

THE PAST THE PRESENT AND THE IN BETWEEN



Gonçalo Mabunda, Mauro Pinto and Filipe Branquinho

THE NATIONAL PAVILION OF MOZAMBIQUE
58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia
Biennale Arte 2019
May 11th - November 24th 2019

TITLE OF THE EXHIBITION

THE PAST, THE PRESENT
AND THE IN BETWEEN

Artists

Gonçalo Mabunda
Mauro Pinto
Filipe Branquinho

Curator

Lidija Kostic Khachatourian

Commissioners

Hon. Silva Armando Dunduro
*Minister of Culture and Tourism of
the Republic of Mozambique*
Domingos do Rosário Artur
*Secretary of the Ministry of
Culture and Tourism of the
Republic of Mozambique*

Location

Palazzo Mora
Strada Nuova 3659
Venice

Press Preview and Opening Ceremony

May 9th, 5pm

Opening preview

May 9th - 10th 2019
6pm onwards

Opening days

May 11th - November 24th 2019
From 10.00 am to 6.00 pm
closed on Tuesdays

Organizers and other collaborators

Producer

Akka Project
www.akkaproject.com

Project Manager

Kristian Khachatourian
Arianna Grosso

Sponsors

Africa Legal Network
www.africalegalnetwork.com

ADS Investment Solutions
www.ads-investments.com

General and press requests

events@akkaproject.com
info@pavilionofmozambique.com
+39 345 0087940

Hashtags

#BiennaleArte2019
#MayYouLiveInInterestingTimes
#pavilionofmozambique2019
#thepastthepresentandtheinbetween

Facebook

@Labiennaledivenezia
@pavilionofmozambique

Instagram

@pavilionofmozambique
@Labiennale

Twitter

@la_Biennale

Website

www.pavilionofmozambique.com

PAVILION OF MOZAMBIQUE

BIENNALE ARTE 2019

The Project

Gonçalo Mabunda, Mauro Pinto and Filipe Branquinho
represent Pavilion of Mozambique
at the 58th International Art Exhibition
Biennale Arte 2019

Presented for the first time in 2015 at the 56th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, the National Pavilion of Mozambique finds its home again for the 58th International Art Exhibition.

The National Pavilion of Mozambique is commissioned by Hon. Silva Armando Dunduro, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Mozambique, and appointed Commissioner Domingos do Rosário Artur, permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Mozambique, and is supported and sponsored by Africa Legal Network, ADS Investment Solutions and Akka Project.

The Past, The Present and The in Between, curated by Lidija Kostic Khachatourian, aims to show through a contemporary approach the troubled past of the nation of Mozambique and its consequences in today's society.

Interpreted by the country's three most representative contemporary artists, Gonçalo Mabunda, Mauro Pinto, and Filipe Branquinho, each of whom grew up in post-colonial Mozambique during one of the bloodiest civil wars of the last century. This unfortunate historical event lasted from 1977 to 1992, and is interpreted by the artists through diverse practices, styles, and outcomes.

Through their art, they investigate the socioeconomic condition of their country, analyze the past, and question the present for a better future, bringing to this exhibition a reflection on violence, corruption and social injustice.

Compared to other African countries, the Mozambican Republic gained independence only recently, in 1975, after ten years of insurrection against the Portuguese, which was swiftly followed by a 16-year-long civil war.

During this time, artistic production had been heavily influenced by the political situation of the state and tied to the creation of a national identity.

The independence of Mozambique heralded a new era for art and artists, who began questioning their role in a new nation lacking basic human rights following the end of colonialism. This historical experience is represented through artistic research that bears witness to the impact of the past on the present.

Curator Lidija Kostic Khachatourian can typically be found traversing the globe, seeking emerging talent at art events and art hubs that span the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. With a special focus in African Contemporary Art, she has been producing shows and exhibitions in Dubai since 2014, and also works as international artist representative, art consultant and exhibition organiser.

The Artists

Gonçalo Mabunda - sculpturist

Born in Maputo, Mozambique, in 1975

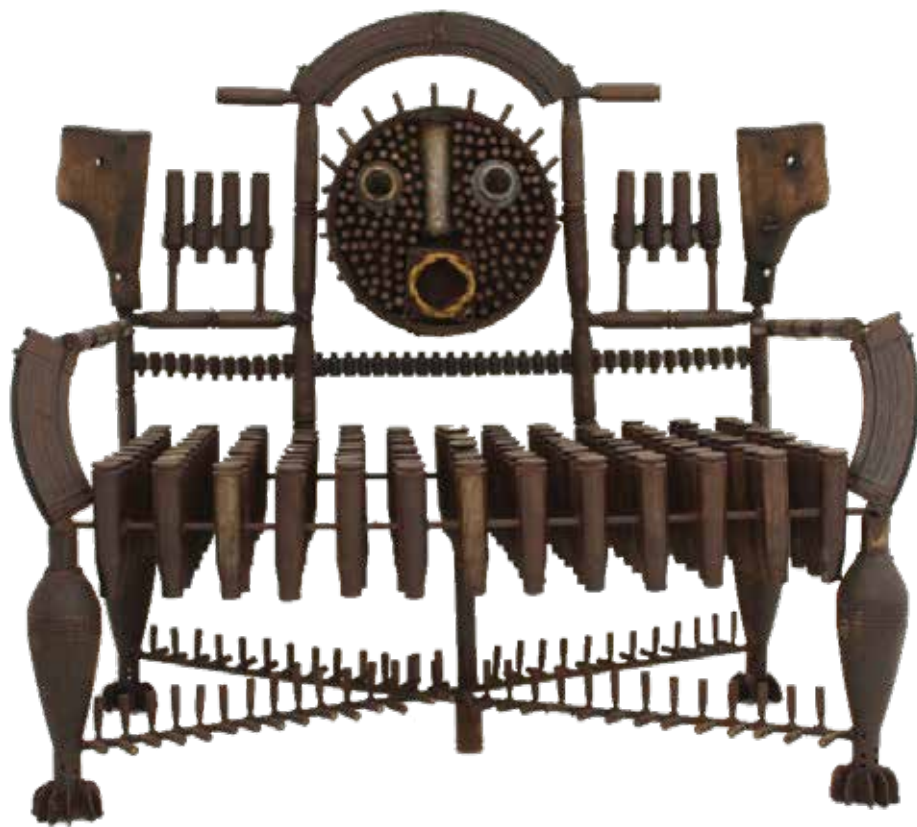
- Lives and works in Maputo, Mozambique

Gonçalo Mabunda is interested in the collective memory of his country, which has only recently emerged from a long civil war.

Mabunda works with weapons recovered in 1992 at the end of the sixteen-year conflict that divided the region, creating objects of beauty from instruments of death - land mines, Kalashnikovs, rocket launchers, pistols, rifles, bombs and grenades - which he warps and welds to create vivid sculptures such as thrones, prehistoric animals with giant wings and legs, and anthropomorphic robots of the most diverse expressions and characteristics. While the deactivated weapons of war carry strong political connotations, the beautiful objects he creates simultaneously convey a positive reflection on the transformative power of art and the resilience and creativity of African civilian societies.

Mabunda is best known for his "thrones," which, according to the artist, function as attributes of power, tribal symbols and traditional pieces of ethnic African art. They are an ironic commentary on his childhood experience of violence and absurdity amidst the long civil war that isolated his country.

Mabunda's work has been exhibited at Museum Kunst Palast in Dusseldorf, the Hayward Gallery in London, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, and the Johannesburg Art Gallery, among other venues.



Gonçalo Mabunda

It's Shining,

2017

Mauro Pinto - photographer

Born in Maputo, Mozambique, in 1974

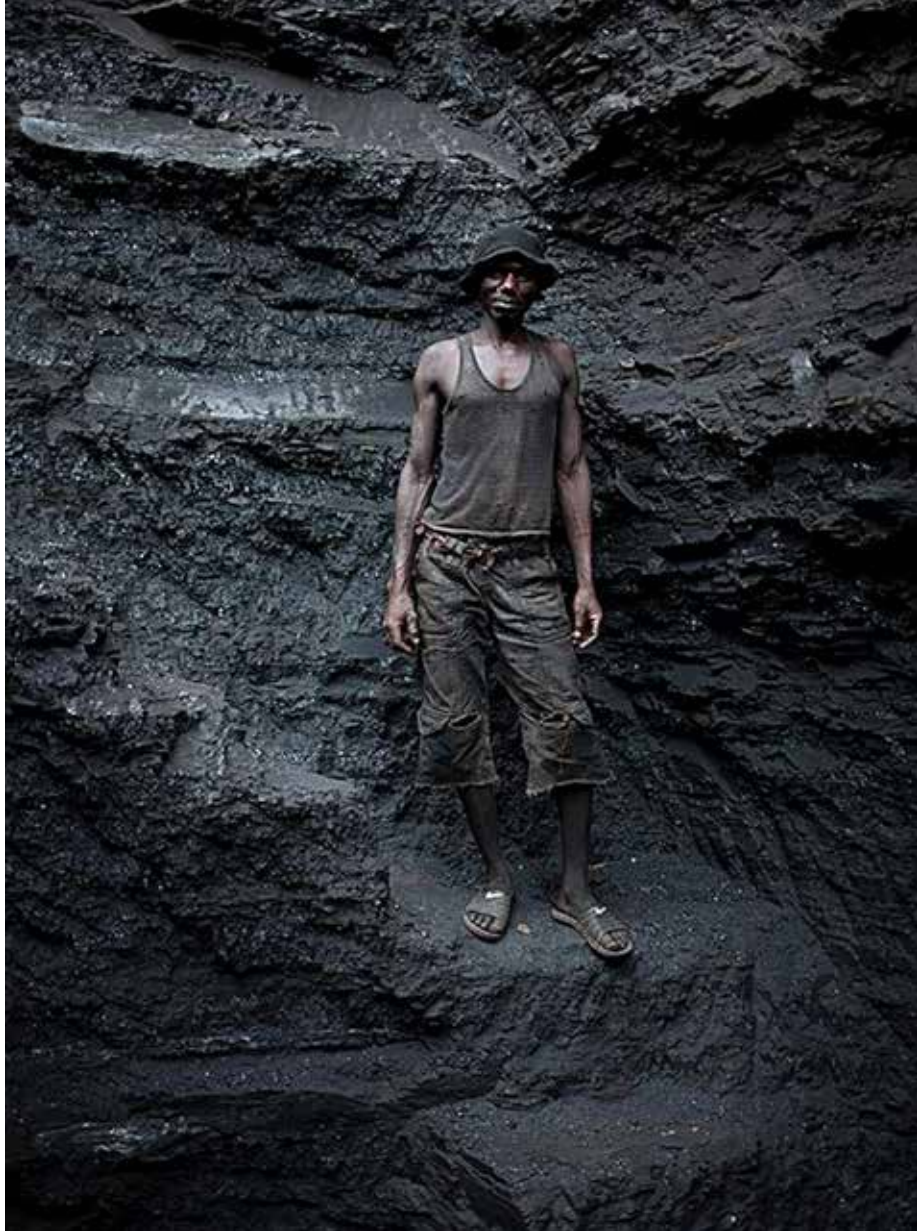
- Lives and works in Maputo, Mozambique

Mauro Pinto investigates visual creation, information and communication systems in his work, often through a clever play of provocative contrasts. Through his lens, the artist celebrates the everyday world surrounding him, with an extraordinary ability to catch the stillness of space. Through his portraits, he tries to escape "false" dramas and capture reality through a search for meaning over time.

"BlackMoney" is a photographic series set in the small locality of Moatize, in the Tete province of Mozambique, and documents a complex study of the role of coal, a mineral in high demand in global markets attracting significant investment in Mozambique that is barely visible in the living and working conditions of the local people directly affected by its extraction.

It is in this context that this work observes and analyzes the socioeconomic impact of this activity, describing "the eternal duality of humans and nature, of governments and governed, conflicts and complicities as a result of greed and corruption. In every stare the resilience and basic survival the only light source for the sadness and darkness."

Mauro Pinto has participated in several solo and group exhibitions throughout Africa and Europe. His photographic works have been published in books, magazines, and catalogs and feature in various private and institutional collections.



Mauro Pinto

Onde as pessoas não importam,

2017

from "BlackMoney" series

Filipe Branquinho - painter, photographer

Born in Maputo, Mozambique, in 1977

- Lives and works in Maputo, Mozambique

Filipe Branquinho, best known for his photography, also produces paintings and drawings.

Born in 1977, he was raised in an environment closely connected to Maputo's journalistic and artistic spheres.

Branquinho's aesthetic combines familiarity with architecture and the "school" of the Mozambican photography, fusing genres like portrait and landscape.

Raised among big names of Mozambican photography such as Ricardo Rangel, Kok Nam and José Cabral, he focuses on social issues related to the contemporary reality of Mozambique, investigating its folkways, mythology and urban dynamics. In his practice, Branquinho explores topics such as class differences, the role of politics, and collective memory. His large format portraits are individual, but they are also the "survey" or the inventory of social spaces and architectures, telling personal stories to outline a documentary map of a changing African world. In several photographic projects, he proposes a reading of the current reality of Mozambique, between memories and the present, current national affairs and tradition.

In the series "Lipiko", in which he uses Mapiko masks of the Maconde tradition, he associates drawing and photography with a strong sense of satire to propose a reflection on aspects and values of contemporary national affairs.

From the colonial period to post-socialism, Mapiko's performance, a traditional initiation rite, enables the expression of an invisible magic world but also of social criticisms and staged identities. These Mapiko masks can be, traditionally, caricatures of characters of a magical (imaginary) world or of real persons known from the community or region.

Branquinho's works have been selected for a number of group and solo exhibitions in Mozambique, Brazil, Portugal and South Africa.



Filipe Branquinho

Procurador da república (Attorney general),

2018

from "Lipiko" series

The Exhibition

by Andrea Moreira

The National Pavilion of Mozambique aims to show, through a contemporary perspective, the troubled past of the nation and its influences in today's society. Portraying this journey are three artists who grew up in a post-colonial period during which the country was engulfed in a long civil war from 1977 to 1992.

Heirs of a common historical and cultural background, Gonçalo Mabunda, Mauro Pinto and Filipe Branquinho, are producers of diversified discourses that converge in the way they critically interrogate vectors of power which adversely affect the lives of millions of Mozambicans today.

They bring to this exhibition a space for reflection that goes beyond aesthetic-pleasure, provoking a dialogical conversation on violence, corruption and social injustice.

The integration of art in the public sphere is intrinsically linked to Mozambique's history. During the colonial-era and the decade after independence, renowned Mozambican artists like Malangatana and Alberto Chissano, as well as photographers like Ricardo Rangel, were powerful motivators of critical commentaries about political and social processes through different artistic expressions. The post-war period of the 1990's and the beginning of a neoliberal era engendered new subjectivities and visual languages.

Working with different mediums, the three artists in this exhibition give an ironic nod to the experience of human hardship. The result is artwork that investigates contemporary politics and popular culture, underpinned by a poetic and sometimes humorous accent. Extremely attentive to what happens around them, particularly to the deeper dimensions of the human experience, their work speaks to our most empathic feelings. Mabunda, Pinto and Branquinho for long have transcended the limits of national art production and circulation, securing worldwide recognition, often representing their country abroad.

The Sponsors

ADS Investment Solutions offers a global range of services including Wealth and Asset Management, arranging custody, advising on investments or credit, arranging financial market deals, and collective investment fund management. Founded in 2017, it has a Financial Services Permission (FSP), granted by the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), and offers world-class, tailored support to its clients. It is a subsidiary of ADS Holding LLC and the sister company of ADS Securities LLC, a global investment firm based in Abu Dhabi with offices in London, Singapore and Hong Kong. ADS Investment Solutions combines the best in fundamental research and systematic investing, and through the use of cutting-edge financial technology delivers pioneering portfolio solutions to a diverse range of clients.

ALN (Africa Legal Network) is an alliance of leading corporate law firms currently in fifteen key African jurisdictions, including the continent's gateway economies. We have a presence in Francophone, Anglophone, Lusophone and Arabic-speaking Africa: Algeria, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Our firms are recognised as leading firms in their markets and many have advised on ground breaking, first-of-a-kind deals. ALN also has a regional office in Dubai, UAE.

Akka Project is a creative hub in Dubai and Venice. Vibrant, diverse and innovative, AKKA Project presents multidimensional exhibitions and immersive art experiences. We focus on contemporary African art in all forms, and building on our solid experience in the international art world, we painstakingly source and select the most fascinating emerging and established artists from the continent.