

# Top African Artists Display Great Talent at London Art Exhibition

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African artists have converged at this year's *1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair* (<http://1-54.com/london/>) in London to showcase the multiplicity and uniqueness of contemporary African art and cultural production. The event kicked off from October 6th to October 9th, offering top African contemporary artists an international platform to exhibit their best works and learn from their peers.

Among the interesting creations exhibited at the event was the army of Black statues representing the invisible "Man and Masque of Blackness" by the London-based artist Zak Ove.

Apart from exhibiting their artwork, the artists engaged in other key activities, including forum discussions, screenings, and lectures.

The participating artists and exhibitors are also set to discuss the proliferation of contemporary channels and modes of distribution of their work - from the Internet to the various self-organizing strategies afforded by the digital platform.

The *1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair* is an annual event that brings together modern artists from 54 nations that form the African continent, which is where the Title “1:54” was drawn from.

Here are the four selected African artists exhibiting at this year’s 1:54 art fair:



The above portrait is by James Barnor of Ghana, a celebrated photographer whose portraits depict the self-assurance and individualistic fashion trends that are dominating both London and Accra. His work has been exhibited globally, with his most recent one being the massive touring exhibition “Ever Young” with *Autograph ABP* in the U.K. and U.S.





The above is a piece of jewelry created by Moffat Takadiwa titled 'Irenebrination'. Takadiwa is known to design large-scale sculptures from basic discarded materials, such as computer waste, spray bottles, aerosol cans, and toothpaste tubes. The 36-year-old artist has created some of the most impressive and evocative organic jewels. And he has had a chance to exhibit his work internationally, including locations such as New York, London, Amsterdam, and Cape Town.



A portrait created by Mohau Modisakeng, a 30-year-old South African visual artist known to create some intense, meditative self-portraits using language of dreams and visions to communicate a sense of suppressed trauma. Although he is a trained sculptor, Modisakeng prefers to use performance, video, and photography to create his haunting narratives.



A painting by Celestino Mudaulane, he was born in 1972 in Maputo, Mozambique, and is a founding member of the *Contemporary Art Movement* in Maputo. He also teaches art, drawing, and visual education at *Institute Nilia*. The elaborate fine artist is a two-time recipient of the *Ceramics Award at the Biennial TDM* (2003 and 2005).