



United Nations

2015: Time for Global Action  
for People and Planet

THE  
TRANSFORMATIVE  
POWER OF

SDG

# "THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ART"

UNITED NATIONS VISITORS LOBBY - GALLERY A

30 June 2015, 6 p.m.

An exhibit under the auspices of H.E.

BAN KI-MOON

*Secretary-General of the United Nations*

SAM KAHAMBA KUTESA

*President of the sixty-ninth session of the  
United Nations General Assembly*

---

Jean Victor Nkolo,  
*spokeperson of the President of the sixty-ninth  
session of the United Nations General Assembly,*  
will introduce the programme and speakers.



## “THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ART”

Sculptures & Paintings

by Fabrizio Ruggiero

Papier-mâché by Nina Muzzi

The idea of “putting people at the centre of all we do” has been the fundamental principle that has guided our work throughout the course of this 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. As I have said many times, we must put people first and take concrete steps to improve the wellbeing of humanity. This has become a particularly inspirational mantra as this year we collectively seek to formulate an inclusive and transformative post-2015 development agenda. Yet, as we strive to improve the socioeconomic welfare of people, we must bear in mind the need to respect and protect our natural environment. Increasingly it has become evident that climate change is one of the defining challenges of our time, and must be addressed in harmony with our development efforts.

Simply, a world where people prosper is one where the planet is protected.

The Transformative Power of Art is designed with that careful equilibrium in mind.

These pieces provide a visual testimony to the versatility and power of natural materials; both in our environment and our everyday lives. Using elements such as lime, wood, mortar, iron, and others, our contributing artists have carefully selected textures that coalesce to convey nature’s bounty and timeless offerings.

From drying grapes in Tuscany to smooth coffee beans in East Timor; from flavourful cloves in Zanzibar to delicate tea leaves in Sri Lanka; from rice grains in China to vibrant red chillies in Angola; this exhibition serves as a tangible representation of the power and beauty of our natural world.

Accompanying these depictions of our natural environment are sixteen portraits that project the power of generosity and artistic expression of the human spirit.

These men and women are considered leaders in their fields, yet never lost sight of the need to strengthen the most vulnerable.

Here, within this exhibition, there is harmony between elements of our natural world and the humans that grace it.

We are reminded that indeed, “putting people at the centre of all we do” can and must take place in parallel with efforts to protect our planet.

Sam Kahamba Kutesa

President of 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

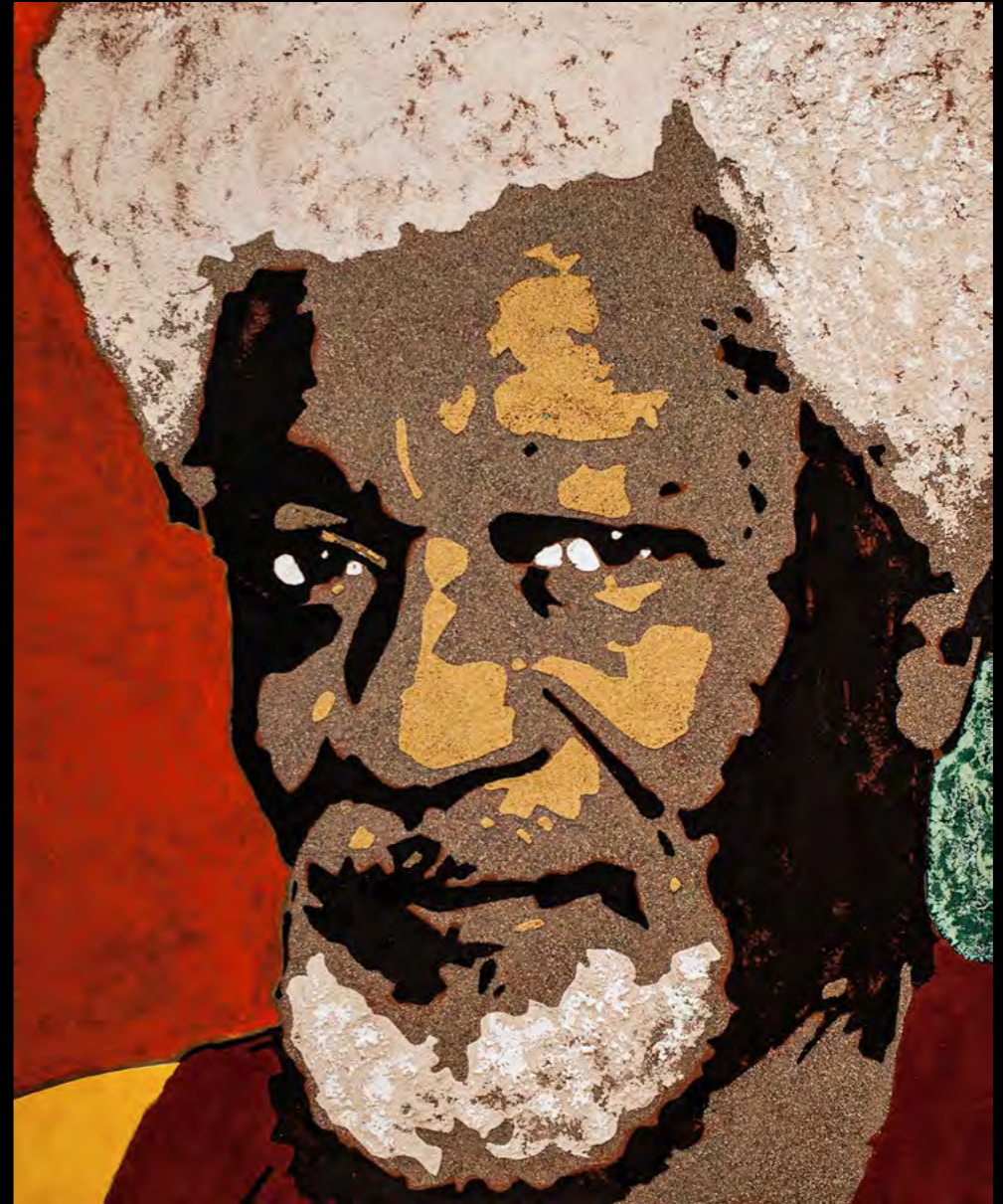








MAYA ANGELOU ( USA )



WOLE SOYINKA ( NIGERIA )



PIERRE-CLAVER AKENDENGUÉ (GABON)



GONG LI (CHINA)





FATEMEH MOTAMED ARIA (IRAN)



OKOT P'BITEK (UGANDA)



UUM KALTHOUM ( EGYPT)



Vasilij Vasil'evič Kandinskij (russia)



AUDREY HEPBURN (UK)



NGUGI WA THIONG'O (KENYA)



SATYAJI RAY (INDIA)



MIRIAM MAKEBA (SOUTH AFRICA)



MALALA YOUSAFZAI (PAKISTAN)



EDGAR MORIN (FRANCE)



JOAN BAEZ (USA)



SEBASTIÃO SALGADO ( BRAZIL)



Fabrizio Ruggiero

Ever since his early years in Naples, Fabrizio Ruggiero has been fascinated by surfaces shaped by nature over time; the smoothness of the gentle waves on the bay of his native city and the rough-worn like lunar landscape around the Vesuvius. After his studies in Architecture from the University of Naples, he settled in 1980 in Tuscany to establish *Architectura Picta*, an innovative workshop focused on developing the ancient fresco technique using contemporary technology. In 2001, he collaborated in the *Global Pagoda* project, the world's largest Buddhist Pagoda, which was being planned in Gorai Creek, near Mumbai, India. In 2008, inspired by Marcel Duchamp, he painted a series of portraits of prominent 20th century artists in fresco style. In 2014, he was commissioned to design and curate the permanent exhibition at the National Museum in Yaoundé, Cameroon, of a unique 60-meter artwork by the Poto-Poto School of Painting in Brazzaville (*Ecole de Peinture de Poto-Poto*), in the Republic of Congo. His artwork can be found in private collections in Europe, Asia and the Americas. His most recent exhibition, *Le Monde des Femmes*, was staged at the *Maison de la Chine* in Paris, France.



Nina Muzzi

A true environmental artist, Nina Muzzi resides and works in an area surrounded by centuries-old oaks and ancient chestnut trees at the crossroads of Tuscany and Umbria. She is well known for her sculptural compositions of perfumed flowers – zinnias, elderberries, marigolds, lavender, peonies – that she grows herself and carefully dries in an abandoned building once used for drying tobacco. Muzzi is also known for her alchemy with old newspapers and cardboard waste that she recycles and transforms into a new ecological material that resembles the grey stone or *pietra serena* sometimes used in the architectural monuments of Florence. She also uses the so-called *galestro*, a mix of limestone and clay found in the Chianti vineyards. Inspired by the mythical Platonic solid shapes, she molds the objects with her hands in a unique process that she is known to have invented. She refers to her special papier mâché as “paperstone.” Her work stimulates reflection on the human condition and the fluidity of time. The transformative power of Muzzi’s art, her remarkable mastery of *papier mâché*, appeals to many in all continents.