

SEYI ADELEKUN HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE KLA ART ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE



iniva and 32° East are excited to announce that artist Seyi Adekun has been selected as the KLA ART Artist-in-Residence. This residency is a partnership opportunity through British Council's Biennials Connect for an artist based in the UK to take part in KLA ART Festival in Kampala, Uganda.

KLA ART, Kampala Contemporary Art Festival, is a non-commercial venture with an emphasis on the commission of new works of an experimental nature. Through an extensive professional development programme for artists and curators, KLA ART is currently focusing on strengthening the visual art scene within Uganda and East Africa. The theme for KLA ART '24, *Care Instructions*, invites artists and the public to look at cultural heritage through the lens of care.

Selected through a popular open call, Seyi's project aims to create an abstract sculptural installation of The Tree of Life, symbolizing spiritual wisdom rooted in nature. It will highlight the importance of African traditional herbal medicine in caring for the spirit, mind, and body, fostering a deep connection with plant spirits and reverence for the land.

Seyi will be in residence at 32° East art centre over a three-month period from May to July 2024, immersing themselves in local herbal knowledge to create a new work of art for KLA ART '24 Festival in August 2024.

Teesa Bahana, Director at 32° East said, "We are very pleased to welcome Seyi to Kampala and our purpose-built art centre. Seyi's project stood out because of its direct connection to the KLA ART '24 theme 'Care Instructions'. We are excited to see the ways making public art for Kampala will expand Seyi's existing art/community practice while contributing timely work to the festival".

Sepake Angiama, Artistic Director at iniva said, "We were excited in Seyi's interest in embracing indigenous connections with the land and thinking through embodied knowledge as well as their interest in movement, ritual and craft. During Seyi's residency the artist will explore local ecologies by gathering stories of medicinal purposes of plants. We are excited to see how this research through her residency will be manifest into sculptural installation as part of Care Instructions KLA ART '24 festival in Kampala this year".

About Seyi Adelekun

Seyi Adelekun is a London-based multidisciplinary artist with Nigerian heritage. Their practice focuses on creating installations and performance art rooted in nature's spiritual wisdom, with the aim to foster introspection and ecological awareness. Seyi's workshops provide space for deep healing and connection, especially for BIPOC communities, centering embodied knowledge through movement, rituals, and craft to embrace ancestral connections with the environment.

Seyi's work has shown at South London Gallery, London Festival of Architecture, Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail and London Design Festival. They are a G.A.S Foundation Fellow, a member of the Bloom Collective and have contributed to projects for Assemble Studio, Artangel and A New Direction.

About 32° East

32° East is an independent non-profit organisation, focused on the creation and exploration of contemporary art in Uganda.

The multi-purpose resource centre is based in the capital city Kampala and includes studios, accommodation for artists in residence, a contemporary art library, computers & editing suites, meeting areas and outdoor workshop space.

The programme offers artists in residence and members one on one drop in sessions for critique and professional development, workshops for practical skills and our regular discussion series, Artachat, for social engagement.

www.32east.org/

About iniva

iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) is a visual arts organisation whose artistic programme reflects the social and political impact of globalization, encouraging discourse and debate on issues surrounding the politics of race, gender and class. Founded 30 years ago, in 1994, under the leadership of renowned academic Professor Stuart Hall, iniva is a non-profit organisation based in London. It has established itself as a pioneering arts organisation in the UK and beyond.

With the Stuart Hall Library acting as a critical and creative hub for its work, iniva collaborates with artists, curators, researchers and cultural producers to challenge conventional notions of diversity and difference. iniva's programme supports artists and cultural producers at different stages in their careers, offering residencies, developing research, commissioning new work and promoting practice which enables artistic ambition and development. By cultivating innovative thinking, iniva is committed to disseminating research across a wide cultural spectrum and geographical network.

Our ambition is to build a greater body of knowledge around each of the artists with whom they work to ensure the legacy of their practices for future generations of researchers and audiences. Our mission is for everyone to know the global histories and legacies of internationalism and the Black British Arts Movement and to invest in its future.

www.iniva.org