Mount Elgon** is located on the border of Uganda and Kenya. It has five major peaks.



Jackson Biko

Burden of Proof

Five years ago, at Dublin Airport, an immigration official asked me if I was there to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. I said, "No, I'm here to see Limerick". He slowly looked up at me and asked in an accent that sounded like a better educated Conor McGregor. "I'm sorry, what was that?" he said. I repeated my answer. He was taken aback. I bet if he was Conor McGregor, he would have growled, "But why in the fookin' hell would you wanna do that for, bud?" All the way from Africa to see bloody Limerick?" Instead, he said, "Oh, Limerick. Why do you want to go there?" I said, "It's where Frank McCourt grew up." He stared at me blankly. "*Angela's Ashes*? Pulitzer winner?" I asked. He shook his head and stamped my passport.

I love Europe. I love Europe in mid spring. I love the people who ride bicycles with their children dangling from the baskets on the front. I love the doves in the streets and the people who sit on the benches staring at them. I love their little bridges made of stone, and their canals. I love how Italians speak with their hands, and how the British refuse to smile with their eyes. I love how people just mind their own business. Us Africans are nosy, we are communal, we want to chat you up and ask which village you are from. Europeans largely don't care. It's fascinating. I love their countryside and old architecture, and how sometimes you are stared at. I love that trains leave on time. I love to see white beggars in the streets, which is because I grew up thinking that there were no poor white people. Seeing white beggars challenges my innocence, and I love that.

What I don't like about Europe, is that we have to wait 10 days for a visa, and send all our bank statements and prove that we have strong family ties, and that we won't disappear in Limerick – or Zutphen or Giethoorn – and start a life there in the cold and wintry looking vegetation. Of course, there are many of us who wouldn't mind starting out in Giethoorn, but also there are hundreds of us who wouldn't survive not talking to strangers in buses or trains, as we are used to here in Africa. So we go and see the doves and the children hanging from bicycles, and then we come back. Then we look at the map again and say, "What do you think they eat over there in Prague?" Then we go to the embassy and prove that we only want to go and eat roast

pork with dumplings and sauerkraut, take a few pictures of children hanging from bicycles, and then come back and chat to strangers in buses and trains. It's a love-hate visa relationship.

But it's not only Europe. For the longest time we sneered at South Africans behind their backs for imposing the same visa regulations on us. Fellow Africans, how dare they? Going to South Africa has always felt like going to Europe. Well, it doesn't help that Cape Town has always thought of itself as European. It's like Lenny Kravitz insisting that he's white. And so it came with such great relief when our good brothers and sisters in South Africa said, "Kenyans, since you love us so much, we are scrapping visa application and fees for your 30-day visit." It's actually the best thing that came out of South Africa since Trevor Noah. And braai. Because we love to go to

"I love how Italians speak with their hands, and how the British refuse to smile with their eyes"

South Africa. We love to take pictures with Mandela in Nelson Mandela Square. We love the highbrowism of Cape Town and getting drunk by drinking wine in Stellenbosch. We go to George for the mountain ranges and struggle with names like Potchefstroom. We imagine that everybody in Bloemfontein walks around with a flower stuck in their hair – especially the men – because it sounds like a place of scents and beauty. As they say in Zulu, *ngiyabonga* ("thank you").

Whilst I find Johannesburg sneery, I rather love the laid-back temperament of Durban. Being in Durban is like being in India, only that you will never see a single cow or elephant. In Durban people are relaxed.

Illustration: Hannah Wieslander

Livingstone's fruit bat, discovered in the Comoros by the Scottish explorer in 1863, is the world's largest bat, with a wingspan of nearly two metres.



Arts & Culture

One of the best things to do in Botswana is paddle through the **Okavango Delta** in a "mokoros", a dugout canoe.



Party Dinner in White

In more than 60 cities around the world, including Paris, New York and Tokyo, party-goers will be dressing up in spectacular white outfits to attend Le Dîner en Blanc, an annual event to promote friendship, elegance and a sense of community. This year, residents of the Rwandan capital of Kigali will have the opportunity to join in on the fun. The dinner party takes place on August 4.

~ dinerenblanckigali.com

Design Upcycled Homeware

Where other people see rubbish, the designer behind Lilly Loompa, Lizl Naude, sees possibilities. The inventive South African started making furniture a few years ago because she couldn't afford to buy new pieces to decorate her home. She decided to create usable furniture from discarded materials herself. Her pieces, which vary from lamps to flower vases, are now for sale.

~ lillyloompa.com



Music festival Do the Mozamboogy

Mozamboogy is not your ordinary music festival. It's described as an encapsulating psytrance experience, where you can dance barefoot in the sand and partake in one of life's most memorable adventures. This year's full-moon edition, themed Mozam Magic, will take place from 26–29 July in Ponta Malongane, along the tropical Mozambican coast.

~ mozamboogy.com

Habari text: Eva de Vries



Q&A

Mabeo Furniture

Together with a devoted team, design brand Mabeo Furniture creates stunning products such as stools, lamps, cabinets and desks, and is being featured across the continent and beyond in magazines, expositions and on television shows. Msafiri speaks with founder Peter Mabeo.

How would you describe your brand?

Concept, craft, function, everyday life and humanity intersect in our brand. It has an interest in intercultural relationships, it's based on Africa's rich aesthetic heritage, and uses design, quality and sustainability as tools.

What are your plans for the future?

Even more collaboration with crafts people who work with varied techniques and materials from different African regions. Not to "help" them, and add to the ever-growing idea that crafts in Africa need to be saved, but to provide an avenue for talent, great skill and extraordinary culture, and to make it available to those who appreciate it.

What is your advice for young African designers?

Don't seek to be cool just for the sake of it. Guard your interest fiercely and patiently. It's all you have.

~ mabeofurniture.com



Because of its geographical and cultural diversity, **Cameroon** is often referred to as "Africa in miniature".



Favourites

The capital of **Benin** is Porto-Novo, but Cotonou is Benin's largest city and home to its government.



Printer Prynt Pocket

A printer that you can carry with you in your pocket.

Prynt Pocket plugs directly into your phone using your lightning connector, so Wi-Fi and Bluetooth aren't necessary. ZINK™ technology ink is contained within the paper, meaning that the print-out is revealed with thermal heating. From your phone to your hands in 20 seconds, Prynt Pocket is fast. It also comes with 10 sheets of sticker paper. The Prynt App links directly to your gallery, allowing you to print photos at any time. It also links to your Instagram and Snapchat galleries, so you can print out your favourite photos and selfies.

~ prynt.co US\$149.99



Accessories

In Your Pocket



ÖGON, Smart Carbon Fibre Print Wallet

This light and strong wallet offers optimum protection, as well as quick and easy access to your cards. Designed to be opened with one hand, it holds 10 cards and cash, and comes with a lifetime warranty. The wallet is RFID-safe, with protection against demagnetisation and electronic data theft.
~ [Karibu](http://karibu.com) US\$45



Porsche Design French Classic 3.0 Wallet H9

Made of French Classic leather with its typical structured surface, this wallet features one compartment for bank notes, nine credit card slots, two slide-in pockets, as well as an additional window pocket.
~ porsche-design.com US\$139



Ralph Lauren Camo Leather Wallet

Designed with multiple slots and compartments to fit your cards and banknotes, this camo-print wallet is made from leather and features a varsity-inspired tiger and an "RL 67" graphic on the front.
~ ralphlauren.com US\$120



Secrid Cardslide

The Cardslide is a modular wallet consisting of a Card protector and a Slide, held together by a Moneyband. The extendable Slide provides extra space to carry business cards, banknotes, coins and small personal items. The patented mechanism allows you to slide out your cards with one simple motion.
~ secriid.com US\$89.95



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