



AMASAKA GALLERY

Christine Nyatho
Kafunda Mama

Sep 16 - Nov 3, 2023
Plot 12, Birch Avenue, Masaka

Mama Gundi, 2023,
embroidery and acrylics on
barkcloth,
70 9/10 × 47 1/5 in
180 x 120 cm

In her first solo exhibition Christine Nyatho taps into the unstoppable life force of motherhood. The artist pays tribute to a character she calls “*Kafunda Mama*” referencing the little roadside shops called Kafunda (“little place” in Luganda) that sell alcohol besides many other things and often double as a bar and a social space. Kafundas are informal businesses (though some might call them institutions in Kampala) and are often operated by women as an accessible way to create an income. Nyatho’s *Kafunda Mama* is the mother hustling for her family, waking up in the dead of night to prepare her business, cooking by the roadside, providing passersby with a hearty meal or school children with a bag of homemade crisps. She does it all for her family. She is a nurturer and provider. She offers sanctuary under the umbrella of her care and determination. She is a doer, a maker of life. She is relentless, striking fear in your bones and planting love in your heart.





Working with barkcloth, Nyatho chooses to expose stitches added by the craftsman, little scars originating from the process of the material's production: Barkcloth is created by beating the bark of the Natal Fig tree to flatten it out to a thin fabric. Wherever the cloth breaks in this process, the craftsman stitch it back together. Nyatho deliberately chooses parts of the barkcloth that are covered with these signs of tearing and healing and surrounds them with her own embroidery in the form of delicate, undulating lines of thread that are expanding between circular shapes and floral or avian imagery, giving form to joyful Goddesses radiating growth in all their being without hiding their wounds. In the circles composing her mothers' silhouettes Nyatho expresses her longstanding fascination with the moon and its remarkable effect on life on earth. The moon controls the seasons and tides and – some say – our every mood and state of being. Drawing silent circles around the earth it keeps the planet on course and the cycles of life in movement. The moon is the mother to everything, a protector, a vital spark that overpowers separation through infinite connectedness.

Nyatho's work is a declaration of love to the givers of love, thereby completing a cycle of its own. It speaks to the overflowing vibrancy of female energy that is ungraspable in its creative force. Both tender and resilient, it is weaving the tapestry of life itself.



Drama Queen, 2023,
embroidery and acrylics on
barkcloth,
47 1/5 × 39 2/5 in
120 × 100 cm



Game Changer, 2023,
embroidery and acrylics on
barkcloth,
47 1/5 × 39 2/5 in
120 × 100 cm



Leafy Mind, 2023,
embroidery and acrylics on
barkcloth,
47 1/5 × 39 2/5 in
120 × 100 cm



Installation view: Leafy
Mind, 2023 (left), Mama
Gundi, 2023 (right). Kafunda
Mama, Amasaka Gallery

Her place, 2023,
embroidery and acrylics on
barkcloth,
47 1/5 × 39 2/5 in
120 × 100 cm







Togetherness, 2023,
embroidery and acrylics on
barkcloth,
47 1/5 × 39 2/5 in
120 × 100 cm





Her craft, 2023,
embroidery and acrylics on
barkcloth,
47 1/5 × 39 2/5 in
120 × 100 cm

C. Nymho



Seasons, 2023,
embroidery and acrylics on
barkcloth,
47 1/5 × 39 2/5 in
120 × 100 cm

Seasons, 2023,
embroidery and acrylics on
barkcloth,
47 1/5 × 39 2/5 in
120 × 100 cm







New hope, 2023,
embroidery and acrylics on
barkcloth,
47 1/5 × 39 2/5 in
120 × 100 cm



Mother nature, 2023,
embroidery and acrylics on
barkcloth,
70 9/10 × 47 1/5 in
180 × 120 cm







Blossom, 2023,
embroidery and acrylics on
barkcloth,
47 1/5 × 39 2/5 in
120 × 100 cm

CHRISTINE NYATHO

Born 1993 in Kampala, Uganda
Lives and works in Kampala.

Solo Exhibition

2023 *Kafunda Mama*, Amasaka Gallery, Masaka, Uganda

Group Exhibitions

2023 *An Odyssey of Identity*, Firetti Contemporary, Dubai, UAE

Allegiance to Thee, Amasaka Gallery, Kampala, Uganda

Amasaka Pop-Up Show, Washington DC, USA

2022 *Emerging Talent East Africa*, Akazi, Atlanta, USA

2021 *Art Salon*, MoTiv, Kampala, Uganda

Awards, Grants & Residencies

2022 MAKE MASAKA Public Art Project, Masaka, Uganda

Art Camp, Weaver Bird Residency, Masaka, Uganda

Press

2023 *Allegiance to Thee*, The New Vision Uganda

2022 *Maka Masaka Public Art Project*, The Independent Newspaper





AMASAKA GALLERY

Short biography

Christine Nyatho (b. 1993) was born and raised in Kampala, her father originally came from Nebbi and her mother is from Masaka. She is a mixed media artist working with locally found materials such as barkcloth, discarded paper and fabrics. Nyatho is fascinated by lunar cycles and how the moon influences human behavior. Her work explores imagery and symbolism created around lunar bodies, her interest in art dates back in 2015 when she worked with Weaver Bird Foundation and later when she worked as a studio assistant for artist Collin Sekajugo. Along the way she attended his mentorship programs that involved other young aspiring artists. Nyatho has been involved in different Weaver Bird Residency programs including the Art camp that takes in Masaka every month and the MAKE MASAKA public art project.

About Amasaka Gallery:

Founded in 2020 by artist Collin Sekajugo, Amasaka Gallery is dedicated to showcasing work by emerging artists and offering space for creative growth and experimentation. Having originated from Sekajugo's artist program The Weaver Bird Residency, the gallery's spirit was one of nurturing the local art scene all along. Its program is constantly evolving to incorporate a variety of artistic practices ranging from photography over painting and installation. Situated in Masaka City, a cultural hub in the Central Region of Uganda, a few hours' drive from the Capital, it is renegotiating the hierarchy of spaces, inviting the "center" to look beyond its confines and the art scene to step outside of its comfort zone. Enjoying the luxury of spatial ambiguity, the gallery is operating a satellite space in Kampala and proposing collaborations with art spaces around the world in the form of pop-up exhibitions and other exchanges. Still in its infancy, the gallery is constantly growing to incorporate new perspectives and extend its scope of collaborations.

For more information please contact: info@amasakagallery.com