Things Fall Apart
Afrika und die sozialistische Welt zur Zeit des Kalten Krieges // eine Kunstausstellung


Iwalewahaus, Universität Bayreuth // Wölfelstraße 2 // 95444 Bayreuth
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.

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

Artists: Filipa César; Onejoon Che; Radovan Cukic and Ivan Manojlovic (Museum of Yugoslavia); 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 Raclcliffe.

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.

Iwalewahaus, University of Bayreuth, Wölfelstrasse 2, 95444 Bayreuth, Germany.
Tue - Sun / 13 h - 17 h
www.iwalewahaus.uni-bayreuth.de

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**Wednesday, May 25, 2016 / 19h**

**Exhibition Opening “Things Fall Apart”**

// 21h

“Dance Revolution”

Presentation on the political dimension of dance music by Dj Zhao

Followed by Opening Party

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**Thursday, May 26, 2016 / 10-13h**

**The Socialist Friendship Research Project**

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

Polly Savage – “Imagining 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

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**Artist Roundtable**

**Filmscreening**

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

A 2003 documentary on the National Institute of Cinema (INIC) in Mozambique, 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.

Followed by a conversation of Sana na N’Hada and Flora Gomes.

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**Artist Talk**

“O Regresso de Amilcar Cabral”

Filmscreening (Sana na N’Hada and Flora Gomes).

Followed by a discussion of Sana na N’Hada and Flora Gomes.

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**Filmscreening**

“Amílcar Cabral from Conakry to Bissau the capital of the country. This event was edited with Guinean songs, and addresses freedom fighters during the guerrilla war.”

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

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**Filmscreening**

“Luta ca caba inda”

Afternoon Session / / 15-18h

Introduced by Polly Savage

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**Filmscreening**

“Africa & the Soviet filmmakers in Africa: between propaganda & art of filmmaking”

Filmscreening “The Black Sun (Alexey Shchepnev, 1971, 97 min, US SSR)”

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: Patrice Lumumba during the 1970s. It is a tale in which the children of this ancient land abandoned their history, culture and identity and pinned their hopes for a future of peace and growth on revolution and the former GDR.

Followed by a conversation of Milica Tomic and Ute Fendler

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**Filmscreening**

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

A 2003 documentary on the National Institute of Cinema (INIC) in Mozambique, 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.

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**Filmscreening**

“O Tempos dos Leopardos (Vreme leopard)”

Zdravko O Tempos dos Leopardos (Vreme leopard) (Zdravko Lukas Heger, 1975, 160 min, Yugoslavia)

The former GDR used to be one the supporters of African 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 Hegėr - Presentation of the Project Space “Utopio 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

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**Filmscreening**

“Deluge: Ye Wonz Maibel”

Irina Venjer, Leonid Makhnach, 1966, 50 min, USSR

“Dakar”.

From the Catalogue No.5 of Sovexportfilm, 1966

Evening Session / / 20-22h

**Filmscreening**

“Octobre”

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 of filmmaking”

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**Filmscreening**

“Unexpected Entanglements: contemporary burkinabe art (1972-2016)”

Art in Burkina Faso and Bénin and its reminiscence in the Southern African 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.

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

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

Filmscreening “Deluge: Ye Wonz Maibel”

“Dakar”

From the Catalogue No.5 of Sovexportfilm, 1966

Wed 01.06.2016 / 19h

**Presentation / Oval Office 1st Floor**

**Hanefi Memar**

From the Catalogue No.5 of Sovexportfilm, 1966

“Song that 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, cultural events met at such a grand scale in Dakar.”
Workshop „Socialist Friendships“

04.11.-06.11. 2017 / Iwalewahaus, University of Bayreuth.

The Workshop „Socialist Friendships“ at Iwalewahaus brought together members of the core team of the research group with the same name: Mark Nash (independent curator, London), Polly Savage (lecturer, SOAS London), André Cunha (independent curator Lisbon) and Nadine Siegert (then the Deputy Director of Iwalewahaus).

In the two intensive days, not only the results of the traveling exhibition „Things Fall Apart“ (London, Lisbon, Bayreuth and Budapest) and the accompanying program „Red Africa“ where discussed but also possible future cooperations between the individual members. The documentary material of the research project has been digitally stored with DEVA, the digital archive of the Institute of African Studies.

Since 2017, a number of new projects have been developed between the team members:

- Savage discussed her research on the conference “Border Subjects / Global Hispanisms” at Birbeck College in November 2017
- From January to March 2018, Siegert was in London as a fellow of Delfina Foundation and Tate Modern. Here, she continued with her research on the connections within the socialist world in the dimensions of artistic practise and education.
- The travelling show FAVT: Future Africa Visions in Time (curated by Siegert together with Katharina Fink UBT) went to Windhoek, Harare, Ouagadougou and Santiago de Cuba. Here, the project “Socialist Dreamscapes” was developed by Siegert together with Constanton Katsakioris (UBT) and local researchers and artists.
- Cunha and Siegert started to work with the Angolan artist and filmmaker António Ole in the project “The Carnival Trilogy”. António Ole is one of the most important Angolan artists, nevertheless, he became mostly known as a visual artist but his film works are rather unknown. One important film project has yet stayed unfinished since the early 1980s: his Carnival Trilogy. The first part of the trilogy covered the first carnival after independence in Angola (1977), the second is an unfinished documentary about the Mardi Gras Carnival in New Orleans, the third will be shot in the carnival in Bahia. This project will complete the trilogy and make these films accessible for a wider public.
- At the ECAS conference (12th of June 2019) in Edinburgh, Savage and Siegert convened a panel with the title “Cultures of Solidarity, or towards a bright new future: transnational exchange in African liberation networks”. Seeking to foreground the cultural dimensions of transnational solidarity with African liberation movements, this panel invited contributions that critically engage with the modes or nexus points of exchange between Africa and the socialist world. In this context, the academic network was broadened and a publication is planned in the form of a Special Issue.
Further links:

**Socialist Friendship Network / Projects**

https://www.calvertjournal.com/features/show/5353/red-africa-introduction-international-socialism-developing-world

http://www.delfinafoundation.com/in-residence/nadine-siegert/


**Exhibitions:**

https://www.uni-bayreuth.de/de/universitaet/presse/pressemitteilungen/2016/118-iwalewahaus/index.html

https://www.contemporaryand.com/fr/magazines/red-africa-redux/

https://favg.blog/


**Conference Participation:**
