

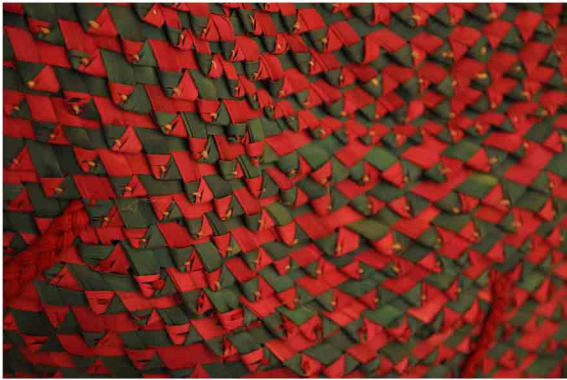
CCANW

Art, Ecology and the Economy exhibitor information

Sam Mukumba Kamegere

Artist
Stroud/Uganda

Sam is a Ugandan artist who came to the UK in 1992 to pursue his career in art and design at Bradford and Ilkley universities. He received his MA in Social Sculpture from Oxford Brookes University. For the last eleven years, Sam has been teaching ceramics and sculpting at Ruskin Mill and Waldorf College in Gloucestershire. He exhibits his art throughout the UK. On different occasions he has been commissioned to collaborate with local schools to create public art.



Sam's recent work has been influenced by his visit to the Sinai desert and upbringing in the equatorial area where droughts and famine are experienced every year. During childhood he experienced famine himself, his family surviving on one minimal meal a day and he had first hand experienced of desertification, largely caused by human misuse of land and natural resources. Lake Victoria, where he was brought up, is shrinking terribly.

Following his MA, Sam set up the Dewe Centre, an educational project in a rural fishing village off the shores of Lake Victoria. He invites people there from different parts of the world to share knowledge, skills, stories, and ideas and discuss both environmental and social issues. A woman's empowering group was founded three years ago at Dewe, which concentrates on traditional crafts and micro gardening.

Sam has not received any grant or funding to develop the project apart from some friends' contributions and fundraising he does twice a year in the Stroud area. He has relied on individuals who visit the project and work with the local people voluntarily. Uganda is a very poor country. It would definitely be beneficial to have funding to develop Dewe project so that it could benefit more people beyond the village. At the moment, the project faces difficult times and is unsustainable. For more information about Dewe Centre, please see: deweschoolofart.com.

Art, Ecology and the Economy was shown at CCANW's Project Space in Haldon Forest Park and Duchy Square Centre for Creativity, Princetown, in two simultaneous parts in Winter 2010. It was supported by Arts Council England, Devon County Council and Greater Dartmoor LEAF, incorporating funding from the EU, Defra, SWRDA and LEADER.

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Photograph: Chris Lewis