

REFLECTIONS ON A KWANI? DECADE

27-30 NOV 2013



*creating a society
that uses its stories
to see itself
more coherently*

PROGRAMME

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www.kwaniat10.kwani.org

REFLECTIONS ON A KWANI? DECADE



PREAMBLE

Kwani? celebrates a decade of artistic, literary and media production from 27-30th November, 2013. A decade is a single page in a considerable if not endless history of expression and narrative, as old as humankind itself, but it is pages that create longer histories and narratives. Over the four days, Kwani Trust will host public literary lectures, book launches, video installations and readings featuring, among others, Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Binyavanga Wainaina. These four days launch a series of reflections running through April 2014 on the place of contemporary East African and African Literature within a 50-year old political and social context.

Beyond reflection, these four days are also a moment of thanksgiving. Kwani Trust owes a large debt of gratitude to all the individuals who have made Kwani?, possible for the last 10 years.

From the writers, artists and literary aficionados at the beginning to those who carried the dreams of the latter from Kwani?'s early years to the present; to the support industries that make books beyond the individual writers possible - the printers, the reviewers, the bookshops, the academy and others; to regional, continental and international friends and colleagues; to donors, well-wishers and stakeholders; Kwani Trust takes these four days to return thanks to all these individuals and institutions.

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PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

**2014 - 2024 – Reflections on a Second Decade –
The Thinkers' Room
10.30am**

Over the last 10 years, arts, media and culture spaces in Kenya have emerged into a significant industry. For its 10th Anniversary, Kwani Trust invites colleagues, and stakeholders in arts, culture and media to discuss possible and shared visions over the next decade.

By invitation only.

**Cocktail Reception for Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
7.00pm**

In partnership with the Nigeria High Commission, Kwani Trust celebrates Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

By invitation only.

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THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

Kwani? at 10 Public Lectures I and II

Kenyatta University

Free Entry (by pre-registration only on www.kwani.org)

The Place of Contemporary East African Literature within a 50 Year old History by Dr. Mbugua Wa Mungai

11.00am - 11.45am

In the first of a series of Kwani? at 10 lectures, Dr. Mbugua Wa Mungai reflects on the place of an emergent contemporary East African literature within a broader cultural, regional and historical landscape.

Writing the Distance: from *Weight of Whispers* to *Dust* by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor

11.50am - 12.45pm

*Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor takes us on a 10-year writing journey from *Weight of Whispers*—her 2003 Caine Prize winning story published in the first issue of Kwani? — to her first novel *Dust*.*

Dust will be launched at the #kwaniat10 Book Party on Friday, 29th November, 2013.

10 Year Anniversary Gala Dinner

7.30pm

Ksh 5000 (RSVP Required)

The Kwani Trust Board of Trustees is delighted to host a 10 Year Anniversary Gala Dinner with a full programme of readings, prizes, music and mingling. Prize-winning authors Binyavanga Wainaina, Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie will read from their work. Ellah Wakatama Allfrey will award the Kwani? Manuscript Prize to Jennifer Makumbi, Saah Millimono and Timothy Kiprop Kimutai. Chief Justice Willy Mutunga, the evening's Guest of Honour, will deliver closing remarks (TBC).

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FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

Kwani? at 10 Lecture III

On *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

2.30pm - 4.00pm

Taifa Hall, University of Nairobi

Free Entry (by pre-registration only on www.kwani.org)

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie published her first novel, Purple Hibiscus, in 2003 - the same year Kwani? 01 launched. Ten years later, Kwani Trust is publishing her third novel, Americanah. Her lecture reflects on contemporary African Writing across this decade, placing it in the context of the continent's literature and history over the last 50 years.

#kwaniat10 Book Party

8.00pm

Marshall's Warehouse, Loita Street, CBD

Join us for the joint launch of Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor's Dust and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Americanah, and hear the two writers in conversation with Kwani? Founding Editor Binyavanga Wainaina.

This event also includes readings by Mehul Gohil, Jennifer Makumbi and Billy Kahora. A visual art retrospective featuring Wangechi Mutu and curated by Mbithi Masya from Just A Band will reflect on a shared sensibility between photographers, writers and other artists. Live music & top DJs play into the night.

Special Guest : Professor Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Water & Natural Resources.

Entry Only: Ksh 400 at the door

Entry + Book (in advance): Ksh 1000 with a copy of either Dust by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor or Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

For advance tickets, visit www.ticketsasa.com (pay via Debit/ Credit Card/ Mpesa, Airtel Money, Yucash & other mobile money merchants)

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SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

Throwback to Ali's Garden

2.00pm

Kwani Trust's humble and informal origins can be traced back to Ali Zaidi's garden. To commemorate these beginnings, Kwani? writers, supporters, trustees and the larger literary community share a nyama choma afternoon.

By invitation only.

For updates on additional Kwani? at 10 artistic, literary and cultural events set to run through April 2014, visit:

 www.kwani.org

 [@kwanitrust](https://twitter.com/kwanitrust) [#kwaniat10](https://twitter.com/kwaniat10)

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NEW BOOK RELEASES BY:

Photo: Tom Langdon



Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor

Yvonne was born in Kenya. She won the 2003 Caine Prize and is a past recipient of a Chevening Scholarship and an Iowa Writers' Fellowship. She was named Woman of the Year by Eve magazine in Kenya in 2004 for her contribution to the country's literature and arts. From 2003 to 2005, she was the executive director of the Zanzibar International Film Festival, and she has also been a TEDx Nairobi speaker and a Lannan Foundation resident.

Photo: Ivara Esege



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Chimamanda published a collection of poems in 1997 (Decisions) and a play (For Love of Biafra) in 1998. She was shortlisted in 2002 for The Caine Prize for African Writing for her short story You in America. In 2003, her story That Harmattan Morniang was selected as joint winner of the BBC Short Story Awards, and she won the O. Henry Prize for The American Embassy. She also won the David T. Wong International Short Story Prize 2002/2003 (PEN Center Award), for Half of a Yellow Sun, her second novel. Her first novel, Purple Hibiscus (2003), received wide critical acclaim; it was shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction (2004) and was awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book (2005). Her second novel, Half of a Yellow Sun, named after the flag of the short-lived nation of Biafra, is set before and during the Biafran War. It was awarded the 2007 Orange Prize for Fiction and adapted into a film by the same name, released in 2013. Her third book, The Thing Around Your Neck (2009), is a collection of short stories. In 2010 she was listed among the authors of The New Yorker's "20 Under 40" Fiction Issue. In 2013 she released her third novel, Americanah,

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