

Ondambo II

Concept

The first Ondambo project (Ondambo is the Ojjiherero word for footprint) in the Namib oasis of Arandis in Namibia was, and still is, a great success. Since then, it has been our hope to organise a second project in Africa. Now, after over 10 years, we feel that the time is right to create further footprints in other locations. Contacts, as well as friendships, should be further strengthened among the African artists and, therefore, we are planning to organise a follow-up project called "Ondambo II".

What was the Ondambo I project all about?

The organisers of the original project were Rolf Crüsemann-Brockmann, director of the new "secondary level" at a private German High school in Windhoek, Dr. Christoph Ludszuweit, DAAD lecturer at the University in Windhoek and Hans Bogatzke, an art collector from Germany. In all it took three years to organise the event.

A letter from the former President Sam Nujoma promised them his full support and wished them much success with their project.

The former German ambassador, Mr. Hanns H. Schumacher acted as patron, together with the Namibian Minister for Education, J. Mutorwa. There were numerous sponsors in the Namibian business world, politics and management.

Nine internationally acclaimed artists, **António Ole** (Angola), **Valente Malangatana** (Mozambique), **Willie Bester** (RSA), **Joe Madisia** (Namibia), **John Liebenberg** (RSA), **Romouald Hazoumé** (Benin), **Tapfuma Gutsa** (Zimbabwe), **El Anatsoui** (Ghana/Nigeria)

und **El Loko** (Togo/Germany), first met at the Windhoek Country Club Resort in the Namibian capital. An official opening ceremony was held on 5th December 1997 in which Mrs. L. Katoma, the under secretary of state in the Namibian ministry for education and culture was able to greet numerous international guests from the world of art, politics and finance.

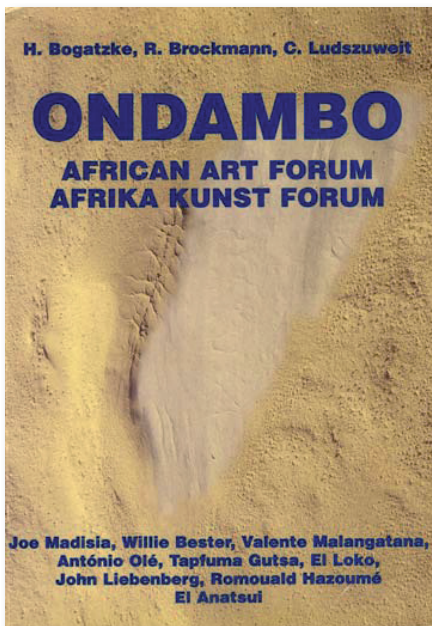
Afterwards the artists travelled to Arandis, an oasis in the Namib desert, where they had seven days to produce their art. The Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT) kindly offered their support in the form of workshops and equipment. The artists had time to discuss current problems with African art and offer suggestions to improve the situation. At the end of the week they held a solidarity ritual. Afterwards all the artists declared themselves to be very happy with the results of the project.

On the last day, everyone met in a marble quarry in the middle of the desert and the artists exhibited all their artwork within its spectacular surroundings. Afterwards there were follow-up exhibitions in the Windhoek Country Club Resort and the National-Art Gallery in Windhoek.

A television film called „Ondambo“ was also produced and broadcast several times on Namibian television as well as in film festivals in Namibia and Zimbabwe as well as in various exhibitions in Munich and New York (Camera and editing: A. Honisch).



El Anatsui – Sculpture 2



In 2000 a bilingual book (German and English) was produced by „Hans Bogatzke, Rolf Crüsemann-Brockmann and Christoph Ludszuweit called „ONDAMBO“, published by the African Art Forum, Gamsberg, Macmillan, Windhoek 2000.

The artworks were further published in various art catalogues e.g. Mens Momentanea (I) and (II) in the art catalogue „António Ole, Hidden Pages“ from the Peter Hammer publishing house, Wuppertal 2009 for an exhibition in the IWALEWA-House in Bayreuth. ONDAMBO has become very well known in the international art scene and some of the artworks produced during the project have been sold for high prices.

The project „ONDAMBO II“ will be organised by Rolf Crüsemann-Brockmann, author of various books about African culture and art („Szene Lagos“, „Adunni“, „Ondambo“, „Katutura“) and one of the organisers of the original ONDAMBO project together with Dr. Christoph Ludszuweit, author of various books, freelance journalist and lecturer for German as a foreign language and Eric Makin, businessman and Hamburg African art gallerist.

The following artists are to be invited to ONDAMBO II:

Sokari Douglas Camp (Nigeria/UK)
 Chérie Samba (Zaire)
 Abdoulaye Konaté (Mali)
 El Anatsui (Ghana/Nigeria)
 Joe Madisia (Namibia)
 Valente Malangatana (Mozambique)
 Zwelethu Mthethwa (RSA)
 William Kentridge (RSA)
 Willie Bester (RSA)
 Romuald Hazoumé (Benin)
 António Ole (Angola)
 Paul Weinberg (RSA)
 Mickael Bethe Selassie (Ethiopia)
 David Nal-Vad (Gabon/France)
 Moke (Zaire)
 Kofi Setordji (Ghana)
 Dominique Zinkpé (Benin)
 George Osodi (Nigeria)



El Anatsui – Sculpture 1

The project has the following intentions:

- Fly the artists and organisers from their place of residence to the ONDAMBO venue, Namibia, South Africa or the Cape Verde Islands
- Provide accommodation for four nights in a first class hotel (2 on arrival and 2 on departure)
- Organise an official opening function with
 - the patrons
 - the press
 - Television (German broadcasters, arte, national broadcasters)
 - representatives of the German Embassy
 - Politicians (e.g. Embassy representatives from the countries from which the artists originate)
 - the artists
 - the sponsors
- A workshop week in an inspiring location with accommodation, catering and a studio together with all necessary tools and equipment including a workbench, welding equipment, Caterpillar etc.
- Transport of the artworks to a spectacular exhibition site, within a natural setting.
- Production of a television film (45 minutes)
- Publication of a book „ONDAMBO II“ with an overview of the event and photographs of the finished artworks
- Production of an exhibition catalogue
- Transport/insurance of the artworks, storage and eventual shipping with a transport company
- Transportation of the art to international exhibition centres
- The resulting artworks from the Ondambo II project will be exhibited in various international exhibition centres in London, Berlin, Hamburg, Turin, Luxemburg
- Sale of the art on the international market (e.g. Bonham's, London) if the artist(s) so require

What targets does the project have?

- To motivate the African artists to discuss their experiences in the world of art
- To increase recognition of the individual artists on the international art market
- To put the spotlight of the art world on the country that holds the event
- It should reflect the present position of African artists
- By means of the newly created artwork it should provide an insight into today's African art
- It should help people to overcome geographic, cultural and language barriers
- The ensuing artwork will be offered on the international art market if the artist(s) so require
- It should further promote German engagement in international art and culture

The organisers are obliged to

- ensure that the event runs smoothly and receives full international recognition
- ensure that exhibitions and any ensuing sales of the art are carefully organised
- that all financial transactions are conducted correctly

Such a project cannot take place without sufficient financial support and therefore we are looking for sponsors who can support us. One such sponsor is NÀWAÓ.

NÀWAÓ was founded in 1994 as a non-profit-making association. Since then it has supported numerous art, literature, theatre and music projects in Germany as well other countries from around the world. The connecting factor with all these projects is the cultural exchange of equal partners from comparatively less developed countries. In addition to the presentation of artists, NÀWAÓ takes care of ensuing publications and exhibition of the works abroad.

There are not many organisations that produce creative transcultural projects. In this respect NÀWAÓ is not only unusual but also successful. NÀWAÓ works with a remarkably small team who are flexible, adaptable and highly motivated. The achievements of this team for the advancement of the arts are excellent.

Many artists and their audience have been very thankful for the creativity and boldness of this team. (Wole Soyinka, Noble prize winner for literature).

NÀWAÓ is collecting donations on the following account

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