

Here is a snippet of some of the new artists to look out for at this year's 1:54 Art Fair in London.

The ones to watch



< MUSTAFA MALUKA

- Represented by Galerie Mikael Andersen
- Born 1976 in Cape Town, South Africa
- Lives and works in Turku, Finland

Through selecting and assembling portraits, Mustafa Maluka collects images of faces that have a particular look, that project a particular energy and pride. He liberates the images from their original context and recreates them in a new form on canvas with many layers of paint.

Mustafa Maluka, *Untitled*, 2015, Acrylic, oil and spray paint on canvas, 61 x 46 cm. Courtesy of Galerie Mikael Andersen



YESMINE BEN KHELIL

- Represented by Primo Marella Gallery
- Born in 1986 in Tunis, Tunisia
- Lives and works in Paris, France and Tunis, Tunisia

Yesmine Ben Khelil's work explores a wide range of fictional and real characters from different social and political backgrounds. By creating the sensation of pointed ridicule and challenging their humanness, his works portray a deep sense of irony, confusion, violence and absurdity towards dictatorship.

Yesmine Ben Khelil, *J'ai tenu parole*, '15, Mixed media, 42 x 29.7 cm. Courtesy of Primo Marella Gallery.



< MOHAMED EL BAZ

- Represented by L'Atelier 21
- Born in 1967 in Ksiba, Morocco
- Lives and works in Casablanca, Morocco and Lille, France

Since 1993, Mohamed El Baz has carried out a project entitled "Bricoler l'incurable" (literally meaning "knocking up the incurable"). It is an unremitting and forceful examination of the trajectories of contemporary social and political issues.

Mohamed El Baz, *La Reine*, 2016, Aluminium, cut wood and beads, 120 x 60 cm. Courtesy of L'Atelier 21

< MOUNIR FATMI

- Represented by Officine dell'Immagine
- Born in 1970 in Tangier, Morocco
- Lives and works in Paris, France and Tangier, Morocco

Mounir Fatmi constructs visual spaces and linguistic games. His work deals with the desecration of religious objects, deconstruction and the end of dogmas and ideologies. With a particular interest in the idea of death of the subject of consumption, Fatmi's works bring to light our doubts, fears and desires, addressing directly the current events of our world.

Mounir Fatmi, *Civilization*, 2013-2014, Artist's shoes and book, edition of 5, 30 x 43 cm. Courtesy of Officine dell'Immagine





BEATRICE WANJIKU

- Represented by ARTLabAfrica
- Born in 1978 in Nairobi, Kenya
- Lives and works in Nairobi

Beatrice Wanjiku's distinctive canvases and works on paper probe the human condition, delving into the psyche to question notions of reality and positionality. Taking her own experiences for her investigations into existentialism, Wanjiku's practice scratches away at the superficial images we project into daily life to reveal spectral figures she believes represent our inner selves.

Beatrice Wanjiku, *The Quintessence of Loneliness II*, 2016, Acrylic and pastel on canvas, 70 x 60 cm. Courtesy of ARTLabAfrica



< ZOHRA OPOKU

- Represented by Mariane Ibrahim Gallery
- Born in 1976 in Altdöbern, Germany
- Lives and works in Accra, Ghana

Zohra Opoku employs a variety of media such as installation, photography and video to explore the cultural and psychological functions of fashion, and its influence on society. Her socially engaged practice takes root in investigating materiality in relation to African histories and identities.

Zohra Opoku, *Dicksonia Antarctica*, 2015, Screen-print on textile, 79 x 105 cm. Courtesy of Mariane Ibrahim Gallery

< BORIS NZEBO

- Represented by Jack Bell Gallery
- Born in 1979 in Port-Gentil, Gabon
- Lives and works in Douala, Cameroon

Boris Nzebo's paintings reflect on the surroundings of his home city of Douala. He uses a strong colour palette, evocative of the murals and graffiti found in the suburbs. Often very elaborate, he combines portraits taken from studies of traditional African hairstyles with informal snapshots of local neighbourhoods, urban architecture and scenes from daily life.

Boris Nzebo, *Ne Tirez Pas*, 2016, Acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm. Courtesy of Jack Bell Gallery



VIRGINIA CHIHOTA

- Represented by Tiwani Contemporary
- Born in 1983, in Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe
- Lives and works in Podgorica, Montenegro

Virginia Chihota's drawings and monoprints express a world in which memory and metaphor collide. Over the past years, she has submitted her life, recently her experience of marriage and motherhood, to observation and has transformed her thoughts into a body of works on paper of striking formal complexity.

Virginia Chihota, *kuzvirwisa (fighting self)*, 2016, Screen print on paper, 180 x 130 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tiwani Contemporary



> DENIS MURAGURI

- Represented by Circle Art Gallery
- Born in 1980 in Naivasha, Kenya
- Lives and works in Nairobi, Kenya

Dennis Muraguri is a multimedia artist working in painting, printmaking installations and sculpturing. Mostly recognised for his body of work inspired by *matatu* (Kenyan minibuses and vans that serve as public transport), Muraguri explores the culture of contemporary Nairobi.

Dennis Muraguri, *Matatu dots*, 2015, Woodcut print, edition of 2, 84 x 122.5 cm. Courtesy of Circle Art Gallery

SARA OUHADDOU

- Represented by VOICE Gallery
- Born in 1986 in Draguignan, France
- Lives in Paris, France and Morocco

Sara Ouhaddou's work explores design as a tool for economic, social, and cultural development. Ouhaddou makes objects in collaboration with craftsmen and craftswomen selected for their skills but also with consideration to their economic and social situation.

Sara Ouhaddou, *Igdad (Oiseau)*, 2016, Zemmour weave, cotton and wool, ceramic, enameled silver 300 x 160 cm. Courtesy of VOICE gallery



< JODI BIBER

- Represented by Afronova Gallery
- Born in 1966 in Johannesburg, South Africa
- Lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa

Jodi Bieber's professional career began covering the 1994 democratic elections in South Africa for *The Star Newspaper*. When she was selected to participate in the World Press Masterclass held in Holland in 1996, she started travelling the world on assignment for international magazines and NGOs. Meanwhile, she pursued her own projects, and currently produces most of her works in this manner.

Jodi Bieber, *Maria*, 2014, Digital print in pigment inks on cotton rag paper, edition of 8, 84 x 112 cm. Courtesy of Afronova Gallery



< SERGE ATTUKWEI CLOTTEY

- Represented by Gallery 1957
- Born in 1985 in Accra, Ghana
- Lives and works in Accra, Ghana

Working across installation, performance, photography and sculpture, Serge Attukwei Clotey mines the agency of everyday objects in order to explore narratives of personal, family, and collective histories often relating to trade and migration.

Serge Attukwei Clotey, *Packed Community*, 2016, Plastics, wire and oil paint, 152.4 x 198.12 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Gallery 1957



DERRICK ADAMS

- Represented by Galerie Anne de Villepoix
- Born in 1970 in Baltimore, USA
- Lives and works in New York, USA

Derrick Adams is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice includes conceptual performances, installations, photography, collage, and sculpture. With influences derived from Black American culture, hip-hop, and the Black Panthers, Adams invents a rich vocabulary in his representation of the “modular” human body, which he approaches as architecture.

Derrick Adams, *Fabrication Station No. 2*, 2015, Fabric, vinyl, synthetic hair, 180 x 270 cm. Courtesy of Galerie Anne de Villepoix



< JAMES BARNOR

- Represented by October Gallery
- Born in 1929, Accra, Ghana
- Lives and works in London, UK

James Barnor began by setting up a photography studio that was visited by the general public as well as dignitaries. His portraits depict the self-assurance and individualistic fashion trends that dominated both in London and Accra.

James Barnor, “Untitled”, Calendar photo shoot, Accra, Ghana, 1974. Courtesy of the artist and October Gallery



MICHAEL TSEGAYE

- Represented by Addis Fine Art
- Born in 1975, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Lives and works in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

As a fine art photographer, Michael Tsegaye’s work has an attentive voice in recording and documenting his surroundings. Series such as “Future Memories” and “Chasms of the Soul” display his grasp of change and the shifting typography of the city.

Michael Tsegaye, *Chasms of the Soul Series I*, 2010, Archival digital print, edition of 3 + 1 A. P. 120 x 80 cm. Courtesy of Addis Fine Art



< GIDEON MENDEL

- Represented by Axis Gallery
- Born in 1959 in Johannesburg, South Africa
- Lives and works in London, UK

Presenting Gideon Mendel’s personal response to climate change, *Drowning World* – a global art and advocacy project about flooding – includes a series called ‘Watermarks,’ wherein found images retrieved from floodwaters are resurrected, and presented as abstractions of treasured memories, transformed through the chemical interaction with water.

Gideon Mendel, *From the home of Comrade Abdul Rashid (2), Bemina, Srinagar, Kashmir, India*, October 2014, (from the series ‘Drowning World: Watermarks’), 2014, Digital inkjet print on Hahnemüle Photo Rag 300 gsm paper, edition of 3 + 2 A. P. 122 x 90 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Axis Gallery