KAMAU NGANGA

Kamau's deep engagement with narrative, performance, and the tactile qualities of materiality, positions him as an artist to watch.
My name is Kamau Nganga. I am an artist working with sculpture, installation and archival media. In my work, I explore the self as a societally/culturally defined performance and presentation, crafted to convey internal truths to an external audience with their own predefined understanding of said self. My research practice has focused on the cultural and societal mechanisms that shape a self, or more specifically, the presentation and performance of a self. In this research, I became interested in how the information to which one is allowed access, the information that is disseminated about specific identities and the performance of those identities, and the surveillance and policing of actions and performances that are transgressive to mainstream identity are integral to the formation of a self. In works such as People Watching (2024) and Getting Comfortable in your Skinsuit (2023) I investigate these ideas through a combination of large-scale recreations of domestic scenes populated by figures occupying recognisably human roles and meticulously edited archival video and audio. Like puppets on a stage, the figures in my installations are lifeless objects imbued with life only while they are on view. Through their poses and positioning (performance), the viewer affixes to the specific identities and relationships. The edited archival materials mirror this phenomenon of a self created by external perception, but instead highlight its real-world application through a co-opting of government-produced media.

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/kamau.png/

PLATFORM

Jumpstart

EDUCATION

2020 - 2024 Fine Arts Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2025 Apocalypstick* De Centrale Markthal Amsterdam, Netherlands Attraction and disgust rarely move in parallel. They cross, entwine, and pull in unexpected directions. Apocalypstick unfolds in this tension—where beauty slips into unease, and desire meets resistance. Disgust is never one-dimensional; attraction is never innocent. They surface in the textures of everyday life: in the space between intimacy and distance, in the friction between ideals and realities, in the way images both seduce and repel. Our reflection on this entanglement draws inspiration from Georges Bataille’s Story of the Eye. The exhibition holds these tensions without resolving them. They circulate through body, memory, politics, and form. No single story emerges—only a constellation of contrasts: seductive and abrasive, intimate and estranging. Apocalypstick invites you to linger where beauty unsettles. Curated by By and By:

(Benjamin Carels, Jade van Doesburg & David Kloosterboer) *Named after a song by Jane Birkin www.napplus.nl/wasstraat-echobox
Group

2025 Minor Attractions Mandrake Hotel London, United Kingdom Minor Attractions is a week-long art fair hosted at The Mandrake Hotel inviting global commercial galleries and not-for-profit art spaces, founded in 2023. The fair is designed as a space where art and nightlife meet, allowing the swells of international collectors in the city to mingle with the art workers and artists that make the art world tick. Galleries are encouraged to bring exciting and daring work, creating a new context for London's buzzing art scene. minorattractions.com/editions/minor-attractions-2025
Group

2025 JumpIn3 Capital C Amsterdam, Netherlands JumpsArt proudly presents JumpIn3, the third edition of its ongoing exhibition series in collaboration with Stichting Amsterdam Art, opening in November at the iconic Capital C in Amsterdam. This group exhibition features recent works by nine artists affiliated with the JumpsArt platform. JumpIn3 offers a fresh perspective on the contemporary practice of emerging artists. Through material exploration, personal reflection, and the investigation of identity, they showcase their artistic development in this multifaceted presentation. amsterdamart.com/en/agenda/jumpin3-group-exhibition/

2025 Jump In 2 Capital C Amsterdam, Netherlands JumpstArt and Amsterdam Art invite you to JUMP IN2, a pop-up exhibition showcasing new, affordable works by nine emerging artists, selected for their quality and originality. From 21 November to 10 January 2025, the Capital C exhibition space will be filled with inspiring, accessible art. All works are available for less than €2000, making it easy to start or expand your collection with high-quality art. Last but not least, JumpstArt does not charge commissions: 80% of each sale goes directly to the artist, with the remaining 20% supporting the platform. www.jumpstartspace.com/
Group

2025 On Your Own 8 (OYO-8) Haagse Kunstkring The Hague, Netherlands OYO is an annual project in which we offer graduates the opportunity to create an exhibition together at the Haagse Kunstkring. The idea is that you create an inspiring exhibition in which each participant can present themselves in the best possible way. The starting point is that you do this together. We, Anna and Paul, are your point of contact and will support you where necessary.
Group

2025 Fresh Cacoa De Cacaofabriek Helmond, Netherlands De Cacaofabriek believes it is important to give space to young makers. Space to present themselves and develop further. That is why the Fresh Cacao exhibition is a permanent part of the exhibition programme. For this exhibition, final exam candidates from various art academies are scouted and invited to exhibit their work in the monumental spaces of De Cacaofabriek. This year, one of the artists is exhibiting in the Brugwachtershuisje.
cacaofabriek.nl/agenda/fresh-cacao-2024-2025
Group

2024 Graduation Film Screening Nest The Hague, Netherlands On Friday 19 July, Nest in Laak will be transformed into a cinema for one time only, and you can watch 11 graduation films by recent graduates of the KABK. The film projects – from short animation films to longer documentaries – will be shown one after the other.
www.nestruimte.nl/exhibitions/kabk-graduation-film-screening
Group

2024 Pulling Strings Arti et Amicitiae Amsterdam, Netherlands Pulling Strings is an exhibition developed around the idea of the puppet. During the month of July, a group of artists will collectively create a world in which non-human beings take over the space. With everything moving and coming to life, the public is invited to actively participate in the puppet show. The artists will create different characters inspired by different life forms, which they will bring to life through the use of various materials and movement, to come together in an eclectic installation. The exhibition attempts to bring invisible forces to life, to investigate what pulls the

strings and what moves us. With noses as organs, dancing bones, bird feathers and hidden theatres, visitors are welcomed into a landscape where the boundaries between reality, fantasy, humans and animals blur. A meeting place is created where creatures communicate, not through words or reason, but through play. In Pulling Strings the artists explore the boundaries between their individual practices and the collective, and together they will let the installation grow organically in the space over the course of the exhibition. By creating different characters and playing with them like children, we speculate on the inner life of beings and materials. In doing so, we try to distance ourselves from their usual perspectives, to relativize our own existence and to foster a deeper connection with 'the other'. As part of the exhibition, the artists invite everyone to actively participate in the puppet show. In the form of a sculptural meeting place, there will be workshops during four weekends where everyone, young and old, can participate to create their own character, guided by our hands instead of their heads. During the opening and finissage we invite artists, friends, puppeteers and other beings to perform and merge each other's worlds, creating a festive carnivalesque puppet party where all beings celebrate life. arti.nl/agenda/06-07-2024/pulling-strings-a-puppets-perspective
Group

2024 Shift Turbine Delft Delft , Netherlands
“Shift” delves into the ephemeral nature of existence, capturing the transient beauty found in the ever-changing landscape of our lives. This exhibition invites viewers to embrace the delicate impermanence that defines our world—the fleeting moments that pass unnoticed, the subtle transformations that shape us from within, and the profound shifts that alter the forms and phases of our external reality. Through a tapestry of evolving expressions, “Shift” evokes a sense of both reverence and melancholy, reminding us that every change, however imperceptible, is a brushstroke in the ever-unfolding canvas of life. www.instagram.com/p/C_DYZOlif11/
Group

2024 Museumnacht Den Haag Korte Voorhout

The Hague, Netherlands The Royal Academy of Art, The Hague (KABK) has been a leading institute in the education of artists and designers since 1682. Highly educated professionals with international practical experience guide and support students during their studies. During Museum Night The Hague, artworks by several (graduated) students were presented at the Lange Voorhout at the exchange point. www.kabk.nl/agenda/kabk-at-museum-night-2024
Group

2024 NAP+ Donauweg 11 Amsterdam, Netherlands The mission of NAP+ is to create an accessible, affordable, and dynamic platform for emerging and mid-career artists, curators, and galleries. This is based on the wish to foster a thriving community of contemporary art. We are committed to breaking traditional boundaries and creating an accessible art experience that resonates with the youthful spirit of Amsterdam. We believe in a strong community, connected through a shared engagement with quality, accessibility, creativity, inclusivity, sustainability and innovation. NAP+ is an event with a wink to the classical model of a fair. It promises to be a refreshing and enriching addition to the cultural landscape with some raw (exciting!) edges that all the participants are happy to be a part of!
www.napplus.nl/home-1
Group

2023 A Tiny Intuitive Medicine Show Museum De Lakenhaal Leiden, Netherlands In A Tiny Intuitive Medicine Show, eleven students from the Royal Academy of Art (KABK) The Hague pay tribute to intuition: an elusive phenomenon that plays an essential role in their creative process. They set out an itinerary through the museum that is as cheerful as it is edifying, passing displays and expositions, interventions and paintings, (pseudo)scientific experiments and performances. Art and science, science and art: come and see!
www.lakenhal.nl/en/story/lakenhal-late-13-january
Group

2023 Everything That Grow Underground West Den Haag The Hague, Netherlands “We are very excited to have this opportunity to

exhibit our work and to step outside the walls of the art academy for the first time as a group from all different corners of the world." "Our exhibition will showcase our diverse range of practices, from sculpture to painting, video, installation, printmaking, performance and other spectacles. Each of our artistic voices is unique, but we are proud to showcase our shared passion for creating."
Group



People Watching, 2024
Installation, Occupying a space of 7m x 7m



People Watching, 2024
16mins



People Watching, 2024
Installation, Occupying a space of 7m x 7m





People Watching, 2024

People Watching, 2024
Installation, Each Puppet is 2,5m tall and 90cm from shoulder to shoulder



People Watching, 2024



Getting Comfortable in Your Skinsuit , 2023
Additive wood sculpture, Occupying a space of roughly 3,5m x 3,5m with figures each round 2,2m tall



Getting Comfortable in your Skinsuit, 2023
30mins



Getting Comfortable in your Skinsuit, 2023
Additive wood sculpture, Occupying a space of roughly 3,5m x 3,5m with figures each round 2,2m tall



Getting Comfortable in your Skinsuit, 2023
Additive wood sculpture