



**LADY IN GREEN BEFORE 2006**

- Geoffrey Mukasa
- Ugandan, 1954-2009
- Mixed media on paper
- 60 x 45cm
- Ksh250,000-300,000 (US\$2840-3410)

Mukasa spent part of his childhood in the King's palace in Buganda and left during the time of Idi Amin to study at Lucknow College of Arts and Crafts, India. This was a period when experimentation in formal content and subject mattered. Informed by both Indian and European aesthetics, Mukasa flourished. He was deeply influenced by celebrated Indian artist M F Hussain, and when he returned to Uganda had developed a style that was distinctly different from that of his peers from Makerere School of Fine Art: his works retained a raw energy and luminosity. A concise draughtsman, Mukasa's deeply symbolic work frequently focuses on man's relationship with the environment and the interaction between humans, flora, and fauna.

Nairobi-based Circle Art Agency is holding the region's first Modern and Contemporary Art Auction on Tuesday 5 November 2013 at Villa Rosa Kempinski Hotel in Nairobi. All lots can be viewed online at [www.circleartagency.com/auction](http://www.circleartagency.com/auction) or at the Kempinski Hotel from Sunday 3 November.

**NCHI 1 BARCODE (NCHI YETU SERIES) 2004-5**

- Peterson Kamwath ● Kenyan, born 1980
- Woodcut plate ● 40 x 46cm
- Ksh100,000-150,000 (US\$1140-1700)

Kamwath has established a reputation as one of the region's most exciting and inventive artists, responding to the complex political and social issues around him. His work combines clear conceptual elements and rich content with technical mastery. He is an acknowledged master of the woodcut process. Nchi Yetu is a series of six limited edition woodcuts created

between 2004 and 2005 looking at what the artist considered then to be the constituent components of a nation: the people, the flag, the currency, the political parties represented by hand signs icons, commerce represented by bar code icons and death represented by coffin icons. These components were presented as symbolic icons around the body of a cow or bull.



**AUCTION, 2013**

- Michael Soi ● Kenyan, born 1972 ● Acrylic on canvas ● 100 x 200cm ● Ksh100,000-140,000 (US\$1140-1590)

Soi was born and lives in Nairobi and is a member of what is often termed 'the second generation' of Kenyan artists that emerged through Kuona Trust in the late '90s. In 1996, after graduating from Buru Buru Institute of Fine Art in Nairobi, he began his career as a sculptor, and over the

years found his voice through painting. Soi's art began to receive local and international recognition, particularly in the diaspora, as he developed an aesthetic vocabulary allied to social commentary. A recent series called *China loves Africa* has been widely collected.

**NEWSPAPER VENDOR, 1967**

- Edward Njenga ● Kenyan, born 1922 ● Stoneware ● 34cm ● Ksh200,000-300,000 (US\$2270-3410)

Much of Njenga's work dates from the decades following Independence, and his sculptures, executed mostly in clay, display an instinctive social realism. Each of Njenga's sculptures is unique and serves as a visual memoir of everyday living in Nairobi and Eastleigh, where he was employed as a social worker for many years. Njenga currently has a major retrospective exhibition

of over 200 sculptures at the Nairobi National Museum, until January 2014. His intimate sculptures of local characters on Kenya's streets come alive as he describes their stories: here, *The Nation* newspaper vendor with his jaunty stride as he sells his papers to pedestrians and drivers.



# Modern MASTERS

With *East Africa's first Modern and Contemporary Art Auction* being held in Nairobi this month, *msafiri* takes a closer look at four of the works to go under the hammer

In recent years the art world has taken a keen interest in African art. However most of the attention has been focused on southern and West Africa. The Circle Art Agency is keen to expose local and international collectors to the wealth of artistic talent that exists in East Africa.

Alongside local buyers, it is encouraging tourists and business travellers to enjoy a more contemporary cultural experience in Kenya. This month's art auction is one way in which regional artists can gain greater exposure and profile. Circle's Modern and Contemporary East African Auction

will feature paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs, including iconic works from post-Independence artists and the best emerging contemporary artists. Many of the works have never been on the open market and, due to their scarcity, are unlikely to appear again anytime soon.