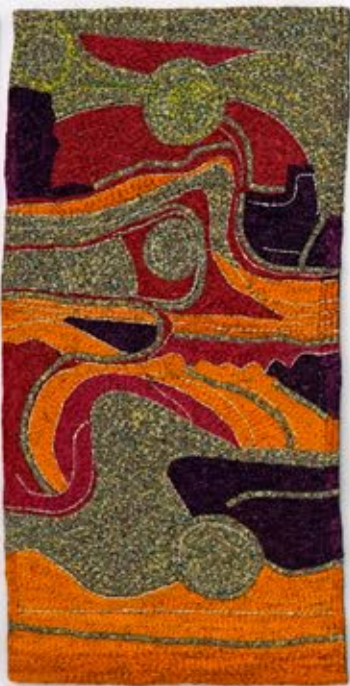


SANAA GATEJA



**1-54 Online,
Powered by Christie's**

7-12 October



*“Life is a journey with a purpose.
The message I bring is visually African. The themes I
present are universally human...”*

Sanaa Gateja



SANAA GATEJA (born 1950) is a Ugandan, multi-disciplinary artist who studied as a goldsmith in London and whose works are a wonderful combination of installation, tapestry, and sculpture. Heavily influenced by the potters, blacksmiths, and weavers of baskets in his village where he grew up, Sanaa is a self-taught visual artist who creates intricate works which reference indigenous art practices like weaving and stitching. A social commentator, Sanaa works with bark cloth, paper, raffia, beads, wood, and banana fiber to construct large artworks that respond to the subject of nature and materiality, which is central in his work. His work straddles the categories of installation, tapestry and sculpture, and definitively is arresting in its monumentality, array of color and subject matter. Sanaa has showcased at FNB Johannesburg Art Fair (2016, 2017, 2018), AKAA Art Fair, Paris (2016, 2017, 2018), Art X Lagos (2018 & 2019), and CONTEXT art Miami (2019).



The artworks that make up the first of a series of works titled 'The African Journey - Paths', depict the journey of a continent, the Mother of Mankind. The largest continent in the World with all shades and sizes of people, animals, forests, grasslands and deserts. Where the sun awakes in the East and rests in the West, everyday ever since creation with perfect environment - warm and hospitable.

The story is of human experience traversing the continent, on paths that lead to diverse destinies, celebrating and recording happenings along the way. The Africans and visitors alike travel as they work and live on this borderless mass of land, lakes and rivers, not to mention miles and miles of space for wildlife.

All journeys have a purpose and influence. Either nomadic existence, immigration, exploration, trade, and in recent times, the most horrific of all journeys, wars and slave trade, on such a large scale that it has left the continent and its people scared and unsettled. All these and many more factors, numerous as they may be, make up the most profound of all human stories in a large format, The Great Continent's Great Story.







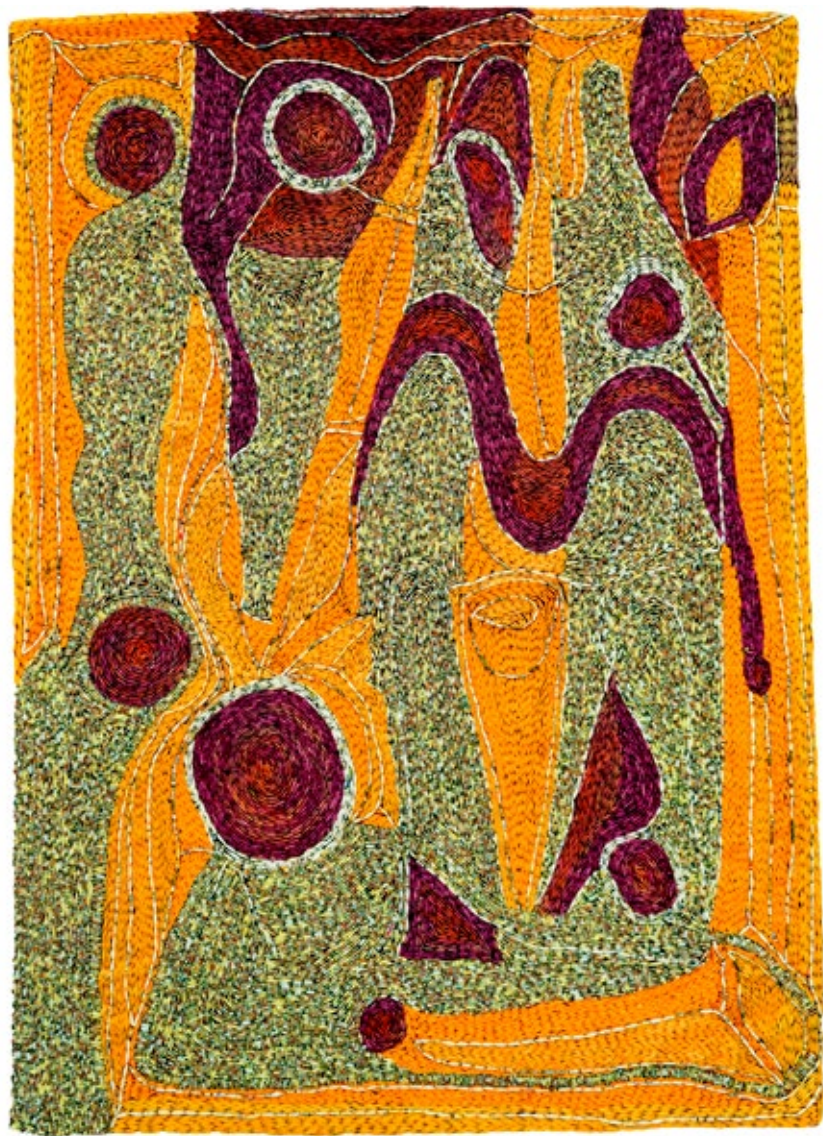


A social commentator, Sanaa works with barkcloth, paper, raffia, beads, wood, and banana fiber to construct large artworks that respond to the subject of nature and materiality which is central in his work. His work straddles the categories of installation, tapestry, installation, and sculpture, and definitively is arresting in its monumentality, array of color and subject matter. The artist is particularly drawn to aesthetic and value in his work: creating a balance between what is visually attractive and original.





Sanaa's art fits appropriately within the global consciousness of contemporary times that highly regards the environment and its preservation. This is because of his work ethic that involves working with organic and synthetic material. The paper bead, which he's mostly known for, and introduced in Uganda in 1990, not only responds to the subject of recycling but offers sustainable incomes to thousands of local women across the country.



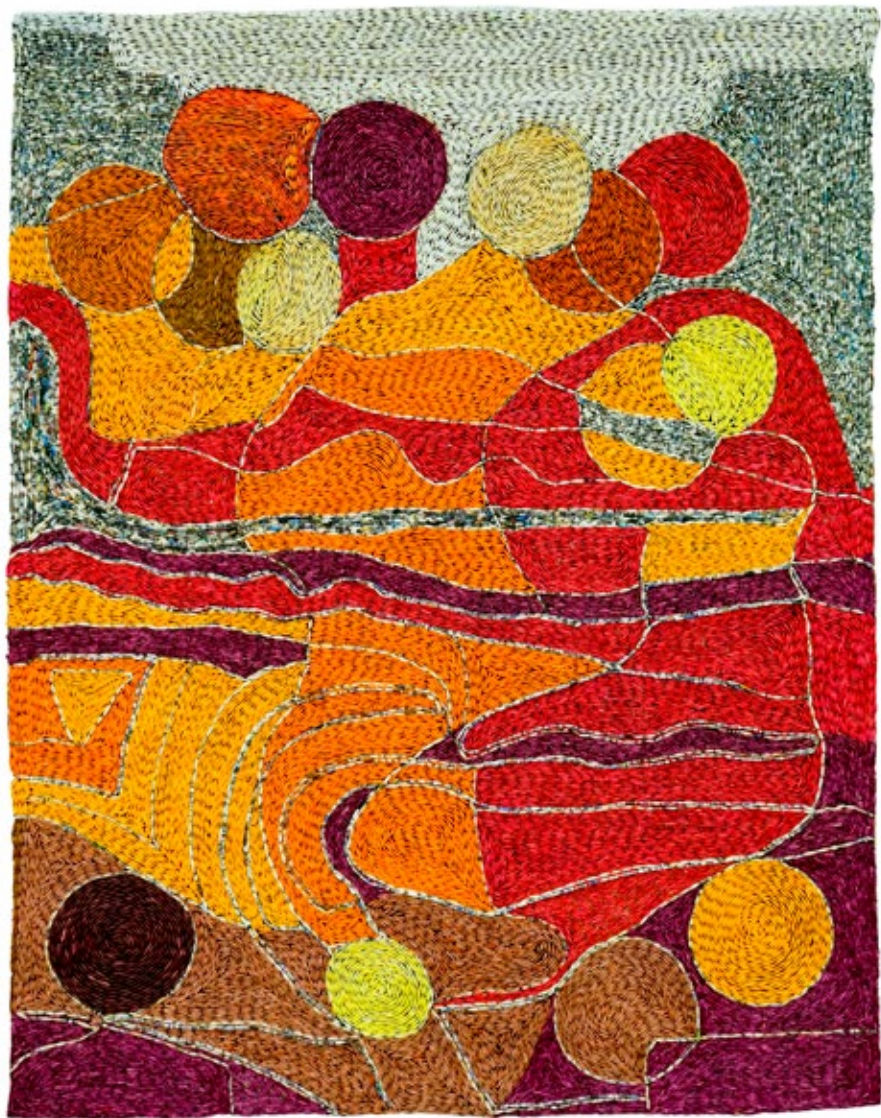
Paths - Council, Paper beads on bark cloth, 149 x 210 cm





Paths - Units, Paper beads on bark cloth, 195 x 213cm





Paths - Far Beyond, Paper beads on bark cloth, 168 x 213cm





Addressed, Paper beads on bark cloth, 140 cm diameter, 2018

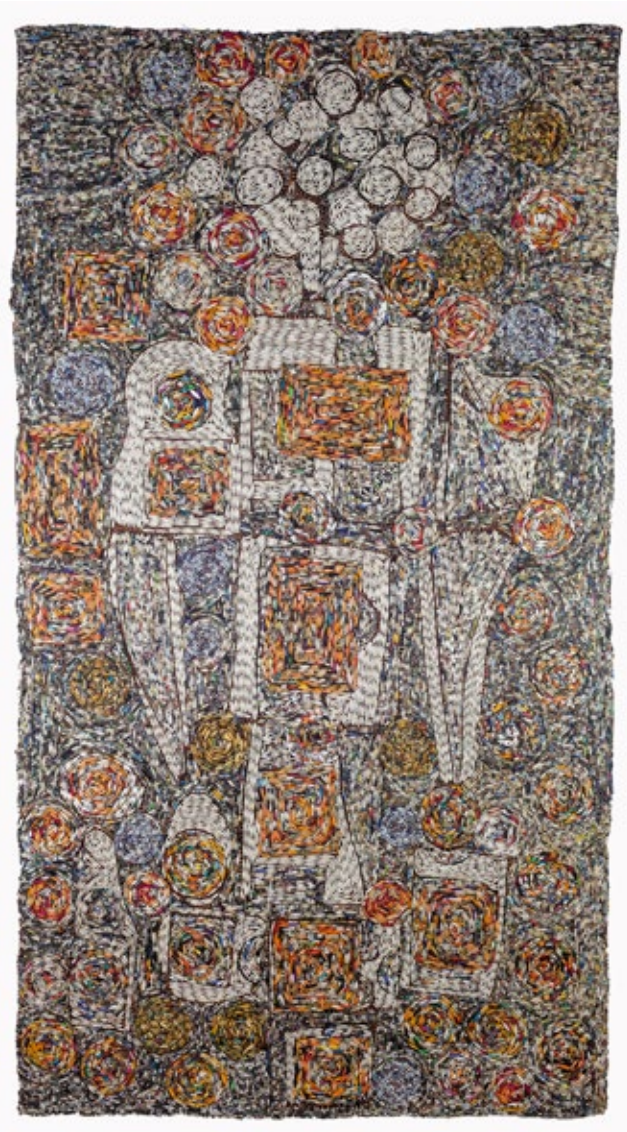


Another Life, Paper beads on bark cloth, 134 cm diameter, 2018





Home Is Best, Paperbeads on barkcloth, 180 x 180cm, 2020



Imigrant, Paper beads on bark cloth, 216 x 118 cm, 2019



Kitty, Paper beads on bark cloth, 220 x 138 cm, 2020





Power, Paper beads on bark cloth, 236 x 154cm, 2018



Protection, Paper beads on bark cloth, 213 x 130 cm, 2019





The Golden Tortoise, Paper beads on bark cloth, 213 x 161cm, 2020



Together, Paper beads on bark cloth, 244 x 180 cm, 2019



Truth is Gold II, Paper beads on bark cloth, 208 x 148 cm, 2017



CV

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS:

2020 - Playing To The Gallery - Afriart Gallery, Kampala

2018 - ArtX Lagos, FNB Joburg Art Fair

2017 - AKA Art fair, Paris

2017 - FNB Joburg Art fair, Johannesburg

2017 - Art Paris Art Fair

2017 - A love that dares – Afriart Gallery, Kampala

2017 - Cape town Art fair

2016 - Themes and Variations gallery London - Seeking Africa | Design/Art across a continent.

2016 - FNB Joburg Art fair- Featured artist

2010 - MAD Museum of Art and Design New York- The show is still travelling within US Museum Galleries

2007 - Expo Gwanju Korea – Recycled paper Jewellery

2006 - Sankaranka Gallery Brooklyn NY – Solo Exhibition Art

2006 - Mbari Institute Washington DC – Solo Exhibition

2004 - Novotel Kigali Rwanda – Solo Exhibitions of Art

1996 - Danish Chamber of Commerce Copenhagen – group show

1991 - Ludwig Beck Munich Germany - Group Jewellery and Art shows in Cologne.

1990 - Berlin International Trade Fair – group show. Recycled paper beads in jewellery

1986 - The Round House Camden London – Paintings and Jewellery - group Exhibition

1985 - Royal Festival Hall London – Gold Silver and Metal jewellery – Group New Horizon Exhibition



SMO Contemporary Art (SMO) is an international art platform, showcasing a unique portfolio of modern and contemporary art from Africa and the Diaspora to a global audience. Based in Lagos, Nigeria, SMO curates exhibitions, as well as public and private art events of leading and emerging talents for a diverse audience. SMO is dedicated to artists of all generations who have been instrumental in shaping West Africa's contemporary art canon and who became crucial in establishing a unique narrative of the continent. The SMO programme sheds light on forgotten talents who have paved the way for new identities in contemporary art while encouraging a vibrant and continuous discourse around their oeuvres.

Regular exhibitions at diverse and unconventional gallery spaces, often affiliated to ecosystems of design, fashion and hospitality, underpin SMO's vision to engage with large and heterogenous audiences. The platform curates private and public creative events at international venues, and showcases a dynamic portfolio of contemporary art at local and international fairs. Specialized in art advisory services SMO Contemporary curates and manages important private and corporate art collections with a great commitment to documentation, preservation and communication.



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