

Press Release

Sem Sombras (Unshadowed)

Curated by **Onyinye Alheri** and
Carolina Policarpo (caió)

On view:

February 25 - March 25, 2023

Tues. - Fri. 3pm - 6pm, Sat. 2pm to 5pm

Opening Reception: **Sat., 25 Feb 2023, 6 – 9pm**

Location: **Rua Jose Mateus #185, Maputo,
Mozambique, 1100 +258 84 416 2506**

Featuring work by:

**Amina Gimba - Ana "Yaki" Machava - Eliana N'zualo - Géssica Stagno -
Marilú Mapengo Namoda - Pamina Sebastião - Yuck Miranda**

Sem Sombras (Unshadowed) is an exhibition that will center the work of queer and trans Mozambican artists of various disciplines, including sound, visual and performance art.

The works presented will illuminate the lived realities and creative expressions of queer and trans Mozambicans and other Africans, often targeted by institutions and erased from mainstream culture. We want to showcase the survival and thriving of creatives who have carved their own way of being and dare to be their full selves without fear. Mozambique is one of only 10 (out of 54) nations on the African continent to have decriminalized homosexuality. Yet LGBTQIA+ people still live in fear of exposure, harm and assault. In many African nations, being homosexual, queer and gender non-conforming is criminalized to varying degrees, in some regions punishable by death.

The exhibition will showcase selected artists who are engaged in transformative cultural production and socio-political activism through creative mediums, exploring queerness in relation to the self, the other, space, time, language and the State. Besides the exhibition, there will be a public program taking place in Maputopia, an independent community space built in Mafalala to promote more visibility of the art and perspectives of people in this and other neighborhoods in the periphery of Maputo. The program will happen in the evening, setting the tone for intimate conversations and reflections.

***Sem Sombras (Unshadowed)* is an apexart International Open Call exhibition. For the latest information on the exhibition and related events, visit apexart.org/alheri-policarpo.php or contact ash.hagerstrand@apexart.org.**

Carolina Policarpo, or caió is a luso-Mozambican urban ecologist, aspiring musician and poet. Their interests lie in understanding the relationships between humans and Nature, political ecology and public involvement.

Onyinye is a multidisciplinary artist born in Lagos and currently based in southern Africa. **Q** is a member of Aguas Migrantes, an international collective of migrant artists from the global south, and has exhibited in several countries including Ethiopia, Mexico, South Korea and the US.

apexart's program supporters past and present include the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, the Kettering Family Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Buhl Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Spencer Brownstone, the Kenneth A. Cowin Foundation, Epstein Teicher Philanthropies, The Greenwich Collection Ltd., William Talbott Hillman Foundation/Affirmation Arts Fund, the Fifth Floor Foundation, The Puffin Foundation, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and administered by LMCC, funds from NYSICA Electronic Media/Film in Partnership with Wave Farm: Media Arts Assistance Fund, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, as well as the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the New York State Legislature.

#SemSombras

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Sem título (Untitled), Ana "Yaki" Machava, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 80 x 120 cm

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