

LONDON ART FAIR

Kimathi Donkor wins the De'Longhi Art Projects Artist Award 2019

London Art Fair has announced Kimathi Donkor, represented by Ed Cross Fine Art, as the winner of the De'Longhi Art Projects Artist Award 2019



L-R: Rosie Wigfall, Ed Cross, Kimathi Donkor, Alistair Hicks, Cherie Federico

Last night (Tuesday 16 January), London Art Fair 2019 announced Kimathi Donkor, represented by Ed Cross Fine Art, as the winner of the De'Longhi Art Projects Artist Award 2019.

Kimathi Donkor's work is being exhibited as part of *Art Projects*, a curated sector of the Fair offering a platform for emerging galleries to showcase innovative contemporary art from across the world. Now in its 15th edition, the section brings together 33 galleries from 11 countries, showcasing some of the most stimulating contemporary art practice today.

The winner was chosen by a judging panel carefully selected to include key art world figures from the areas of collecting, journalism, curating and education, comprising Jo Baring, Director of the Ingram Collection of Modern British and Contemporary Art; Alistair Hicks, writer and curator; Cherie Federico, director of Aesthetica; and Francesca Gavin, writer and curator.

Kimathi Donkor said: *"I am thrilled and honoured to be the recipient of this prize. This body of work was about me reconnecting with drawing as a primary mode of expression. Whereas in my painting practice, I tend to use photography and digital processes to formulate my images, in this case I relied on my imagination and memory to create drawings using a much more intimate and immediate approach."*

Kimathi Donkor is a contemporary artist who lives and works in London. His solo exhibitions include *Some Clarity of Vision* at Gallery MOMO (Johannesburg, 2015), *Queens of the Undead* at Iniva (London, 2012) and *Fall/Uprising* at the Bettie Morton Gallery (London, 2005). Group exhibitions include the *Diaspora Pavilion* (57th Venice Biennale, 2017), *Untitled: Art on the Conditions of Our Time* at the New Art Exchange (Nottingham, 2017) and the *29th São Paulo Biennial* (Brazil, 2010). He has been the recipient of awards, residencies and commissions including the 2011 *Derek Hill Painting Scholarship* for The British School at Rome.

Born in Bournemouth, Dr Donkor earned his PhD at Chelsea College of Arts in 2016 and is Acting Course Leader of MA Drawing at Wimbledon College of Arts. He also holds an MA degree from Camberwell College of Art and a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from Goldsmiths College. He is of Ghanaian, Anglo-Jewish and Jamaican family heritage, and as a child lived in rural Zambia and the English West Country.

Kimathi Donkor's work is in private and public collections internationally and in the UK, including *The British Museum*, *The Wolverhampton Art Gallery*, *The International Slavery Museum*, the *Sindika Dokolo Foundation* and *The Robert Devereux Collection*.



Watercolour, ink and pencil drawings from the Notebook series by Kimathi Donkor.

Ed Cross Fine Art specializes in visual arts from the African continent and its diasporas as well as other artists with a significant connection with the continent. Artists include Kimathi Donkor, Wole Lagunju, Mario Macilau, Abe Odedina, Eric Pina, Charles Sekano and Richard Smith. Ed Cross has been heavily involved with the promotion of art from Africa and its diaspora over the last ten years. He established Ed Cross Fine Art in 2009 on his return from Kenya where he lived and worked for over 20 years.

Alex Pickering, Marketing Director of De'Longhi Group UK and Ireland said: "*De'Longhi is passionate about art and supporting emerging artistic talent. Now in our fourth year of partnership with London Art Fair, we are delighted to present this year's Artist Award to Kimathi Donkor in recognition of his quiet but striking work.*"

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Art Projects Artist Award

Now in its fourth year, the Art Projects Artist Award, sponsored by De'Longhi, is an annual prize awarded to an artist on the merit of their practice and work on display within *Art Projects* at London Art Fair. The winner receives a cash prize of £2,500 to help them to further develop their careers.

About Art Projects

Art Projects is a curated platform for emerging galleries to showcase innovative contemporary art from across the globe. Now in its 15th edition, the section brings together 33 galleries from 11 countries showcasing the most stimulating contemporary art practice today. Included in *Art Projects* are six unique collaborations, known as *Dialogues*, with pairs of galleries invited to display their artists in conversation with each other. This year, *Dialogues* is curated by Kiki Mazzucchelli, an independent curator and writer based in São Paulo and London, and focuses on the various correspondences between the work of contemporary artists from Latin America and Europe.

About De'Longhi

De'Longhi is the UK's number one premium Italian coffee machine brand. With an ethos of style, design, and innovation, De'Longhi has a proud affiliation with art in the UK, including working in partnership with some of the UK's leading artists for the Macmillan De'Longhi annual art programme over the last ten years. De'Longhi also has a longstanding headline sponsorship of Pallant House Gallery in West Sussex, which houses one of the UK's biggest collections of modern art outside of London.

EXHIBITOR LIST

ART PROJECTS

Abode
Art Gallery O-68
ARTCO Gallery
AUROOM ART
Black Box Projects
Brocket Gallery
Chiara Williams Contemporary Art
CRAG - Chiono Reisoa Art Gallery
dalla Rosa Gallery
Ed Cross Fine Art
Fragment Gallery
Gibbons & Nicholas
IMT Gallery
Iniva
Knight Webb Gallery
Meno Parkas
Narrative Projects
New Art Projects
Nunnery Gallery
Shtager Gallery & Katrine Levin Galleries

DIALOGUES

(S)ITOR
Anima Mundi
CASANOVA
Cob Gallery
DOMOBAAL
Galerie Emmanuel Hervé
Kubik Gallery
Lamb Arts
Maddox Arts
Perve Galeria
Rolf Art
Square Art Projects