# PERSONAL STRUCTURES

European Cultural Centre

9.5-22.11 2026

2026 Venice Art Biennial

Palazzo Mora

Palazzo Bembo

Marinaressa Gardens

# CONFLUENCES

# Jala Foundation for Contemporary African Artists

The presented works explore the circle as both form and concept, using it to reflect on water, land, and the self as sites of memory, transformation, and continuity. Across different material languages, the artists approach change not as rupture, but as an ongoing process shaped by time, environment, and human intervention.

**Arabella Caccia's** Lake Malawi and Lake Tanganyika, embroidery and appliqué on hand-painted silk, 2024, draw inspiration from a 2023 journey from Cape Town to the Great Rift Valley. Referencing Africa's second- and third-largest inland lakes, the works celebrate the life-sustaining and transcendent qualities of these vast bodies of water, while questioning their vulnerability in an era of global warming. By combining hand-painted mulberry silk and digital embroidery with hand-stitched felt appliqué, glass beads, and repurposed brass, the artist creates a dialogue between ancient African craft traditions and contemporary technology, reflecting on the balance between human progress and planetary survival.

**Jean du Plessis's** Constant Change forms part of The Idea of Constant Change, an ongoing exploration of the human mind, body, and soul in relation to society, technology, and nature. Through constructive abstraction and gestural mark-making, the work reflects on contemporary consciousness, examining the tension between the intuitive and rational mind, inner and outer worlds, and shifting perceptions of identity. Influenced by Surrealism and the ideasof thinkers such as Édouard Glissant and Nicolas Bourriaud, the work approaches change as both destabilizing and generative, positioning uncertainty as a space for reflection,empathy, and transformation.

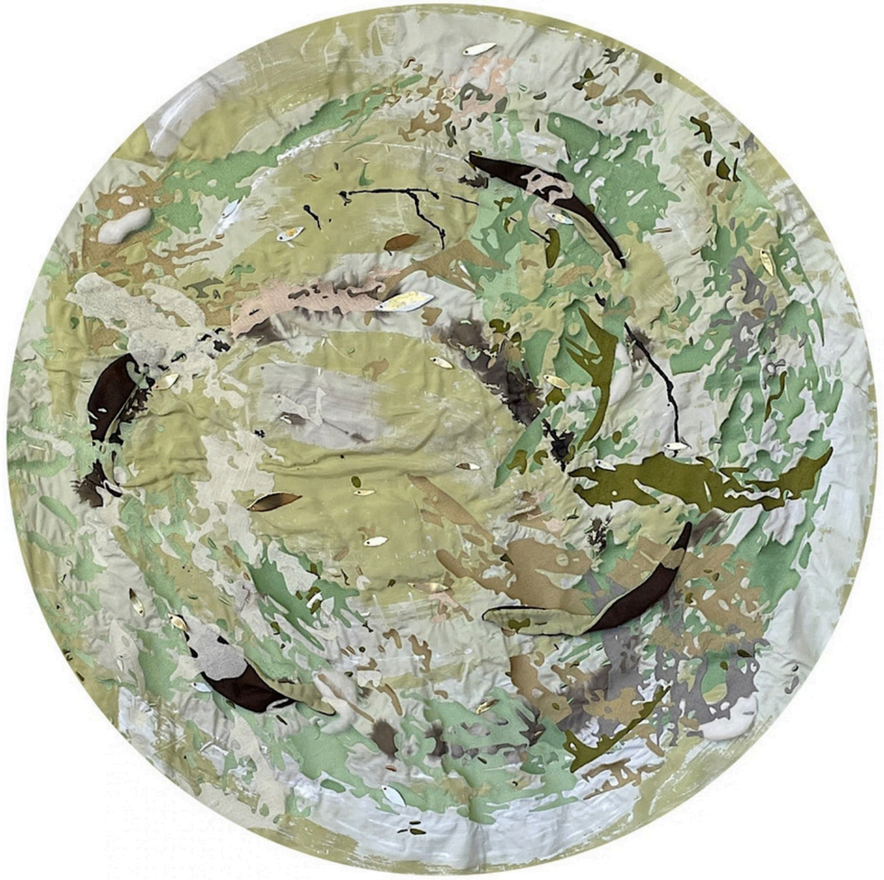
**Neo Ramushu's** Reconnecting the Land reflects on fractured relationships between self, land, and memory. Drawing from a studio environment once defined by industrial production, the artist adopts the circle as a recurring form symbolizing unity, continuity, and collective presence. Earth-toned surfaces, embedded materials, and linear interruptions evoke landscapes shaped by displacement and extraction, while repetition suggests time as cyclical rather than linear. The work treats land as a living archive, proposing reconnection as an ongoing act of repair.

Jala Foundation for Contemporary African Artists is dedicated to cultivating creativity, growth, and self-actualisation among African-based contemporary artists. Like seeds in fertile soil, talent flourishes in the right environment. The foundation provides artists with exposure, access to global platforms, and opportunities for meaningful engagement with international markets, from Venice to Geneva, California to Vietnam. Jala Foundation empowers artists, creating pathways for their work to resonate worldwide while celebrating Africa's rich and dynamic artistic heritage.

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**Arabella Caccia**
Lake Malawi
Embroidery and appliqué on hand-painted silk, 2024
86 cm diameter



**Arabella Caccia**
Lake Tanganyika
Embroidery and appliqué on hand-painted silk, 2024
98 cm diameter

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