

Deconstructing Boundaries: Exploring Ideas of Belonging

The exhibition seeks to put forth some questions relating to the matter of belonging through the voices of four artists. In the face of relentless globalisation, physical boundaries are being blurred and challenged. The voices and perspectives of artists in this regard are thus important, for they are the mirror of society. *Deconstructing Boundaries* seeks inspiration from the participating artists as they reflect on their own experiences and question the boundaries that currently exist in one form or the other. As artists cross different borders and boundaries, they carry with them their own unique experiences about the different spaces they visit. The Zimbabwe Pavilion Exhibition seeks to provide another perspective on the themes of identity, migration, patriotism and belonging. The ideas of here and there, seeing and being seen, legal and illegal have remained subjects for debate and this exhibition seeks to provide some answers to these issues. Borders are an unavoidable part of life but people still continue to cross them legally and illegally. This issue of *Deconstructing Boundaries* tackles a vast topic which has become a central issue and the exhibition will illuminate some of its diverse perspectives through the artists, Admire Kamudzengerere, Charles Bhebe, and Dana Whabira. Their work will inspire the Zimbabwe Pavilion audience to reflect and discuss issues that shape power relations. Sylvester Mubayi is the old man of Zimbabwean art. He is an iconic master sculptor; has been there from the beginning and is still working. The materiality of his work is inspiring and ontological; grounding the Zimbabwean narrative at Venice.

Contemporary Art is an important tool in the efforts to bridge differences and find common ground. The current global politics, economic and religious conflicts provide artists with ideas to sculpt, to draw, to paint and to reflect on. I always say, "When words fail, art speaks". Zimbabwe Pavilion 2017 seeks to give the artists a chance; a chance to reflect, a chance to exchange and a chance to share with its audience the Zimbabwean narrative