



KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

Tracker

June/July 2013



KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY
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Exhibition Development , 2013

Mzee Edward Njenga, Artist Sculptor

Mzee Edward S Njenga is a master sculptor with a keen eye for detail and a wry sense of humour. These qualities are clearly expressed in his sculptures, in wood and clay.



Mzee Njenga was born 90 years ago and learnt how to model clay from his mother, who made clay pots for a living. At some point, the young boy digressed from the pots and started modelling figurines from the clay and realized that within himself resided a creative mastermind.

In the course of his life, young Njenga visited Germany to acquire more knowledge on the art of ceramics. He emphatically explains that he went there, not to learn how to sculpt, for that he already knew, but to discover how another culture treated the same subject.

Over the last 50 years, Mzee Njenga has amassed a huge quantity of terracotta and stoneware work. His figurines are a capsule of the times, commenting on evolving ways of life from traditional to modern, from women gathering firewood to a colonial chief dishing out relief food, from “chokoras” scavenging in dustbins to a smart young lady waiting at a bus stop, from journalists covering a political rally to ordinary people eking out a living; Mama mboga, an Asian mason and mitumba sellers in Gikomba.

NEWS FROM NMK

Mzee Njenga explains vocally about how he goes about his creative work, from the different stages of clay preparation to firing the finished product in his own manufactured kilns. He also invents new techniques e.g. working with sawdust and glue to produce life size masterpieces.

That Mzee Njenga is a creative genius is also evident in the way he treats his environment. The hedges and bushes in his compound are lovingly sculpted into animal and organic forms. At the entrance gate to his compound is a huge terracotta bust of a smiling woman with plaited hair. The walls and porch of his house are beautifully decorated in colourful mosaic tiles he recycled.

Mzee Njenga also believes in contributing actively in the community. He is a founder member of the Eastleigh Community Centre. He will sculpt two huge pots in memory of his mother, to be placed in the church.

It will be a privilege and a fitting tribute to Mzee Njenga to document his life story and life work, and to exhibit his work in the precincts of the National Museums of Kenya.



Eileen Musundi ,NMK & Artist: Mzee Njenga

Nairobi Gallery

Nairobi's Newest Attraction – Murumbi's Art Collection

The Murumbi african heritage collections have been given a final resting place at the nairobi gallery within the old pc's office at the juncture of uhuru highway and kenyatta avenue. The collection of books, textiles, jewellery, artifacts and photographs will open to the public just in time to celebrate the 100th birthday of the building, one of the oldest in nairobi. There is now a new road, a separate entrance with its own gate and free parking for those visiting the gallery or the coffee shop which is not yet in place, but expected later in the year. There are also a series of street fesitvals, book launches, walking tours to historical sites of Kenyatta avenue, and daily tours being arranged to collect city visitors from city centre hotels.

The Nairobi gallery has been undergoing a complete make over for the past several months to capture the spirit and energy of the era of african heritage , the glamour of the african heritage nights and kenya's african heritage festival with its cast of models, dancers, musicians and acrobats that travelled around the world.. There is a Murumbi room where some of Murumbi's famous swahili collection is displayed . The Murumbi's had sold their house in muthaiga to the Kenya government in 1977 to display their collections ' in situ' so people could see how he and his wife, Sheila, lived with their art and african heritage. This was never to be but now we do have a glimpse of the couple and their vast collections, which includes one of the continent's most important pan african postage stamp collection, said to be next to the queen of England's in importance.



Murumbi in his Muthaiga House Library

Most of the collections were left behind by the passing of Sheila Murumbi, and had been in storage for nearly a decade due to legal wrangles. Now they are gloriously on display for the public to view from 8:30 to 5:30 pm daily.

Joseph and Sheila Murumbi were among africa's most famous collectors. Their mission was to preserve, protect and promote african culture in all its forms. Joseph Murumbi was Kenya's first foreign minister and the nation's second vice president. He was instrumental in forming the country's first constitution, in setting up the country's representations abroad, and overseeing the formation of the East African Community. He left the government in 1966.

In 1976, Murumbi sold part of his collections of historical books, art, sculpture and artifacts to the Kenyan government. The government then acquired Murumbi's house in muthaiga which was to become the Murumbi institute of african studies, with the addition of kitchens, libraries and hostels funded by UNESCO. However, the house was allowed to deteriorate and finally the collections were moved out of the house to the present Kenya National Archives. After several strokes, Murumbi died in 1990. The Murumbi collections languished in the Kenya National Archives for many years. Then in 2003, the Murumbi trust obtained funding from the ford foundation to properly display the items and the Murumbi gallery opened in december 2006.

It had been Murumbi's wish to be buried near his old mentor and friend, Pio Gama Pinto, the victim of the country's first political assassination in 1965. As the cemetery was full, Murumbi was buried outside the cemetery in the city park. Sheila Murumbi was buried next to her husband in 2000. Their graves were vandalized several times and the plot was threatened to be taken over by private developers. After a public outcry, the graves were at last rehabilitated and several sculptures were placed nearby the graves including one carved by Elkana Ongesa at the request of Murumbi before his death.

Following the death of Sheila Murumbi, a long legal battle ensued to prevent the remaining Murumbi collections from leaving the country, including thousands of books on africa published before 1900 and a rare african stamp collection. After the intervention of the Kenyan government, these collections have finally been turned over to the Kenya National Archives and the National Museums of Kenya.

In homage to Joe and Sheila Murumbi, it had been proposed to build a simple Murumbi memorial gallery in central park to house their final collections, just near a site where Murumbi had once proposed a national art gallery. However, the national museums of kenya offered the old pcs office, now known as the nairobi gallery, as a final resting place to house the remaining collections of these two patriots who spent their lifetimes protecting, preserving and promoting the nation's heritage.

FRIDAY, JUNE 07 2013

A day with the Bees

by Saryoo Shah

On 7th June, few of the KMS members visited International Centre for Insect, Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). Loise Waweru explained to us very briefly about the type of bee hives which are most suitable for collecting honey. She mentioned the disadvantages of the tree trunk hives which are mostly used by the people in the interior and why the honey extracted is not very clear. We were then shown how honey is clarified in their machines and were taken to see the bees wax being collected. They also have honey from the stingless bees. Then we saw stingless bees, honey bees and carpenter bees which are responsible for pollinating our food products. When talking about the carpenter bees, we all realized how important those bees were and with depleting forests and wild flowers, these carpenter bees are losing natural habitat for them to gather pollen.



Having completed the tour of honey department, we went to see how the silk is made. The process of silk production is called seri culture. Dr. Boniface Ngoka mentioned that initially, the silk worms were brought from India. But now the worms have been inbred with the local worms which are used for seri culture. These worms feed on Mulberry leaves. Once the worms are ready to turn into pupa, they are kept in warmer place. Before pupa turn into a moth, they have to be killed so that the silk thread can be wound. These pupas are put into boiling water and then the silk thread is wound on to the bobbins. The worms which feed on mulberry leaves produce very fine almost white silk.

There are also moths in the rural areas which help in producing wild silk. The colour of wild silk is brown in colour. The length of thread derived is not very long, so they have to spin the silk to get the desired lengths for weaving purposes. When we mentioned to our friends that silk is produced locally, they are really amazed. It can be a good form of cottage industry and can help to supplement incomes to many in the rural areas.

JUNE 07- 09 2013: CRATER SAFARI

Lake Ol Bolossat & Menengai

by Jan Naessans

Narinder had carefully organized this trip, combining Ol Bolossat, with different views on Menengai (geothermal site, lodge and a private farm) and a visit to Lake Nakuru. Of course, I had to join this trip as I had neither been to Ol Bolosat, nor Menengai. I knew they would be worthwhile visits, as I had seen the lake and the crater several times from the air.

We met Narinder and six other KMS members in a minibus at the Delamare petrol/shopping area just past Naivasha around 8:30 am on Friday. After the essential early morning tea/coffee, we set off for Gilgil. There, we took a right turn indicated by a 'Pembroke' sign, and drove through some beautiful, green, residential areas in the direction of Nyahururu on an even tarmac road. After exactly 150 km from my home in Loresho, there was an inconspicuous, wooden arrow indicating "Ol Bolossat". Another few kilometers of murrum tracks and we came upon the large lake. A beautiful landscape, although unfortunately the Aberdares were partly hidden in mist and clouds. We saw a few ducks, herons and other water birds, while a long-tailed widow bird flying in front of us was desperately trying to stay in the air. We took our picnic while enjoying the scenery. I hope that efforts to protect this unique wetland area, also an Important Bird Area, will get the necessary support as it has a lot to offer.

From there we went to Subukia, not the best road in the country, on the way taking photos of spectacular panoramas. We arrived in time at the gate of the Geothermal Development Company, which is tapping the underground steam for production of electricity. Finally, we got an introduction from engineers of the company, including one on environment, and one woman engineer, Milka, who is in charge of infrastructure: roads, pipelines, water storage tanks, temporary buildings. Good murrum roads took us over the rim, with views over the 15 x 20 kilometer crater. We drove all the way, past several trucks and other digging/scraping/lifting/quarrying machineries, to a recently finished steam vent that is in the process of being tested. We got a helmet to protect our fragile skulls and earplugs against the thunderous roar, comparable to an airplane's noise on the ground. From then on we communicated by sign language and shouts. The steam escaping under high pressure from the borehole created a high, white plume against the sky, visible from many kilometers, while the brine was collected in a large pond, from where it was later sent back into the well which is two kilometers deep. The engineers then guided us to the drilling tower, I guess at

KMS SAFARI REPORT

least 60 meter high, possibly higher.

A geologist explained how the grit coming from the borehole was analyzed under a microscope and what information could be gleaned from it. Steep metal steps led us up to the bore platform, about a third of the height of the tower, everything we touched was coated in a thin layer of oil. Not everyone dared to go up, I saw Narinder taking the first steps up behind me but never saw her arrive. The drill itself is hollow, so water, sand and other additives can be sent down through the drill to help in the excavation. Under pressure, the water then goes up, taking the mined grit with it. The grit is separated from the water and analyzed daily; the water is recycled and mixed with the additives before being sent back down the hole. The company expects to reach a depth of two kilometers in two months, working 24/7, by now having reached a depth of over 300 meters. A short Phillipino man, who was not very conversant in English, was operating the huge drill while we were there, continuously moving a handle bar to adjust the pressure on the drill.



KMS members at the Geothermal plant

KMS SAFARI REPORT

We were also shown the other entire infrastructure at the drill site: four huge container-size generators, several units for water recycling and purification, shakers separating the grit from the steaming water, small and wide pipes connecting every unit with every other one and with the bore tower. It is surprising that this whole drilling village will have to move in a few months time to another site: a movers' nightmare. We got more figures and answers to our questions from the engineers, the most important ones as follows: the crater is expected to accommodate up to 120 steam holes; production will be 3 GW by 2020 and 5 GW by 2030 (Kenya is now using 1.2 GW). Olkaria will look like a baby in comparison with what is expected at Menengai. Additional drilling towers are expected, to speed up the process. So sadly, we do expect the view in and around the crater to be spoiled by smoke plumes, noise and pylons for high voltage electricity transmission. But it should give Kenya plenty of clean energy for minimal cost and CO² production and this will outweigh the damage to the natural landscape.

Our lodge for the weekend, Maili Saba (or 'Seven Miles' from the town of Nakuru), sits on the rim of the crater. The rooms are in separate safari-style tents about 5-10 meter apart, with en- suite bathrooms. All have some view over the crater. The lodge is run as an income-generating project by an orphanage. It is very well managed and the staff were professionally trained and very friendly and helpful. The bar had large choices of alcoholic drinks, fresh fruit juices and the beer was cold. We found the cuisine to be very good, not only to the taste buds, but to the eye as well. Rather than a buffet, we were served at the table, after we had made our choices from a large blackboard to the staff (with the expected confusions).

Saturday was spent at Lake Nakuru.

Sunday had us driving to a private farm, off the road to Baringo. The owner waited for us in his Range Rover along the road and guided us through the scenic farm, fields dotted with old, flat-topped acacia trees, to the rim of the crater. We now had a view from another side of the crater. Interestingly, we saw how the crater was divided between farms and the geothermal company. Holes will be drilled on the private farms, but in return the farms will get access to clean water from the company. A drive through the crater on this side presented a much greener area, with some beautiful spots. We opened our lunch boxes on the crater rim, in the shade of some large flat-topped acacias, and exchanged contacts before we returned to Nairobi.

A beautiful safari and learning experience in some good company.

Update on Lake Nakuru National park

by Narinder Heyer

Heavy rainfall over 2012-2013 has seen the lake levels rise. One of the buildings near the main gate is abandoned. The lake water is now very near the rangers' housing. You cannot access the WCK property as before. A new road has been made below the KWS Education Centre. It then links to the old road about 500 meters further. It is interesting because you can now see the Nakuru Sewage ponds from the park.

The road from Nderit river to the Baboon cliffs is all under water. To access Baboon cliffs you go towards the Rhino Sanctuary and take one of the back routes. All the tracks around the lakeshore are under water. There were about 100 greater flamingo in the lake and no lesser flamingos at all, a few pelicans but large numbers of Egyptian geese. Hundreds of water – logged yellow fever acacia trees along the lake shore are dead or dying.

FONA UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

FONA Monthly Activities –July 2013

Saturday, 13th July

Guided Arboretum Nature Walk

Thursday, 25th July

Monthly public lecture series; The lecture will focus on eco-positive waste water purification and recycling by Mshila Sio, Business Development Manager, Consval Hidrolution

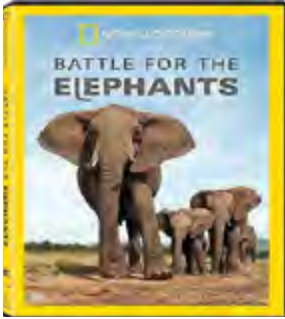
Monday 29th July

Guided Arboretum Nature Walk. Please note the guided nature walks start at 9.30am to 12noon.

SATURDAY, 10 AUGUST 2013

Battle for the Elephants

Learn About the Illegal Ivory Trade and Africa's Elephants



KMS & WILDLIFE DIRECT PRESENT

A Ground breaking **National Geographic** film exposing the criminal network behind supply and demand for ivory followed by Dr. Paula Kahumbu speaking on 'the crisis facing elephants in kenya and what we can do to stop the killings'

VENUE: Muthaiga Country Club
STARTS: 7.00 PM
COST: Ksh 2600 Movie + Dinner
Ksh 1200 Movie only

SATURDAY, 07 SEPTEMBER 2013

Headlines in History

Directed by Judy Kibinge

A chronicle of an african newspaper intertwined in the historical events during the pre - and post independent era in Kenya

VENUE: Muthaiga Country Club
STARTS: 7.00 PM
COST: Ksh 2600 Movie + Dinner
Ksh 1200 Movie only



Please call for reservations: 0724255299, 2339158

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, 25 - SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER 2013

Art Show

Sell your art work, promote National Museums of Kenya's permanent collection

FOR MORE INFORMATION: INFO@KENYAMUSEUMSOCIETY.ORG

REQUEST FOR SECOND HAND BOOKS DONATION

THE KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY WELCOMES YOUR DONATION OF BOOKS, DVDS, CHILDREN'S GAMES AND MAGAZINES TOWARDS THE 2013 SALE.

PLEASE DROP YOUR DONATION AT KMS OFFICE, OPEN MON-FRI FROM 9 AM - 5 PM.

YOU CAN ALSO DROP YOUR DONATION AT KMS SHOP LOCATED INSIDE THE NAIROBI NATIONAL MUSEUM, OPEN MON TO SUN FROM 9.30 AM - 5 PM



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Article by Q'damah Walter Lagat

Kids got Talent is a creative program of diverse artistic and cultural activities that provide a platform for young enthusiastic kids to discover, learn and foster their innate talent. Everyone is good at something; it is just a matter of being exposed in order for one to recognize their talent.

Kids, unlike adults have a totally different perception and understanding of situations and surroundings. They are therefore considered more creative than adults. Creativity is however not limited to artistic and musical expressions, it is also essential for science, math and even social and emotional intelligence. Creative people are more flexible and better problem solvers, making them more able to adapt to technological advances, deal with change as well as take advantage of new opportunities.

Art is among the most paying, admired and revered industries globally. If skilled at a tender age to raise professionals it can and has improved the lifestyle of individuals and society at large.

At Kids got Talent, we entrust you a spectacular and brilliant outcome of your child's creativeness. We are committed to nurture and develop by embracing the kids with unique ability that are keen to become part of industry and society's influential as well as role models.

Kids got Talent is an initiative of Q'damah Kip Films and Kenya Museum Society that focuses on bringing young kids together to have fun and showcase their unique diverse capabilities. We motivate them to become interested in Art, Culture and Sports, and train them to be professionals.

<i>Saturday 3 August 2013 -</i>	Drawing & dancing activity, age 4-9 years
<i>Cost:</i>	Kid member - Ksh 500, Guest - Ksh 700
<i>Saturday 31 August 2013 -</i>	Acting, singing & dancing, age 10 - 15 years
<i>Cost:</i>	Kid member - Ksh 750, Guest - Ksh 1,000

Training by Q'damah Walter Lagat - Lead actor in Something Necessary film

Issue 40 Now Available

Kenya Past and Present



KENYA PAST AND PRESENT ISSUE 40 IS NOW AVAILABLE!

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Family, Single Residents And Corporate Members Can Collect Their Copies For Free. If You Would Like To Buy More Copies, For Your Friends The Cost Is Ksh 600 Only.



MORNING BIRD WALKS

Every Wednesday morning at 8:45. These three- to 3.5-hour walks are organized by Nature Kenya. Participants meet at the upper Museum carpark off Kipande Road. Members who have books or binoculars they no longer use are urged to donate them to Nature Kenya.

Cost: Ksh 200 per person; free to KMS members

Email: office@naturekenya.org

SUNDAY BIRD WATCH OUTING

Every third Sunday of each month. Meet in the upper staff carpark off Kipande Road at 9:00 a.m. Bring binoculars, water and a picnic lunch.

Email: office@naturekenya.org

Contact Nature Kenya for more information about birdwalks:

020-353-7568 // 0739-200-216 // 0750-149-200 // 0751-624-312



What you get as a KMS member

Did you know as a KMS member you are entitled to free entry to all National and regional Museums, prehistoric sites and monuments around Kenya. The National Museums of Kenya is the custodian of Kenya's natural and cultural heritage that manages three World Heritage Sites, twenty two museums and over two hundred sites and monuments across the country.

The three World Heritage Sites are Fort Jesus, Lamu and Kaya Forests all located in the Coast region.

The sites and monuments open to the public include Gedi Ruins, Hyrax Hill, Jumba la Mtwana, Kariandusi, Koobi Fora, Mnarani, Olorgesailie, Rusinga Island, Songhor, Takwa-Manda Island and Thimlich Ohinga, Tom Mboya Mausoleum, Kanam Prehistoric Site and Simbi Nyaima in Kisumu.

Other benefits include:

>> Birds walks, tree walks, reduced rates for day and weekend outings, evening lectures and other programs for members

>> Monthly newsletter ***Tracker*** to keep you abreast of KMS and Museum activities

>> Email updates on KMS, NMK and other societies' activities

>> Annual magazine ***Kenya Past and Present***

>> 5% discount at the Nairobi National Museum shop run by KMS

>> Free borrowing privileges at KMS library

>> Free reading privileges at Nature Kenya/NMK library

Please note: When using your KMS membership to gain entry to NMK Museums & Site and Monuments, you must also provide other identification. Corporate members using membership cards should provide their organization job identification. KMS membership is not transferable.

KMS Membership Registration Form

Please use BLOCK letters

Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr/ Family Name _____

First Name _____ Spouse _____

Names of children (under 18) _____

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I am a NEW/RENEWING member (please circle one)

I prefer to receive the *Tracker* by EMAIL/POST (please circle one)

Membership category	Amount	Included
Single resident	KSH 1,500	One membership card
Family resident	Ksh 2,000	Including children < 18 Yrs
Students (Kenyan Resident)	Ksh 300	One membership card
Up Country (New Category)	Ksh 1,200	One membership card
Non Resident	USD 50	One card
Visitors (valid for one month only)	Ksh 800	One membership card
Corporate membership (Kenya)	Ksh 15,000	Eight membership cards

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KANGA STORIES

EXHIBITION

DATES: JUNE 13- JULY 13, 2013

VENUE: NATIONAL MUSEUM

TIME: 8.30AM TO 5.30 PM [OPEN DAILY]

ENTRY: MUSEUM RATES APPLY

*K*anga Stories, the Cloth that Reveals', is an exhibition on the kanga cloth, an essential aspect of the Kenya's cultural heritage. The kanga is an effective way to chronicle history and convey both literal and socio-cultural messages which sets it apart from other cloths used by our communities.

Come and discover the colorful dynamic world of the kanga!

The Cloth That Reveals



