

May You Live In Interesting Times

BIENNALE ARTE 2019

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
& COLLATERAL EVENTS

Republic of Mozambique

The Past, The Present and The In Between

Commissioner
Domingos do Rosário
Artur

Curator
Lidija Kostic
Khachatourian

Participants
Gonçalo Mabunda
Mauro Pinto
Filipe Branquinho

Production
Akka Project

Project Manager
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The Pavilion of Mozambique aims to show, through a contemporary perspective, the troubled past of the nation and its influences on present-day society. Portraying this journey are three artists who grew up in a post-colonial period during which the country was engulfed in a long civil war from 1977 to 1992.

Heirs to a common historical and cultural background, Gonçalo Mabunda, Mauro Pinto, and Filipe Branquinho, are the producers of diversified discourses that converge in their critical interrogation of vectors of power which adversely affect the lives of millions of Mozambicans today. They bring to this exhibition a space for reflection that goes beyond aesthetic-pleasure, provoking a dialogical conversation on violence, corruption and social injustice.

The integration of art in the public sphere is intrinsically linked to Mozambique's history. During the colonial-era and the decade after independence, renowned Mozambican artists like Malangatana and Alberto Chissano, as well as photographers like Ricardo Rangel, were powerful motivators of critical commentaries about political and social processes through different artistic expressions. The post-war period of the 1990s and the beginning of a neo-liberal era engendered new subjectivities and visual languages.

Working with different media, the three artists in this exhibition give an ironic nod to the experience of human hardship. The result is artwork that investigates contemporary politics and popular culture, underpinned by a poetic and sometimes humorous accent. Extremely attentive to what happens around them, as well as to the deeper dimensions of the human experience, their work speaks to our most empathic feelings.

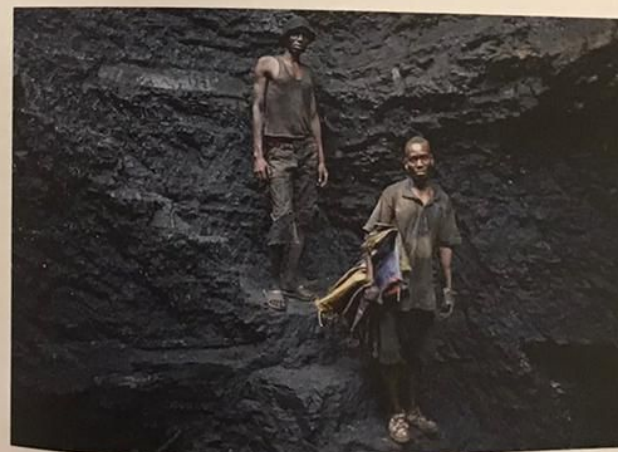
Mabunda, Pinto, and Branquinho have for long transcended the limits of national art production and circulation, securing worldwide recognition, often representing their country abroad. —ANDREA MOREIRA



Filipe Branquinho, *Potão "Boss"*, from the series *Lipiko*, 2017



Filipe Branquinho, *Procurador da república* (Attorney General), 2018



Mauro Pinto, *BlackMoney*, ongoing series