

ARTIST EXPERIENCES IN OKOMBAHE

Uta GOEBEL-GROSS

... next to each other . side by side . living . working . sharing ideas, visions and laughter . filling up rural space with colours, material, creativity . sand under my feet, the blue of the sky above, the smell of the plants around, sounds of music, talking, singing that accompanies everyday life .

For the first time in my life I am experiencing life in a rural area, Okombahe welcomed me with a gentle smile, I feel the richness all around, and I just loved to be here. I am grateful that I have had this opportunity of space and time and impulses and all these wonderful people – locals and international artists – around me. We are together. TULIPAMWE.

Diana HYSLOP

Two weeks of creative bliss without any pressures – what more could any artist ask for!

Nirveda ALLECK

Me too!!! This has been fab. At last lost in a place where I needed to be lost. Today I find myself again. Clean. New. Out of a space where time knows no limit. Where eternity emerges out of the glowing red mountain. Where reason to exist does not have to be defined. Where the heart and the mind finally become one.

Kabelo Kim MODISE

- Between the nations of whitey and brownie was togetherness / I enjoyed the togetherness/ with the brainwave from the Okombahe surroundings / through the jingle of our tools and machines/ and sandwiched by the out of practice Okombahe Junk as our inspirational theme/ J'adore/ Not forgetting the togetherness to our stress relieving point/ where we shared one to one smiles as we munch / zigg zagging of tabasco through our meals/ J'adore/ I enjoyed the humbleness/ felt through the silent smile and adorable faces/ J'adore/ I enjoyed the harmony surrounded by the participants/ the compassionate community/ I enjoyed the respect/ J'adore/ through a blink of an eye to an eye/ One can see, feel, and smell the warm hearts of the participants/ experienced and non/ the feeling is the same to all/ we painted our hearts in our works/ we sculpted them and handled them with compassionate love/ we felt them/ /

I enjoyed the sharing/ through our mother tongues/ Okombahe tongue/ J'adore the Okombahe tongue/ the click clock dialect/ making all the participants to blush/ and inventing the body language with the dialect experts/ invading our minds to click clock like them/ J'adore the Okombahe experience/ On our last days before we depart/ we

shall present and exhibit our hearts and soul to all in the name of Tulipamwe/ J'adore the experience

I enjoyed the happiness in Okombahe/ Agggg.....man, I am so happy here, I cant believe the Okombahe experience is coming to an end....!!! shii...te.. I salute you all the artist and the community of okombahe..

Raphael CALOONE

Let s talk about love, about wild life, about meditation, candles, lovely people, mother nature, giraffe mountain, donkey cars, browny and whity, our friends under fire drinks, the welcoming from the chiefs, the children, the stars, the moon, let s talk about a non allowed stress area, where the sun is the rhythm of the day, the birds and insects on drums, and cocks the lead vocal. Let s share all together, Tulipamwe comes in.

Hannah Naomi KIM

“What color is fire?”

The flames always start small
Smoke and smolder a bit
Then whisper and roar—
Two weeks too short for ashes.

Never have I seen the sun
Rise and set with such fire
Or dance with artists like so—
Fire in the studio, literal and within.

It was like feeling just the edge
For the first time
Warmth but no burn
Tulipamwe was fire.

Shiya KARUSEB

Even if I am a thorn in your foot,
Tulipamwe must continue!

Gretta NASHONGO

Tulipamwe for is a brilliant concept. It allowed things to happen. Great experiences and explorations happened here. With everyone coming from different backgrounds and

working together in harmony like that, that's awesome stuff. It was of great energy to share with the professional artist. Of course it too became an eye-opener of sharing of new ideas and learning how to be critical towards our subject matter and of course learning how to be creatively critical towards our artwork.

As with the stay in the community, it was really an insightful experience, as this was an avenue that many people don't know about or have never engaged with. As for the local artist that we worked with, it became appreciative of the fact that we were here as one and all in the name of Tulipamwe. I really enjoyed the sharing of skills and knowledge by the elders, young people and the unemployed which made Okombahe for me an experience of a lifetime.

John NAMPALA

Great moment of artist has been together, creating meaningful art works which show the community of Okombahe their environment and their life style.

The Tulipamwe workshop brings me up to date to know what other artist are doing nationally and internationally and I real enjoys our friendly manner .I experienced painting techniques and mix media of wood and metal which I did for the first time because of inspiration from other artist. I recommend that Tulipamwe can try send local artist to join other artist in international workshop. Thanks for the opportunity that you have given me.

Abniel ENKALI

Woah! It has been a pleasure since I arrived in Okombahe although it is my first time to attend an artists' workshop. And I have no idea how I feel (strange!). Yet I feel great!

I have experimented with different techniques, ideas about installations, and applied different processes in making artworks over the duration of time I have been here. I have been influenced by this environment and the beauty of being together. I have made use of materials that are available locally here, and it has been great to create with what was around me. The trip to Brandsberg was exciting and I have fully enjoyed this workshop. It has been an experience I will remember always.

Helena IITEMBU

The welcoming of the Okombahe people and their kindness make my art work illustrate enjoyable and show happiness. It was greater to share the art world and moment with professional artists. I got opportunity to interact and work together with the Okombahe artists.

Hulda GOMACHAS

It has been a wonderful experience to take part in this workshop and working with you was a pleasure. I have learned many things and it will be a great help in the future. I thank you.

Cecilia GOWASES

Dit was baie mooi en ek het baie goed geleer en ek wil nog dit doen.

Laat die here vir julle help.

Seth BASSOON

The workshop helped me to learn many things I never knew about and give me that opportunity to meet people to meet people from other countries. It was like a cultural exchange program.

I enjoyed it, I learned that you can make beautiful things from scratch, trees and waste.

Well, I hope this does not end here and that many of this kind of artists workshop will come more often to us, especially in rural areas.

Sandro !NARUSEB

First of all thank you for the opportunity you gave us. I am not a qualified artist but you gave me a platform to learn more art and like it. I learnt little about painting and making things with clay and more about welding actually. I learnt to make something out of nothing. In this short period of time you gave me interest in doing arts and focus on doing it in future and I believe I will not leave this here but to carry on as long as I get any kind of financial help to continue doing arts. I thank you.

Mc Henry GOMACHAB

In the past I just played in the arts and was not having a focus. After this workshop I experience more about arts. So it was a big privilege to be part of this workshop. I learned more from my fellow artists and now I will be able to do different types of things. Thank you so much for coming to our town.

Ebeneyus EBOS

First I would like to thank the !Oe-An Traditional Authority for bringing this opportunity in our community. What I learn so far in the making of arts you can make something out of nothing. It was a pleasure for me to work with different people to learn different things. I personally believe that this will not be the end of our arts and crafts project. We will take this to the next level.

Back to the visitors, they are really cool, helpful and giving positive ideas on our little work that we do.

To my own community members who took part n this workshop: they are fully equipped with talent, they can do it. The only thing is to open an art and crafts centre to minimize the poverty and stop crime in our community. So far everything was okay.

I salute you in the name of arts and culture!!!