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What To See And Buy At The African 1-54 Art Fair In London



Joanne Shurvell Contributor

Travel

I write about travel, food, culture and fashion.



Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery at 1-54 Art Fair, Somerset House, London, October 2019 KRISTIN HJELLEGJERDE GALLERY

The annual [1-54 Art Fair](#) showcasing contemporary art from Africa and its diaspora continues to go from strength to strength and was already showing strong sales on the opening day. It started in London in 2013 and now also has annual editions in New York (since 2015) and Marrakech (since 2018). This year's seventh edition in London is at the glorious Somerset House and runs until Sunday 6 October 2019.

Anyone in town for this week's art fairs and art openings should not miss this. 1-54 has a more curated feel to it than some of the larger fairs I've attended and of the 4 galleries showing here, there are nine solo shows and one special show that includes a large-scale installation in the courtyard from South African artist [Mary Sibande](#). And despite the growing popularity of African contemporary art, the prices of works are still accessible to new collectors. Here are just a few of the highlights from this edition of 1-54 London.

Lawrie Shabibi - Booth S11



Zak Ové, Heaven, 2017 at 1-54 Art Fair, October 2019. Courtesy Lawrie Shabibi [PAUL ALLEN/ANDFOTOGRAHY.COM](#)

Zak Ové's recent curation of the exhibition, [Get Up, Stand Up Now](#), about British black artists, was universally acclaimed. Here's another chance to see Zak Ové's own works, including "Heaven," a beautiful, large circular piece made of colorful crocheted doilies.

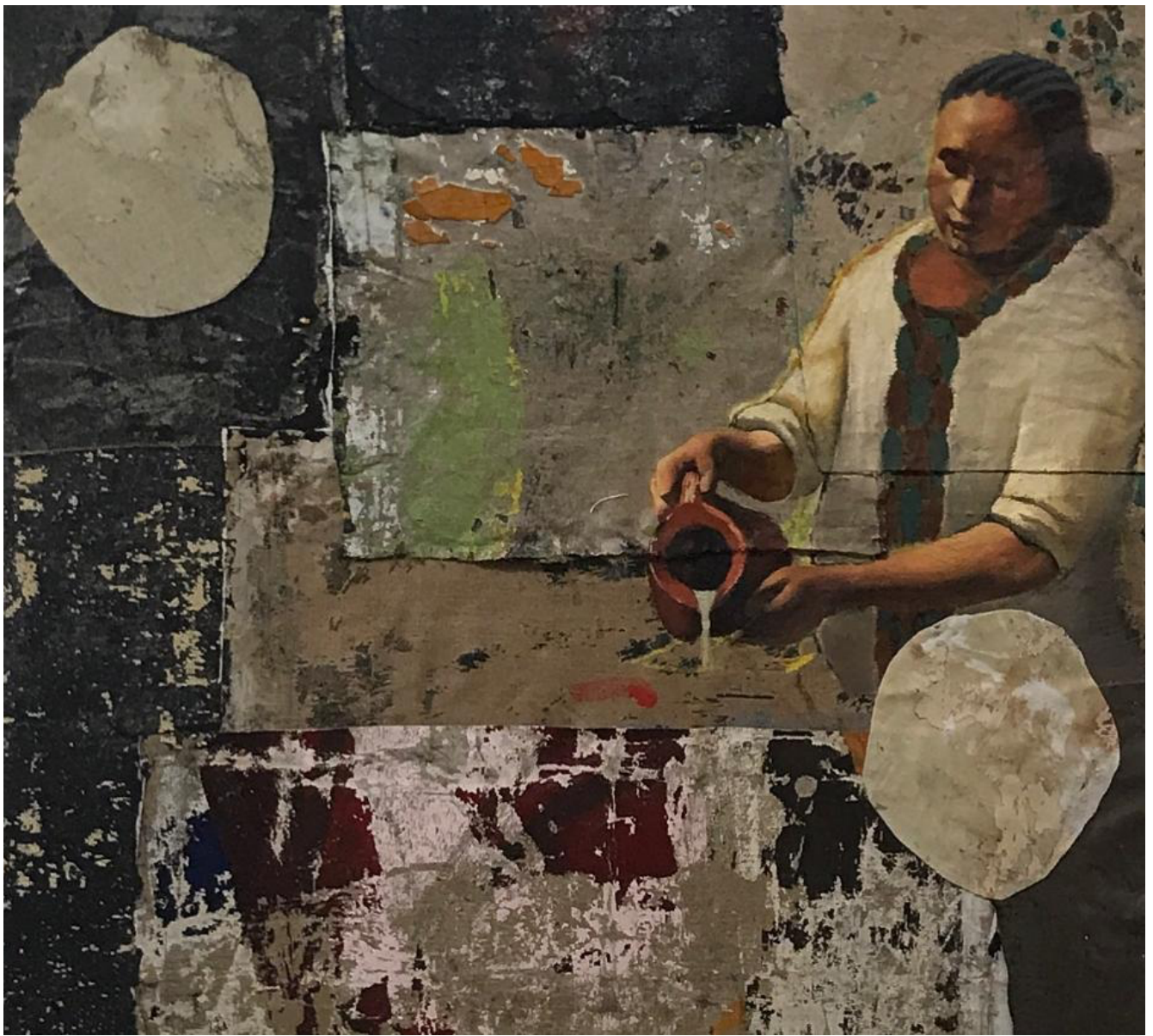
Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery - Booth S5



Dawit Abebe, Mutual Identity 26, 2019 at Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, 1-54 Art Fair, October 2019 KRISTIN HJELLEGJERDE GALLERY

It's no surprise that Ephrem Solomon's woodcuts are one of Kristin Hjellegjerde's bestsellers. The Ethiopian artist's intriguing "Recycle Series" are US\$8,300 each. Likewise, Dawit Abebe's large mixed media drawing sold almost immediately after the fair opened on Wednesday but don't worry, there are others available

Addis Fine Art - Booth W4



Detail from Ermias Kifleyesus, *Pancake No Injera*, 2019, Oil on canvas at 1-54 Art Fair. Courtesy Addis Fine Arts JOANNE SHURVELL

Ethiopian artist Tadesse Mesfin's attractive paintings of female market vendors are based on ancient Ethiopian sculptures and look almost three dimensional. Also on show at this Addis Ababa/London gallery are Ermias Kifleyesus paintings that combine his own paintings with pieces of paintings obtained in flea markets, creating a collage-like effect. His "Pancake No Injera" depicting a woman pouring milk was surely inspired by Vermeer's "The Milkmaid."

Catinca Tabacaru- Booth E8



Masquerade of Puppets, 2019 by Admire Kamudzengerere at Cantinca Tabacaru Gallery, 1-54 Art Fair, October 2019 PAUL ALLEN/ANDFOTOGRAHY.COM

A collection of post-it notes forms a fantastic wall piece at Cantinca Tabacaru. Zimbabwe artist Admire Kamudzengerere explores identity, politics, and society and his work was part of Zimbabwe's pavilion at the 2017 [Venice Biennale](#).

Ed Cross Fine Art - Booth W2

This London gallery never fails to impress with its quality and the four artists at 1:54 are no exception. Nelly Guambe, the winner of the inaugural Emerging Painting Prize in Harare, Zimbabwe this year, shows delicate charcoal on paper works starting at £1,750. Tiffanie Delune, making her first outing with the gallery, shows colorful paintings ranging from £1,500 - £6,000, inspired by her family history. Complementing the other two artist's works are Shiraz Bayjoo's installations and Mario Macilau's photographs.

October Gallery - Booth W1



Eddy Kamuanga Ilunga, Oubliez le passé et vous perdez les deux yeux, October Gallery at 1-54 Art Fair octob
GALLERY

Congolese artist Eddy Kamuanga's powerful paintings unsurprisingly deal with the legacy of the DRC's leaders and examines the impact this has had on contemporary Congolese society. This young artist's work has already been widely shown and critically acclaimed, including at New York's [Armory show](#).

Jack Bell Gallery - W12



WWW.HEMLE.COM, 2018 Acrylic & Posca on canvas by Jean-David Nkot, courtesy Jack Bell Gallery JACK BELL GALLERY

Two Cameroon artists are on show at Jack Bell. Jean-David Nkot's heavily layered paintings show young migrant workers with maps in the background. Ajarb Bernard Ategua's vibrant paintings of city scenes show the foreign influence on Cameroon's largest city, Douala.

1-54 London runs until Sunday 6 October 2019. The next editions of the fair are **1-54 Marrakech** from 22 – 23 February 2020 and **1-54 New York** from 8 – 10 May 2020.

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I've been writing on travel, food, fashion and culture for the past decade or so. In addition to Forbes, I've contributed to Garageland, High50, Huffington Post, Yahoo, ... **Read More**