

IKON

NUOVA ICONA

makes things happen



Nástio Mosquito

3 May – 26 July 2015



Nástio Mosquito (in collaboration with Vic Pereiró), *Demo da Cracía*, 2014, video. Courtesy Nástio Mosquito ©

Ikon and Nuova Icona are pleased to present an exhibition by Nástio Mosquito at the 56th Biennale di Venezia, in the Oratorio di San Ludovico, Dorsoduro.

Nástio Mosquito is emerging to be one of the most exciting artists of his generation and was recently awarded the Future Generation Art Prize. Rooted in the broadcast industry, where he worked previously as director and cameraman, his practice embraces video and music, performance and installation.

Theatrically, Mosquito takes centre stage in his work. He often assumes roles, through mimicry, in order to express ideas occurring to him, not so much as his own cherished beliefs but rather observations on human folly manifested in modern life. The distance between his actual identity and such characterisations enables him to express himself variously as being transgressive, cool, cynical, profane and vulgar.

In *Demo de Cracía* (2014), the artist emerges in a studio to shoot a music video for his single. In front of a large green screen, he dances and performs before breaking into a speech on Angola and identity. *Fuck Africa Remix* (2015) is an extraordinary collage of moving images in which footage of the artist is juxtaposed with a rogues' gallery of world leaders and celebrities. His scepticism and irreverence culminate in a jarring pronouncement: "I bought Europe, I bought America ... Fuck Africa". Both works exist as collaborations between Nástio Mosquito and Spanish artist Vic Pereiró. The exhibition also includes a new video work *South* (2015), shown on a circular screen and created by Nativicious.

In a variety of ways Mosquito is an artist pointing us towards a future in which clear distinctions made between art forms, between popular culture and fine art, and the categorisation of cultural identities will have become either redundant or irrelevant. His self-awareness as someone in the art world sits alongside his concerns with African politics, especially those pertaining to Angola – as it deals with the legacy of a long and bloody civil war – sexual politics, rampant consumerism and other symptoms of globalisation.

Mosquito has performed at music festivals within the context of visual arts programmes – Biennale of Bordeaux (2009), Tate Modern (2012), Berardo Collection (2013) – whilst having a lively online presence, including an app, and a recently released album, *Se Eu Fosse Angolano*. Ikon presented *DAILYLOVEMAKING*, Nástio Mosquito's first solo museum show from February – April 2015 in Birmingham. Previous group exhibitions include *9 Artists* at Walker Art Center (2013); *Politics of Representation*, Tate Modern (2012); and the 29th São Paulo Biennial (2010).

The exhibition is accompanied by a publication, with texts by Jonathan Watkins and Gaby Ngcobo.

Exhibition Dates: 3 May – 26 July 2015

Location: Oratorio di San Ludovico, Calle dei Vecchi, Dorsoduro 2552, Venice

Vaporetto: S. Basilio

Opening Hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 6pm

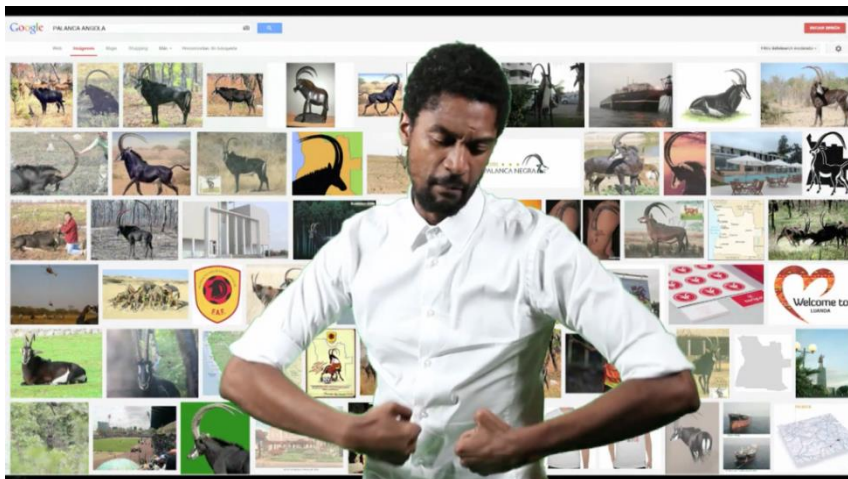
Opening receptions: Saturday 2 May, 6pm & Tuesday 5 May, 6pm

Performance: Thursday 7 May: *S.E.F.A LIVE* Live performance by Nástio Mosquito. Art Direction and live visuals by Vic Pereiró. Produced by GIBCA in collaboration with Ikon and Nuova Icona. By invitation only.

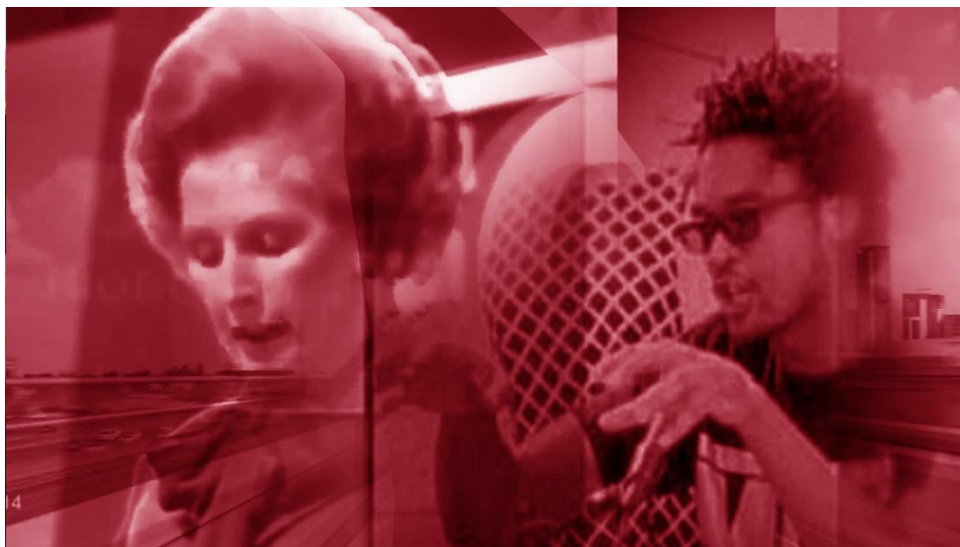
Note to Editors:

1. For more information, high-res images and to request an interview with the artist please contact Emma Gilhooly or Sophie Campos at Pelham Communications on +44 (0)20 89693959 or email emma@pelhamcommunications.com or sophie@pelhamcommunications.com.
2. This exhibition is curated by Jonathan Watkins, Director of Ikon, in collaboration with Francesco Ragazzi and Francesco Urbano of Nuova Icona.
3. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed art gallery in Birmingham. It works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. The gallery programme features artists from around the world. A variety of media is represented, including sound, film, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and installation. Ikon's off-site programme develops dynamic relationships between art, artists and audiences outside the gallery. Projects vary enormously in scale, duration and location, challenging expectations of where art can be seen and by whom. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Admission is free. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. www.ikon-gallery.org
4. Nuova Icona is a non-profit cultural organisation dedicated to the support and promotion of contemporary visual arts. Under the direction of Vittorio Urbani, Nuova Icona helps artists to develop and realise a diverse range of projects often through collaboration. Founded in Venice in 1993, the organisation has mounted over 200 exhibitions including multiple national pavilions at the Venice Biennale. www.nuovaicona.org

Example images:



Nástio Mosquito in collaboration with Vic Pereiró, *Demo da Cracía*, 2014, video. Courtesy Nástio Mosquito ©



Nástio Mosquito in collaboration with Vic Pereiró, *Fuck Africa (Remix)*, 2015, Video, Courtesy Nástio Mosquito ©



Ikon Director Jonathan Watkins and Nástio Mosquito at Ikon in 2015, Courtesy Ikon