



Let
Art
Talk

UGANDA

The thoughts and talents of the youth of Uganda are unleashed in this wonderful compilation of artwork and stories. The struggles of war, HIV/AIDS, and poverty are documented through the experiences of these incredibly resilient children.

Empowering
Communities
Through
Art

re·sil·ience

Pronunciation: \ri-'zil-yən(t)s\

Function: *noun*

Definition: an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.

THE STUDENTS

The artwork and stories in this collection are from a diverse group of children living in Uganda.

Many of them were affected by the 20 year war in northern Uganda that targeted innocent civilians. Some lost parents and family members to the senseless killing. Some were sexually abused. Some were abducted by the rebels and turned into child soldiers. All have been traumatized by the war.

Many of them have been affected by the scourge of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Some have been orphaned by the disease. Some are living with the disease. All have been touched in one way or another by HIV/AIDS.

Many of them have been living in extreme poverty. Some have not been able to attend school. Some have lacked access to adequate medical care. Some have been raising younger brothers and sisters. All have struggled with poverty.

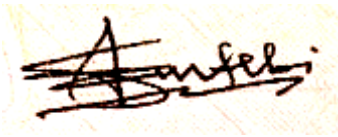
THE ORGANIZATION

Let Art Talk was founded by internationally known woodcut printmaker Fred Mutebi.

The organization uses art as an educational tool to teach underprivileged and vulnerable children and communities in Uganda. Its mission is to address the diverse social, cultural, economic, and environmental issues in communities by encouraging empowerment and reconciliation at the grassroots level.

FOREWORD

Throughout the history of mankind, a lot has been done and said by various categories of people. Scientists, religious leaders, and politicians have made crucial contributions to determine the shape and pattern of modern day life. We are now at a point in history where we should not apportion blame and point fingers at each other about who did, has done, or is doing what. Rather, we should **ALL** resolve now to use our talents, wisdom, knowledge, and experience so that we save ourselves and the planet on which we live. It is a time to respect and listen to each other regardless of race, gender, profession, or age. Our ancestors used proverbs and sayings from their wise people to educate themselves. Where are the wise people of this contemporary modern society when things are going wrong? Jesus and other religious leaders of the time spoke in parables and proverbs while teaching people. Their following is largely the basis of today's happenings. The scientists, wherever and however they evolved, have tremendously contributed to solving many of mankind's problems. However, in so doing other problems are emerging. Visual artists have, besides contributing to various scientific discoveries, communicated their messages to educate people in a metaphoric manner. Who reads their **METAPHORS**? Arts can be very crucial in ensuring that there is peace and harmony amongst the **GLOBAL** citizens. **LET ART TALK!**

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored, textured background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Fred Kato Mutebi'.

Fred Kato Mutebi
Founder Let Art Talk



acrylic on paper

TITLE: HIV/AIDS LESSONS TO CHILDREN
ARTIST: LAYET FLORENCE



Age: 17

Home: Pader
Northern Uganda

School: Hope North

Future: Journalist/Artist

Florence has started the Pajule-Lacani Art Club to teach others about what she has learned.

With my drawing I am telling people not to ignore children by not giving them information about HIV/AIDS. If we give them early information then they will grow up knowing that AIDS is a dangerous disease which has no cure. Then they will grow up having fear of contracting the virus. In conclusion, through painting and drawing people will understand the information. Let us support artists by buying their work and giving them materials so that they can continue with their work.



acrylic on paper

TITLE: WAY OF SURVIVAL IN CAMP
ARTIST: NYAMAGENZI SCOVIA



Age: 18

Home: Apac
Northern Uganda

School: Hope North

Future: Police officer

Scovia has started the Atura Art Club to teach others about what she has learned.

According to my drawing, people should know that even if people in northern Uganda have been collected and brought into the camps as a way of protecting them that rebels can still enter the camps. Especially if the rebels hear that the United Nations is taking food distribution to the camps. They will sneak and enter the camps in order to get the food. In this case I experienced when I was staying in a camp called Lapul. Rebels entered during food distribution time and cut the arm of one of the boys who was in the camp where I lived. Let us all know what is happening in every part of the country and find a way forward.



woodcut print

TITLE: ONCE UPON A TIME
ARTIST: OKELLO COLLINS MONDAY



Age: 15

Home: Gulu
Northern Uganda

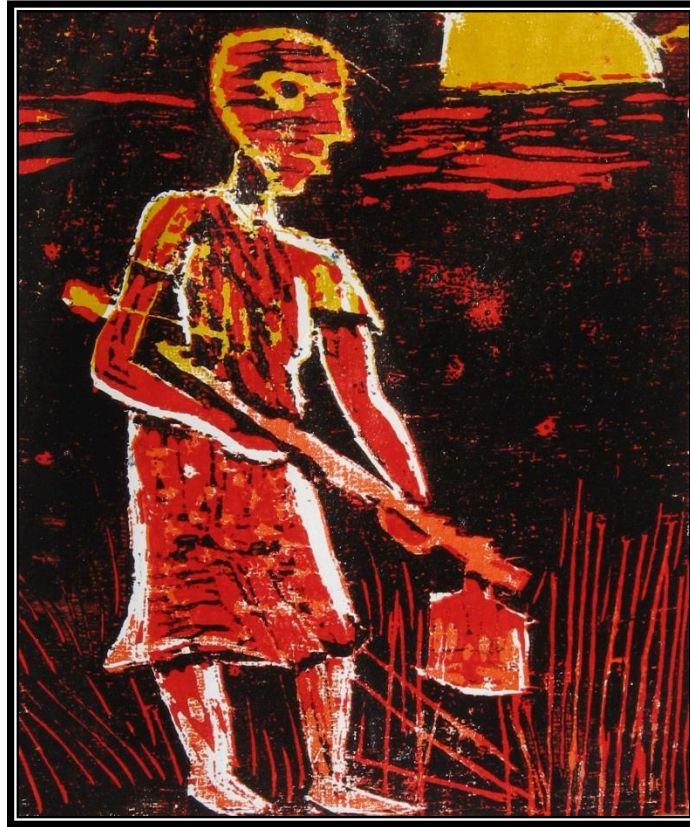
School: Hope North

Future: Engineer

Collins has started the Bardege Art Club to teach others about what he has learned.

Once upon a time when I was staying in a village called Olwal, I was abducted by the rebels when we were sleeping. It was at night when the rebels came and found four of us sleeping in the same room. Due to my bad luck, the boys ran away and I was left alone in the room. One rebel entered the room where I was sleeping and I was captured. We were three that were abducted and out of those I was the youngest. One person was killed because he tried to run away and then there were just us two. I was given a heavy load and the other man was being tortured seriously. On the second day we moved for about 20 miles. My leg was swollen and they decided to kill me because I was unable to walk. Due to my good luck the commander ordered

one abducted man to carry me on his back because I was very young. On the third day we came to a village called Natiko and we stayed there for three days without moving anymore. My leg was treated and I got cured. We were being sent to go and get food stuffs from the nearby camp. On the seventh day, which was my last day in the bush, we moved from Natiko to a certain village called Laroo, which is near the town and I decided to escape. The picture which I have painted is showing how I was suffering in the bush and how other people are suffering in the bush up to now.



woodcut print

TITLE: WHICH WAY
ARTIST: LALAM LUCY



Age: 16

Home: Pader
Northern Uganda

School: Hope North

Future: Journalist/Artist

Lucy has started the Lapul Art Club to teach others about what she has learned.

Once upon a time there was a day when I was living in the village together with my family members. We always dig a very big field of maize, millet, and some vegetables. Some times we grow vegetables and we always sell them to the people who are in need of buying them in order for them to earn a living. I also dig in order to earn a living. There are all these things I was doing because I was not having money for going back to school after my Primary Leaving Examination. I got an opportunity of sponsorship and I decided to join secondary level on 2006 and now am in senior two. My painting is indicating that I have been in that situation because I was not having my parents due to the war in the north. I myself was directly affected in this war. My advice to young people is to stop being lazy. Always be motivated and creative.

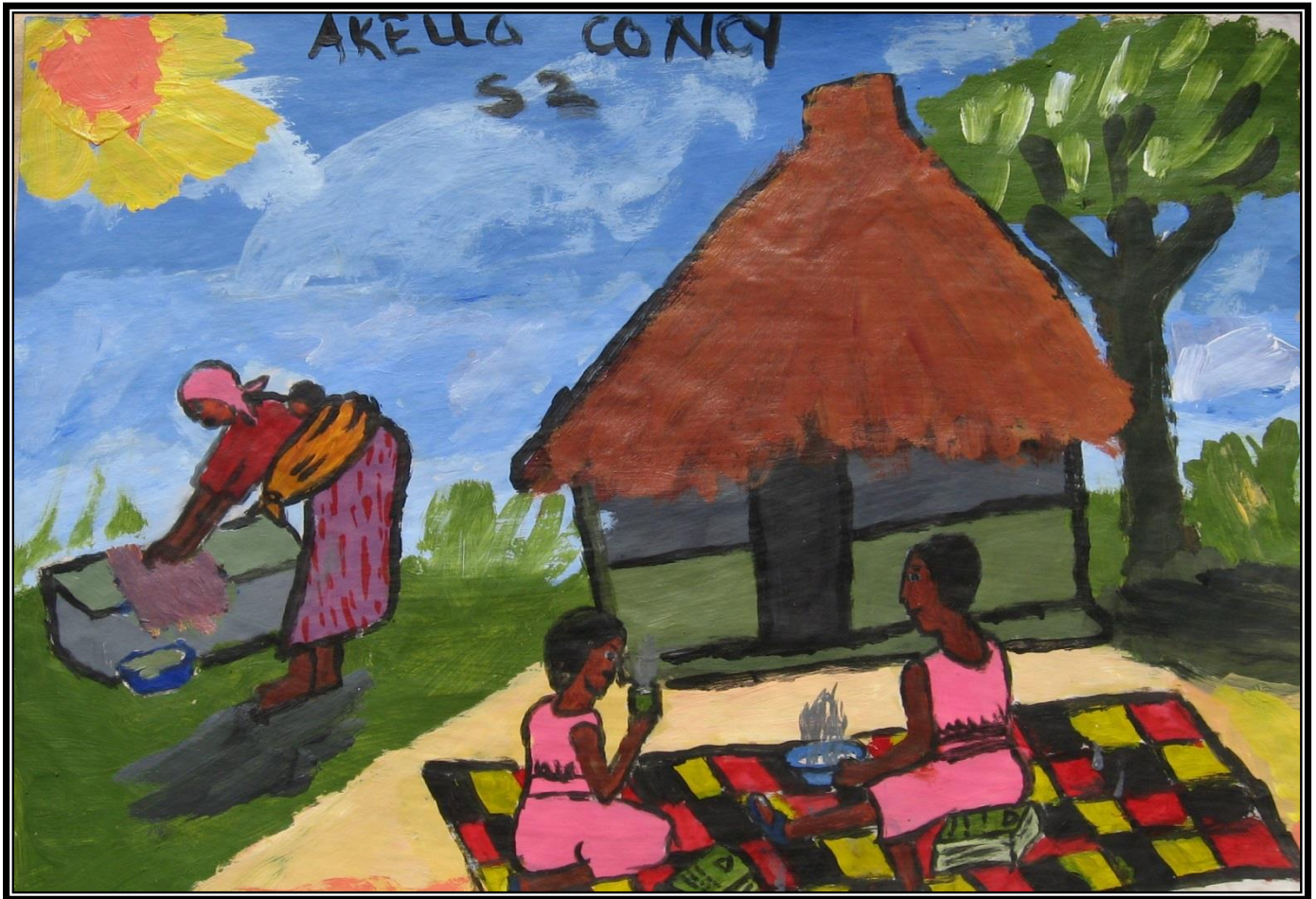


woodcut print

TITLE: I SURVIVED

ARTIST: LAYET FLORENCE

Once upon a time in my poor typical village where I was living with my family members, I was unhappy and never had peace and joy because of the war which was affecting my village and the entire northern Uganda at large by killing, abducting, burning houses and crops, cutting people's mouth, nose, ears, and making people to carry heavy loads. In my village, I am one of the students who was being affected really by the war because I was always chased with gun as shown in the painting I made with the rebels. But I survived several times from them although I was abducted and stayed for three days in the bush. One of the things that makes my life miserable and worrying is my father who was abducted and killed and my brother who was abducted and nobody knows about him. This makes the whole family unhappy so many times while staying in the congested camp and being supplied with little amount of food. So in conclusion, God make me to survive and I think He should help me achieve a better education and life in future rather than staying in the congested camp where getting money for basic things like a pen are very difficult for my mother and me. There are associated problems in the camps like spreading of diseases from person to person.



acrylic on paper

TITLE: HAPPY FAMILY

ARTIST: AKELLO CONCY

It has come to my notice that there are some families which have no love for one another like others do. If you look at my drawing, this family is having a peaceful life and love for one another. That is why the woman carrying her baby on her back has prepared breakfast for her children who are going to school and giving them a chance to study. This is the opposite of the people who are in the camps. My advice through art to everyone is that “a happy home makes a happy mind”. So let us learn to love one another.



acrylic on paper

TITLE: NARROW ESCAPE

ARTIST: AKOT MARION

In my drawing I am showing you my past experience with the war in northern Uganda. This is true because there was a time when we heard that rebels were coming to our village. My mother told me to carry some of our property and we moved away. As soon as we took off, I had gone a short way and I looked back to see that our huts were set ablaze and I started crying. My mother wanted me to stop crying. So I end by saying that let us join hands and we stop the war in the north.

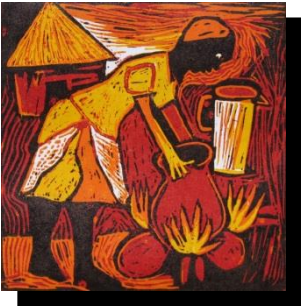
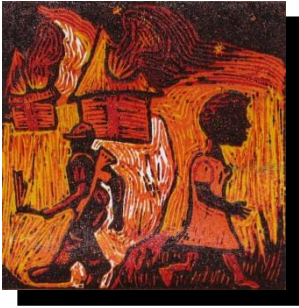


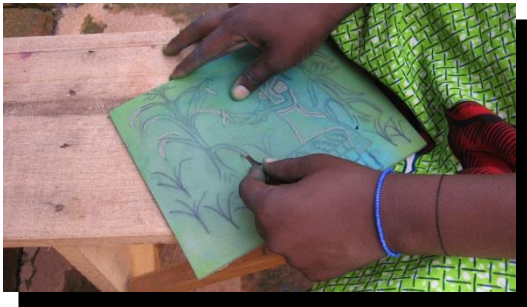
acrylic on paper

TITLE: WAR IS ENDING SOON

ARTIST: AKELLO JENNETH

In this drawing I decided to draw a lady moving out of camp and going to get firewood. The camp is now without people indicating that people should not move beyond the camp boundary due to the peace talks that are now going on. This is a sign that peace is soon coming because what used to not happen is now happening. Our advice goes to the politicians not to interfere with the peace talks but to support the peace talks and continue with amnesty actions in order to end the war.







THE AUTHORS



Ugandan artist Fred Mutebi (b.1967) uses a vibrant array of colors to create beautiful woodcut prints that depict stories about Africa or that portray images indigenous to the African environment.

He is a master of the “multi-color progressive reduction method” of woodcut printmaking. The image is meticulously carved onto a wood plate, rolled with colored ink, and then registered onto a surface. The process is repeated five to six times on the same wood plate with different colors to complete the final image. At each stage, the colors transition from lightest to darkest. This particular technique of woodcut printmaking destroys the wood plate in the process. Carefully carved images and patterns are eventually removed in later stages to acquire the desired final print. The plate can never be used again.

Mutebi’s mastery of woodcut printmaking has earned him global acclaim and recognition. His artwork has been featured in exhibitions in the Netherlands, Germany, France, Austria, South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Japan, and the United States.

As an artist and teacher, he believes that it is paramount that art should be used to inform people about global challenges. He strongly feels that it is extremely important to reach as many people as possible with art that relates with their issues, especially the youth of the world.

Mutebi is very active in rural development in Uganda. Proceeds from the sales of his artwork are used to fund several community based initiatives.

He is a graduate of the Margaret Trowel School of Industrial and Fine Arts at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

He lives with his wife and children in Kampala, Uganda.

Website: <http://FredMutebi.org/>

THE AUTHORS



In 1998 **Michael Kirkpatrick** (b.1967) was invited to Uganda by a man that had launched a grassroots organization to help the orphans and rural peasants devastated by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Rakai, Uganda.

Since originally visiting Uganda in 1998, he has returned to Africa several times. His network of African friends has grown to include government officials, business people, religious leaders, artists, musicians, students, farmers and rural villagers.

He has become a passionate advocate of empowerment and sustainable development in Africa. The challenges on the continent have caused him to question the solutions of government sponsored aid and the efforts of relief organizations. These strategies have created economic dependence and perpetuated “third-world welfare”. Africa is now at the nexus of global issues that will dictate the path of human history. The orphan crisis, the destruction of societies caused by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the war on terrorism, regional conflicts, and the global battle for natural resources will affect every person on the planet.

He lives with his wife in Plano, Texas.

Website: <http://IndependentGlobalCitizen.com/>

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