

Wed 08.06.2016 // 19h

Rostov-Luanda (Abderrahmane Sissako, 1997, 58 min, Angola-France-Germany-Mauritania)

Sissako records his journey across war-torn Angola to find an old friend but really to recapture his own hopes for Africa. He explains that Angolan independence in 1975 represented to him a new beginning for Africa. Like so many young Africans, he went to the Soviet Union in the 1980s for political and technical training and met an Angolan, Baribanga, whose confidence in his country's future embodied Sissako's own hopes for the continent.

Sambizanga (Sarah Maldoror, 1972, 102 min, Angola)

Sambizanga is a 1972 film by director Sarah Maldoror. Set in 1961 at the onset of the Angolan War of Independence, it follows the struggles of Angolan militants involved with the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), an anti-colonial political movement of which Maldoror's husband, Mário Coelho Pinto de Andrade, was a leader.

Wed 15.06.2016 // 19h

Mansudae Master Class (Onejoon Che, 2015, South Korea)

The film project is a survey of the North Korean projection of soft power in Africa through architecture and sculpture. The art studio Mansudae has established branches in at least 16 African countries since 1969. The studio's mission is diplomatic: through the design and construction of memorial monuments, statues and architecture to illustrate the local government's power, while also promoting the ideology of North Korean socialism.

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Iwalewahaus, University of Bayreuth,
Wölfelstrasse 2, 95444 Bayreuth, Germany.

Tue - Sun // 13 h - 17 h

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Curated by Mark Nash, the show "Things Fall Apart" gathers the responses of contemporary artists to different aspects of Soviet and related nations' interests in Africa, particularly focused on ambitions to influence the development of political structures through film and art.

The programme "Red Africa" provides further insight into the relation with academic presentations, artist talks and film screenings.

The film programme has been curated by Ute Fendler, Mark Nash and Nadine Siegert

25.05.2016

— 18.09.2016

Things Fall Apart

Artists: Filipa César; Onejoon Che; Radovan Cukic and Ivan Manojlovic (Museum of Yugoslav History); Angela Ferreira; Yevgeniy Fiks; Paulo Kapela; Kiluanji Kia Henda; Isaac Julien; kara lynch; Stevan Labudovic and Milica Tomic; Alexander Markov; Tonel; The Travelling Communiqué Group; Jo Ractliffe.

Curator: Mark Nash

Team Iwalewahaus, University of Bayreuth

Project Management: Nadine Siegert;
Layout: Anisha Soff; Press and Communication: Lara Buchmann; Curatorial Assistants: André Cunha, Lukas Heger, Sabine Linn; Lucie Ameloot, Tamara Fick, Sara Fortmann, Gloria Igabe, Amelie Kroneis, Celine Luting Lei, Alina Steffan.



Red Africa

The legacy of cultural relationships between Africa, the Soviet Union and related countries during the Cold War

Programme for the exhibition "Things Fall Apart"

Wed 25.05.2016 // 19h

Exhibition Opening “Things Fall Apart”

// 21h

“Dance Dance Revolution”

Presentation on the political dimension of dance music by DJ Zhao

Followed by Opening Party

Thu 26.05.2016 // Morning Session // 10-13h

The Socialist Friendship Research Project

Mark Nash – “Introduction to the research project and the exhibition”

Polly Savage – “Imag(in)ing Solidarity: The Visual Logic of Internationalism in Independent Mozambique”

Nadine Siegert – “Utopian Modernism in the visual culture of Angola”

Followed by a response by Paolo Ingles

Artist Roundtable

Exhibition artists in conversation with Mark Nash

Filmscreening

“Kuxa Kanema : The Birth of Cinema” (Margarida Cardoso, 2003, 52 min, Mozambique – Portugal)

A 2003 documentary on the National Institute of Cinema (INC) in Mocambique, following the 1975 independence of Mozambique. At the time of independence,

Mozambique lacked a national television network, so a newsreel program was the only way to reach the population through visual media.

Introduced by Polly Savage

Afternoon Session // 15-18h

Essay Reading

Filipa César - **„Luta ca caba inda“**

The project “Luta ca caba inda” is an ongoing research that departed from the digitalization of a film archive (deposited in Bissau) in the context of the Living Archive programme of the Arsenal Film Institute in Berlin.

Because of its very advanced state of decay, this archive was digitized in an experimental and artistic context in close collaboration of its producers – the Guinean directors Sana na N’Hada and Flora Gomes.

Filmscreening

“O Regresso de Amílcar Cabral” (Sana Na N’Hada, 1974, 31 min, Guinea-Bissau)

This collective film was the first production realized and accomplished by Guinean filmmakers after the

liberation from Portuguese colonialism in 1974. The film documents the translocation of the remains of Amílcar Cabral from Conakry to Bissau the capital of the country. This event was edited with Guinean songs, and archival material framing Cabral addressing freedom fighters during the guerrilla war.

Followed by a conversation of Sana na N’Hada and Filipa Cesar with Ute Fendler

Evening Session // 19-22h

Artist Talk

Thabo Thindi in conversation with Peggy Piesche
“Exile Faces” – South Africa and the GDR

The former GDR used to be one the supporters of the Southern Africa liberation struggle. Some South African freedom fighters went there for military training, education and political support. “Exile Faces” is a biographical interview documentary series which focuses on South Africans who fled home during the apartheid and still continue to reside abroad.

Lukas Heger - Presentation of the Project Space
“Utopia Falling Apart”

In 1979 Erich Honecker visited several African countries, sharing a utopian vision of a socialist society. This room visualizes this history from different perspectives. Curated in the context of a Master Studies project in “Art and Curatorial Studies” at Iwalewahaus.

Fri 27.05.2016 // Morning Session // 10-13h

Artist Talk

Milica Tomic

Milica Tomic talks about the two projects “Cinema, School and War of Independence” and “Travelling Communiqué” – both shown in the exhibition.

Filmscreening

O Tempos dos Leopardos (Vreme leopard) (Zdravko Velimirovic, 1985, 91 min, Mozambique – Yugoslavia)

As children, a Mozambique native and a Portuguese colonialist were friends. Years have passed and Mozambique is fighting for its independence. Two childhood friends meet on opposing sides.

Followed by a conversation of Milica Tomic and Ute Fendler

Afternoon Session // 15-18h

Presentations

Konstantin Katsakioris – **“Training the African Elites. Soviet Educational Aid and Its Impact on Africa, 1960-1992”**

Svetlana Boltovskaja – **„Children of paradise: Africa between wilderness and revolutionary romance in the Soviet mass culture”**

Alexander Markov – **“The Soviet filmmakers in Africa: between propaganda & art Filmscreening”**

Filmscreening

The Black Sun (Alexey Speshnev, 1971, 97 min, USSR)

The film is about the tragic fate of the Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba. It is created like the memories of two people who have been victims of political intrigue: Premier of fictional African country Robert Musombe and UN advisor Mr. Burt.

Evening Session // 20-22h

Filmscreening

Octobre (Abderrahmane Sissako, 1993, 30 min, France)

Octobre, Sissako’s second film, made while he was a student at the Moscow film school, is about the relationship between Ira, a young Russian woman and Idrissa, an African student in Moscow. Filmed in a semi-vérité style, the film reflects the rather despondent mood of its characters.

Black Russians (kara lynch, 2001, 116 min, USA – Russia)

Black Russians is a documentary that investigates the lives of contemporary Afro-Russians aged 10 to 65, born and raised in Soviet Russia. Intimate interviews and archive images reveal rarely seen footage of Black political leaders in the Soviet Union, like Paul Robeson, Kwame Nkrumah and Angela Davis. “Black Russians” constructs a deeply personal account of the effects of political issues on a minority community in the vast remains of the Soviet Union.

Sat 28.05.2016 // Morning Session // 10-13h

Presentations

Sophie Cohen – **“The sovietical aspects of revolutionary art in Burkina Faso and Bénin and its reminescence in contemporary burkinabe art (1972-2016)”**

Gesine Drews-Sylla – **“Unexpected Entanglements: Senegal and the Soviet Union”**

Filmscreening

Ironu (François Sourioh Okioh, 1985, 92 min, Togo)

In the year 1985, the revolutionary marxist-leninist government of Mathieu Kérékou in the Popular Republic of Benin undergoes a big crisis. “Laxism-Beninism”

and corruption are criticized by artists who have been paradoxically working as revolutionary artists for the regime.

Introduced by Sophie Cohen

Afternoon Session // 15-18

Filmscreening

Deluge:Ye Wonz Maibel (Salem Mekuria, 1996, 61min, Ethiopia)

Deluge is a visual essay that tells the story of Ethiopian students and their struggle to bring change in the political and social landscape during the 1970’s. It is a tale in which the children of this ancient land abandoned their history, culture and identity and pinned their hopes on a foreign ideology.

Introduced by Serawit Bekele

Teza (Haile Gerima, 2008, 139 min, Ethiopia)

Set in 1970s Ethiopia, Teza (Morning Dew) tells the story of a young Ethiopian as he returns from West Germany as postgraduate. Anberber comes back to a country at the height of the Cold War and under the Marxist regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam. Now aged 60, Anberber finally returns to his home village. Although he finds comfort from his ageing mother he feels alienated from those around him by his absence from home for so long and is disillusioned and haunted by his past.

Introduced by Serawit Bekele

Evening Session // 19-21h

African Rhythms (Irina Venjer, Leonid Makhnach, 1966, 50 min, USSR)

“The song which is sung in the merry green city of Dakar was first heard in the capital of the Senegal Republic at the First World Festival of Afro-Negro Art. Delegates from 37 countries of the world met there. For the first time fraternal cultures met at such a grand scale in Dakar”.

From the Catalogue No.5 of Sovexportfilm, 1966

Wed 01.06.2016 // 19h

Presentation / Oval Office 1st Floor

Henning Melber – “Old Solidarity – New Ties. Namibia and Socialist Internationalism Now and Then”

This lecture recalls the impacts of the bonds of SWAPO to the socialist countries during the ‘struggle days’ and how these historical experiences have contributed to the present political culture and foreign policy orientations.