



Art Village Gallery
410 S Main Street
901-521-0782
info@artvillagegallery.com

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OUT OF AFRICA RETURNS TO THE SOUTH MAIN ARTS DISTRICT

Out of Africa

January 25 - March 3, 2018

Memphis, TN: In celebration of **Black History Month**, the fifth edition of the art exhibition, **Out of Africa** returns to **Art Village Gallery** and the **South Main Arts District** bringing contemporary art from **Africa and its Diaspora** to the forefront. The **international** exhibition features **contemporary artwork** created by **four emerging artists**, including Nigerian-born artists, **Adewale Adenle** and **Norbert Okpu**, and international rising stars, Houston-based **Robert Pruitt** and Trinidadian-born, Los Angeles-based **Miles Regis**. The exhibition will be a destination for new and established collectors, art patrons and cultural tastemakers.

Out of Africa launches on **Thursday, January 25, 2018 from 4pm-7pm**, offering a **special Collector's First Look + Press Reception** where media and invited guests will join curator, **Sheila Urevbu**, for a private first look complete with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. **Lite bites** along with a **cappuccino pop-up bar** with a private barista will be provided at the formal public opening on **Friday, January 26 from 6pm – 8pm** for attendees. The annual exhibition will run through **Saturday March 3, 2018**.

Taking place at **Art Village Gallery**, which specializes in curating **culturally significant** exhibitions and experiences that inspire an appreciation for **diversity and culture**, the *Out of Africa* exhibition encompasses both the upper and newer lower level exhibition space in the gallery. In addition to the exhibition, Art Village Gallery will **offer an exciting schedule of special events, performances and talks** to complement the exhilarating experience including:

Beats of Africa music sets by local favorite, **DJ Crystal Mercedes**, to be performed as a kick off to opening night; **Indie film screenings** by African and American-American filmmakers, curated by University of Memphis art history professor, **Dr. Earnestine Jenkins**; a **panel discussion** on **Lost Roots: The Disconnect Between Africans and African-Americans**, coordinated by University of Memphis **African Student Association President, Chol Rambang**; and **Dream of a Land**: an evening of Art + Poetry curated by **author, poet and editor, Sheree Renée Thomas**, featuring **Jacqueline Johnson**, a **New-York based** South Carolina poet and **Marcus Wicker** of the **University of Memphis** MFA program, with music by **Ekpe Abiota**, of the **African Jazz Ensemble**.

“The exhibition will honor the traditional concepts of African art, but also introduce an interesting mix and match of modern and contemporary expressions and techniques,” says Out of Africa curator and gallery director, Sheila Urevbu. “My goal is to continue to expose our neighborhood and surrounding community to other cultures using the language of art.”

About Art Village Gallery: Art Village Gallery is a contemporary fine art gallery located in the historic South Main Arts District in Memphis, TN and has the primary purpose of supporting and promoting the work of emerging international artists. Founded in 1991 by Ephraim Urevbu and currently led by Sheila Urevbu, the gallery has established a reputation for designing and showcasing culturally significant exhibitions and experiences that inspire an appreciation for diversity and culture.

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HOURS + PROGRAMMING

Out of Africa

January 25 - March 3, 2018

410 South Main

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

Collector's Preview + Press Reception | 4pm – 7pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

Art Trolley Night | Public Opening Reception | 6pm – 9pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

Beats of Africa Dance Party | 9pm – 11pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Art + Film | Film Screening – *Sankofa* | 7:30pm – 9:00 pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Art + Culture | Panel Discussion | 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Lost Roots: The Disconnect Between Africans and African Americans

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Art + Poetry | Dream of a Land | 7:30 – 8:30 pm