

WAM

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Weisman Art Museum Presents *Urban Cadence*, street photography capturing scenes from Lagos and Johannesburg

September 20, 2023, Minneapolis, MN: Weisman Art Museum (WAM) is pleased to present [Urban Cadence](#), on view from October 6 - December 31, 2023. The [opening event](#) for this exhibition on Thurs., Oct. 5 includes an early look at the show, plus a special live performance

by the Black Atlantics, led by Afrofusion musician [Obi Original](#), as well as Nigerian fare by WaZoBia and a cash bar.

Urban Cadence tells the multifaceted stories of two urban environments—Lagos, Nigeria and Johannesburg, South Africa—as experienced through the artistic expressions of over sixty photographs and videos by nine award-winning and internationally recognized contemporary African artists. African cities are the fastest growing in the world, and these two cities have experienced this growth in diverse yet fascinating ways: the first as a megacity, the latter as a center of industrial development. The street scenes in this exhibition represent the complex narratives of these urban sites: tales of migration, labor, desperation, success, hope, and imagination among others.



Here, these stories are woven together with the theme of cadence, which speaks to the rhythms of life. Cadence is the gait of the artist or inhabitants of the city as they move through urban spaces. Cadence is a visual rhythm an artist creates when telling the city's myriad stories. At the

same time, it is a musical metaphor that artists draw on to speak about their images or their photographic practice. Whether sobering, humorous, or unexpected, the visuals of *Urban Cadence* challenge us to explore what it means to be urban in Africa in the early 21st century.

Featured artists: Akinbode Akinbiyi, Akintunde Akinleye, Kelechi Amadi-Obi, Jude Anogwih, Jodi Bieber, Donna Kukama, Sabelo Mlangeni, Uche Okpa-Iroha, and Jo Ractliffe.

Urban Cadence is organized for tour by The Gund at Kenyon College. The Gund exhibitions and programs are sponsored, in part, by The Gund Board of Directors and the Ohio Arts Council.

Exhibition dates: October 6 – December 31, 2023

Media Preview

Tuesday, October 3, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Weisman Art Museum | Coffee and pastries will be provided.

An early look at the exhibition for members of the press with WAM Senior Curator Diane Mullin. Interview and photo opportunities available. **RSVP by Monday, October 2 by emailing susannah@umn.edu.**

[Press images, captions, and credits are available here >>](#)

Upcoming Event:

OPENING PARTY

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Opening Party: 7 – 10 p.m. (Doors at 6:30)

TICKETS: \$20 General Admission (\$15/WAM Members, UMN Faculty & Staff)

FREE for students

Join us for a party to celebrate the opening of WAM's fall exhibition, [Urban Cadence](#). The evening includes Nigerian food by WaZoBia and a cash bar. Featuring a special live performance by the Black Atlantics, led by Afrofusion musician [Obi Original](#).

Image credits: (Top to Bottom) Kelechi Amadi-Obi, *Captain Rugged 8*, 2013, digital print, 76 cm X 81 cm. Sabelo Mlangeni, *Woman and city*, 2012, gelatin silver print, 28 cm X 27 cm. All images courtesy of The Gund at Kenyon College.

About Weisman Art Museum

Since its origin in 1934, Weisman Art Museum has been a campus museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, our mission as a university art museum is to create and advance inclusive arts experiences to broaden understanding of ourselves, our communities, and our world. The Weisman is located at 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. Gallery admission is always free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.wam.umn.edu.

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