

Frieze Press Release
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**FRIEZE
ART
FAIR**

Frieze Artist Award 2017: Kiluanji Kia Henda

Today, Frieze announced **Kiluanji Kia Henda** as the winner of the 2017 Frieze Artist Award. From 4–8 October, Kia Henda will realize a new installation at Frieze London as part of Frieze Projects, the fair's celebrated non-profit programme, curated by Raphael Gygax. Frieze Projects and the Frieze Artist Award are supported by the LUMA Foundation.

Following an open call, artist applications were received from more than 82 countries. Kia Henda's proposal was selected by the jury including **Cory Arcangel** (artist), **Eva Birkenstock** (Director, Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf), **Tom Eccles** (Executive Director of the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, New York) and **Raphael Gygax** (Curator, Frieze Projects & Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich), chaired by **Jo Stella-Sawicka** (Artistic Director, Frieze Fairs).

Raphael Gygax said: 'Kiluanji Kia Henda is a vital voice of his generation and I'm very pleased that the jury made him this year's Frieze Artist Award winner. His work examines the wounds of his home country Angola left by decades of political unrest. Kia Henda brings satire to bear on politics and the legacy of colonialism in Africa, corrupting enduring stereotypes.'

Kiluanji Kia Henda (b. 1979, Luanda) is a Luanda-based artist, working across photography, video and performance. Entitled *Under the Silent Eye of Lenin*, Kia Henda's winning proposal is a two-part installation, taking the cult of Marxism-Leninism after independence in Angola as its starting point and drawing parallels between witchcraft practices during Angola's civil war and science fiction narratives used by Cold War superpowers. Looking at how fictional fantasy and its power of manipulation becomes a vital weapon in situations of extreme violence, Kia Henda's performative installation will change throughout the duration of the fair.

In his artist statement, Kia Henda says: 'Despite being a political doctrine that rejected religion, the way that Marxism-Leninism was indoctrinated during the revolution demanded strict loyalty and unquestionable belief, similar to religious practice. In this project, the bust of Lenin returns to become the central object of an installation and performance piece, where the memories and narratives of one of the bloodiest conflicts in Africa, are molten with the transcendence of witchcraft and the dogmatic dimension of a political ideology.'



About the Frieze Artist Award

This year marks the fourth annual Frieze Artist Award and Kia Henda is the first African artist to receive the award and the project commission. The 2016 Frieze Artist Award was given to Yuri Pattison, who installed a networked artwork throughout Frieze London, exploring ‘trending’ data and systems of interpretation or control. In 2015, New York-based artist Rachel Rose, created a scale-model of the fair structure, in which lighting and sound design simulated the sonic and visual sense frequencies of animals inhabiting The Regent’s Park. In 2014, the inaugural winner of the Frieze Artist Award, Mélanie Matranga’s project explored economic and emotional exchange in a series of online videos and an on-site café-installation at Frieze London.

The Frieze Artist Award sits within a rich history of artist awards presented at Frieze London, including the Emdash Award (2011–2013) and the Cartier Award (2006–2010), which have made possible ambitious new commissions by artists including Cécile B. Evans (2013), Simon Fujiwara (2010), Jordan Wolfson (2009) and Mario García Torres (2007). Explore previous projects [here](#).

About Frieze London

Taking place 5–8 October 2017, with an invitation-only Preview on October 4, Frieze London is sponsored by global lead partner Deutsche Bank for the 14th consecutive year.

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Notes to Editors:

Kiluanji Kia Henda (b. 1979, Luanda) lives and works in Luanda. Recent and forthcoming solo exhibitions include 'A City Called Mirage', Institute for Study and Curatorial Program (ISCP), New York (2017); 'In the Days of a Dark Safari', Galeria Filomena Soares, Lisbon (2017); and 'This Is My Blood', public installation commissioned by Steirische Herbst Festival, Graz (2016). Henda also participated in the following selected exhibitions: 'Museum (Science) Fictions - MUSEUM ON/OFF', Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2016); 'Surround Audience', New Museum Triennial, New York (2015); and 'Producing the Common', Dakar Biennale (2014). In 2012, Henda won the National Culture and Arts Award given by the Angolan Ministry of Culture. In 2014 he was selected among the 100 Leading Global Thinkers by *Foreign Politics* magazine.

Frieze Projects: Established in 2003, Frieze Projects is a non-profit programme of artist commissions, films and music events, taking place annually at Frieze London. The curator since 2016 is Raphael Gygax. Previous curators have been: Nicola Lees, Sarah McCrory, Polly Staple and Neville Wakefield. In 2016, Frieze commissioned artists including Sibylle Berg & Claus Richter, Martin Soto Climent, Coco Fusco, Yuri Pattison, Julie Verhoeven and Samson Young. Now entering its fourth year, the Frieze Artist Award is a major opportunity for an artist between 25–40 years of age to present ambitious, site-specific work as part of the Frieze Projects programme. Previous recipients of the Frieze Artist Award include Yuri Pattison (in 2016), Rachel Rose (2015) and Mélanie Ma-tranga (2014).

The LUMA Foundation was established in 2004 by Maja Hoffmann in Switzerland to support the activities of independent artists and pioneers, as well as institutions working in the fields of visual arts, photography, publishing, documentary and multimedia. The foundation commissions, produces and supports challenging artistic projects combining a particular interest in environmental issues, human rights, education, and culture in the broadest sense. The foundation's headquarters and exhibition space in Zurich are part of the refurbished and expanded Löwenbräukunst art complex. LUMA Westbau opened in 2013, presenting international projects, exhibitions and events commissioned and produced by the LUMA Foundation. .On view until 3 September 2017: '89plus: Americans 2017'. More info at westbau.com.

Maja Hoffmann launched LUMA Arles in 2013 to conduct the preliminary work, construction and eventually the running and development of the Parc des Ateliers project. LUMA Arles is a new experimental contemporary art center that brings together artists, researchers and creators from every field to collaborate on multidisciplinary works and exhibitions. Located south of Arles' historic city center, the project repurposes the industrial ruins of a 10-acre rail depot and introduces a new public park at the Parc des Ateliers. The central team of designers for the project includes Frank Gehry who has designed a new Arts Resource Center building, Selldorf Architects entrusted with the renovation and conversion of two former rail facilities into new exhibition spaces, and Bas Smets who is responsible for the landscape design. The opening of the main building at the Parc des Ateliers is scheduled for 2018, while an artistic program - developed in collaboration with LUMA Arles Core Group of artistic consultants - Tom Eccles, Liam Gillick, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Philippe Parreno, and Beatrix Ruf - is already presented every summer in the refurbished former railway warehouses. On view until 24 September 2017: 'Annie Leibovitz The Early Years: 1970 - 1983. Archive Project #1'. More info at luma-arles.org.

Frieze is the world's leading platform for modern and contemporary art for scholars, connoisseurs, collectors and the general public alike. Frieze comprises three magazines—*frieze*, *Frieze Masters Magazine* and *Frieze Week*—and three international art fairs—Frieze London, Frieze Masters and Frieze New York. Additionally, Frieze organizes a programme of special courses and lectures in London through Frieze Academy.

Frieze was founded in 1991 by Matthew Slotover and Amanda Sharp, with the launch of *frieze* magazine, the leading international magazine of contemporary art and culture. In 2003, Sharp and Slotover launched Frieze London art fair, which takes place each October in The Regent's Park, London. In 2012, they launched Frieze New York, which occurs each May in Randall's Island Park, and Frieze Masters, which coincides with Frieze London in October and is dedicated to art from ancient to modern. Frieze Fairs are sponsored by global lead partner Deutsche Bank.

Deutsche Bank: Frieze London, Frieze Masters and Frieze New York are sponsored by global lead partner Deutsche Bank, continuing a shared commitment to discovery and artistic excellence. Deutsche Bank has been supporting the work of cutting edge, international artists and their galleries for more than 35 years and has distinguished itself as a global leader in corporate art programmes. For further information please visit art.db.com and db-artmag.com.

For further information visit frieze.com.

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