

***African Industrial Revolution -
The revolution will be downloadable***

e-studio Luanda

10 July – 15 August 2015

Private view: Thursday 9 July 2015, 18:30 - 20:30



Francisco Vidal, *U.topia Luanda*, 2015

Tiwani Contemporary is pleased to announce *African Industrial Revolution*, an exhibition and programme of events by e-studio Luanda. e-studio Luanda is an artist collective, project space and studio complex founded in 2012 in the Angolan capital by Francisco Vidal, Rita GT, António Ole and Nelo Teixeira. The collective has played an instrumental role in fostering the visual arts scene in Luanda, producing regular exhibitions and running an art education programme.

This will be the studio's first exhibition in the UK, taking the form of a 'residency' within Tiwani Contemporary's space. The programme will include the production of works, performances and a publication by collective members Rita GT, Francisco Vidal, Nelo Teixeira and Antonia Gaeta. Vidal and Teixeira are part of the official selection for the Angolan Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale, commissioned by Rita GT and co-curated by Gaeta. The gallery recently announced its representation of Vidal.

Working across on- and offline formats, *A.I.R.* focusses on producing works and ideas that depend upon both the analogue and digital, investigating how information is disseminated today. Imitating the internet's ability freely to reproduce, distribute, borrow and share ideas, the artists are creating work that sits within the emerging concept of what has come to be defined as post-internet art. Whilst much of the dialogue around the genre has so far taken place in Europe and North America, e-studio's residency at Tiwani Contemporary will create the opportunity to widen the geographical perspective to this discourse.

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A.I.R. will be a multifarious project consisting of: an open studio at Tiwani Contemporary, where Rita GT and Francisco Vidal will produce work in situ and stage daily performances; a virtual exhibition and artist blog, updated daily; a new publication in the form of an artist's notebook, released both on- and offline; and a programme of talks and conversations at the gallery. Alongside an exhibition of existing work by Vidal, GT and Teixeira, the open studio will produce new work using Vidal's *U.topia Machine*, a 60 x 60 cm plywood box containing an all-in-one toolkit for creating art. The *U.topia Machine* represents e-studio's direct experience of international mobility and the erosion of the sense of being tied to a specific place. Borrowing from Bauhaus and Constructivist ideals, e-studio Luanda symbolises the postmodern, itinerant artist, caught between geographical contexts.

– ENDS –

Notes to Editors

About Rita GT

Rita GT was born in Porto in 1980. She lives and works in Luanda, Angola. Rita GT gained a BA in Communication Design (2004) from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Porto and an MA in Fine Arts from Malmö Art Academy – Lund University in Malmö, Sweden. Solo exhibitions include: Instituto Camões, Luanda (2014); UNAP, Luanda (2012); Bienal de Viana do Castelo (2010); Empty Cube, Lisbon (2009); Gallery Reflexus, Porto (2009); and PÊSSEGOpráSEMANA, Porto (2007). Group exhibitions include: SOSO Contemporary African Art Gallery, Luanda (2012); Museum of the City, Lisbon (2011); CCB – Museu Berardo, Lisbon (2009); Arte Contempo, Lisbon (2007); Natural History Museum, Lisbon (2007); and the Rothschild Prize (2007), Lisbon. Rita GT is the commissioner for this year's Angolan Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

About Francisco Vidal

Francisco Vidal was born in Lisbon in 1978. He is Portuguese, Angolan and Cape Verdean. Vidal lives and works in Luanda, Angola, and holds an MFA from Columbia University School of the Arts in New York. In 2005, he was selected for the EDP Young Artists Award. Recent solo exhibitions include: Instituto Camões, Luanda (2014); UNAP, Luanda (2012); and Galeria 111, Lisbon and Porto (2007). Group exhibitions include: the 56th Venice Biennale (Angolan Pavilion); SOSO Contemporary African Art Gallery, Luanda (2012); Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon (2011); Fisher Landau Center for the Art, Long Island (2011); EDP Foundation, Lisbon (2010); Lux, Lisbon (2010); and Instituto Camões in Cape Verde, Angola and Mozambique (2007). His work is represented in public collections including the EDP Foundation, PLMJ Foundation and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, as well as private collections. His first solo exhibition in the UK will take place at Tiwani Contemporary in November 2015.

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About Nelo Teixeira

Nelo Teixeira was born in Luanda in 1975. He lives and works in Luanda, Angola. Teixeira studied painting and sculpture at the workshops of UNAP (National Union of Plastic Artists) and has a background in carpentry and set design. Recent exhibitions include: the 56th Venice Biennale (Angolan Pavilion); Studio Costa Lopes in Luanda, Lisbon and Elinga Theatre; SOSO Contemporary African Art Gallery, Luanda (2007); UNAP, Luanda (2009); Celamar Gallery, Luanda (2000); and the Contemporary Angolan Auction at Bonhams, London (2014). Alongside his career as an artist, Nelo also currently works as a stage designer for a number of theatre and film companies.

About Tiwani Contemporary

Tiwani Contemporary exhibits and represents international emerging and established artists, focussing on Africa and its diaspora. The gallery presents work through its exhibition programme and participation in art fairs.

In addition to its commercial activities, Tiwani Contemporary runs a public programme, Art Connect, supported by the A.G. Leventis Foundation. This provides a platform for discussing contemporary artistic practice through publications, talks and projects, both within the gallery and in association with other organisations.

Tiwani Contemporary works in collaboration with the Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos (CCA, Lagos) on both its exhibition and public programmes.

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Opening hours

Tuesday - Friday, 11am - 6pm

Saturday, 12pm - 5pm