

Emmanuel Eperu Magala

Multidisciplinary Visual Artist

Location

Nairobi, Kenya &
Kampala, Uganda

Contact

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eperu_magala

Languages

English
Luganda
Swahili

Profile

Magala Emmanuel Eperu (born 1999) is a visual artist who splits his time between **Nairobi and Kampala**. He studied at **Kyambogo University's Faculty of Industrial Art and Design**, and his work stretches across painting, sculpture, textiles, and installation. Eperu delves into themes such as identity, land, and what it takes to survive, allowing his choice of materials to guide him along the way.

He leans heavily on **indigenous visual languages** and gives new life to used fabrics, transforming old, discarded materials into pieces that prompt reflection on sustainability, memory, and our shared responsibilities. His installation, **"Woven Dreams,"** made from 223 pairs of discarded jeans, doesn't just recycle; it transforms fashion waste into a meditation on how much we consume and the damage we inflict on the planet.

Eperu does not work alone, either. He has teamed up with **Africa Collect Textiles (ACT), the Human Needs Program**, the **Kibera Arts District**, and even the **United Nations' Environment Program**, and more recently, he conducted a circular art program with **Peponi House Preparatory** and a show at **Alliance Francaise, Nairobi,** for World Environment Day. Everywhere he goes, he uses art to confront tough environmental realities, but there's always a thread of hope and creativity woven through his work.

Education background

2018–2022
Bachelor of Industrial Art and Design
Kyambogo University
Uganda

2016–2017
Uganda Certificate of Advanced Education (UACE)
Naalya Senior Secondary School, Namugongo
Uganda

2012–2015
Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE)
Naalya Senior Secondary Schools

2006–2011
Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB)

Solo exhibition

2026 (5th -21st June)
Handled By Humans; Shared DNA
Alliance Française
Nairobi
Kenya

2022 (15th December- January 2023)
Graduation Exhibition
Daddy's Wines and Spirits
Kiwatule, Nakawa Division
Uganda

Group exhibition

2026 (18th June)
Threads of Change: A creative showcase
Peponi House Preparatory
Lower Kabete
Kenya

2026 (9th-12th April)
Lagos Fashion Week
Woven Threads VII: Crafted Exhibition
Kofo Abayomi, Victoria Island
Lagos, Nigeria

2026 (7th -15th March)
Nairobi Design Week
Let's Be Human
Diba Studios
Babadogo
Kenya

2026 (24th February- 18th June)
Restricted Voices: The beauty and reality of Womanhood
Danish Embassy
Runda
Kenya

2025 (8th-16th March)
Nairobi Design Week
We are the Ancestors
The Waterfront Karen
Nairobi
Kenya

2025 (26th April- June)
Powerful Kenyan Women
House of Friends Gallery
Kibera
Kenya

Public Art & Monumental exhibition

2025
Woven Dreams
Nairobi Design Week
Africa Collect Textiles
Opportunity Factory and Waterfront Mall, Karen

2025
United Nations Zero Waste Day
United Nations & Africa Collect Textiles
UN Headquarters, Gigiri
Kenya

2025
A sea of blue Installation
TEDtalks & Nairobi Street Kitchen
Nairobi Street Kitchen, Mpaka Rd
Kenya

2026
Handled by Humans: Shared DNA Installation
Nairobi Design Week
Africa Collect Textiles
Diba Studios, Babadogo
Kenya

2026
Handled by Humans: Shared DNA Exhibition & Installation
Alliance Française
Alliance Française & Africa Collect Textiles
Alliance Française, Utalii Lane

Residencies

2025– Date
Artist in Residency, Africa Collect Textiles
Africa Collect Textiles
Kenya

2022 (May-June)
Artist in Residency, Vodo Art Society
Kampala, Uganda

Awards

2017
Best Painter Award
Art in Me Festival
Kampala, Uganda

Collections

Private Collections
Frank Bierens Collection
Wanjira Maathai Collection

Corporate Collections
Human Needs Project, San Francisco

Selected commissions

2026– Present
Client: Zoe Alderfer Ryan
Project: The Story of African Genes Told through Jeans
A show slated for Aspen, Colorado

2025– Present
Client: ACT
Project: Research and Textile Installations

2025
Client: Re-future Foundation, Australia
Gikomba Market Bale Strap Research Project

2025
Client: Human Needs Project
Project: Tapestries for Taste of Africa Auction
San Francisco, USA

Collaborations

Africa Collect Textiles
House of Friends Gallery
Vodo Art Society
Artisans in Marurui
Community weavers: Amimo Margaret & Eunice Kaminju & Shalom Weavers
Fashion designers: Kennedy Ogilo, Stephen Warui, Ruth, etc.
Architects: Jasiri Studios

Research projects

2025–Present
Circular Textile Economies in East Africa: A Case Study of Gikomba Market
Researching waste systems in Gikomba and informal recycling networks.



Bale Strap Product prototyping

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pFzXwvKVx8DtC1sp6LNN7l5CcSlahRmV/view?usp=drivesdk

2025–Present
The Story of African Genes Told Through Jeans
Research into denim, indigo, labor histories, and material memory.

Workshops, Talks & Lectures

Panels

2026 (12th March)
Weaving Identity: The Art & Craft of Weaving
Nairobi Design Week.
Diba Studio, Babadogo
Kenya

Artist talks

2026 (5th June)
Handled by Humans: Shared DNA Artist talk
Alliance Française, Nairobi
Kenya

2026 (18th June)
Threads of Change: Creative Showcase Opening Talk
Peponi House Preparatory, Lower Kabete
Kenya

2025 (14th June)
Powerful Kenyan Women: We've Got Your Back Artist Talk
House of Friends Gallery, Kibera
Kenya

Guest lectures

2026 (9th February)
STEAM week Guest Artist
Braeburn Schools, Nanyuki
Kenya

School workshops

2026 (13th January-18th June)
Weaving and Circular Art Classes
Peponi House Preparatory
Kenya

Community engagement

2025 (October- Present)
Gikomba Bale Strap Research and Product Prototyping
Gikomba Market
Nairobi, Kenya

Publication / Press

Articles

Business Daily, Kenya
https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/lifestyle/art/visual-arts/kenyan-women-legacy-told-in-tapestry-and-brass-5053236

Catalogues

Restricted Voice: The Beauty & Reality of Womanhood
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_Pe1WTyTP0F4b7R4PTluDYm0m8IKqj1v/view?usp=drivesdk

Features

Africa Collect Textiles Website
https://africacollecttextiles.com/human-needs-project/

Humans Needs Project: Taste of Africa
https://www.humanneedsproject.org/post/taste-of-africa-photo-album

Threads of Change: Creative Art Showcase Catalogue

Curatorial Projects

Handled By Humans: Shared Dna
Threads Of Change: Creative Art Showcase

Professional Experience

2019– Present
Creative Director
Studio Practice

2023–Present
Research Consultant
Africa Collect Textiles

2025–Present
Artist Educator in Circular Design and Material Innovation
Peponi House Preparatory

2026– Present

Selected projects



The Drummer boy.
Human needs Project. Taste of Africa Auction Piece



UN zero waste day



Woven dreams.
NDW 25 We are the Ancestors



Powerful Kenyan women.
Wangari Maathai

Collections of research interests

- Material Culture
- Circular Design
- Textile Waste
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- African Storytelling
- Public Art
- Monumental Sculpture
- Architecture
- Environmental Design
- Community Collaboration
- Art History
- African & East African Arts

Skills

- Installation Design
- Public Art
- Architectural Illustration
- Illustration
- Material Research
- Community Facilitation
- Project Management

Professional memberships

Vodo Art Society

References

Elmar Stroomer
Founder, **ACT**
elmarstroomer@gmail.com
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Collaborator at Africa Collect Textiles

Frances Hogg
Head of Arts, **Peponi House Preparatory**
Franceshogg9@gmail.com
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Co-Educator

Wamala Joseph Kyeyune
Artist, Muralist & Founder, **Vodo Art Society**
+256 784 428 950
Mentor