"Why Africa?" A SAVVY Contemporary non-response

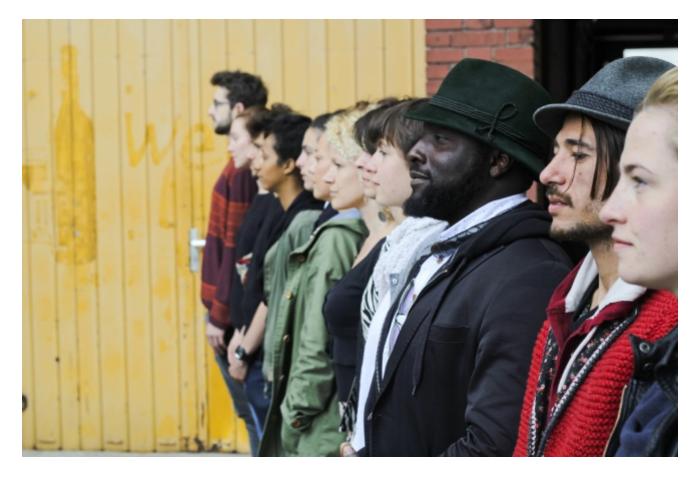
SAVVY

19 Giugno 2015

This month we asked our friend Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung to engage with the question "Why Africa?". A curator, a biotechnologist and a music aficionado, Bonaventure is the founder and director of SAVVY Contemporary in Berlin, an independent space for the discourse on art between the 'West' and the 'Non-West' which is currently running a crowdfunding campaign to support its upcoming exhibitions. The SAVVY team is an extremely passionate and talented group of volunteers committed to bringing high quality cultural content in an independent and bold manner. Please support their campaign here, there are still a few days left to make the difference. And now, enjoy their unique contribution to our column.

lettera27

Versione italiana



Savvy Contemporary team, ph. Luise Volkmann

"Why Africa?" is more than an eerie question to ask. It calls for obvious counterquestions like "Why not?", straightforward answers like "Africa is this or that"... most of which are furnished by banalities, simplicities and predictabilities. In its complexities on many cultural, economical, historical, political, social and you name it levels, Africa can not be questioned, nor can it be expressed in the same breath with words that try to identify reasons, causes, purposes or a raison d'être.

It is against this backdrop that we at SAVVY Contemporary will like to engage with this question (not respond to it) through the sonic. Music and other sound-spaces are the ultimate points of departure, but also entry points. It is through the textuality of sound and the performativity of sound that we will tackle the question "Why Africa?", as it is sound's waves that can penetrate all the nooks and crannies to reveal through rhythm. For it is through sound that the ancestors are kept alive and through rhythm that their pulses keep the beat. As Hopewell

Silvery in the moonlight night The river of my mind flows To the nightsong of the truly great Entombled in the caves of history At heroes' acre. The music Crescending through the valley Of ghost towns and stabbed villages Will come down to settle on our hearts Like dew on leaves, tears for those Who surrendered their lives at the altar Leaving in us an eternal flame.

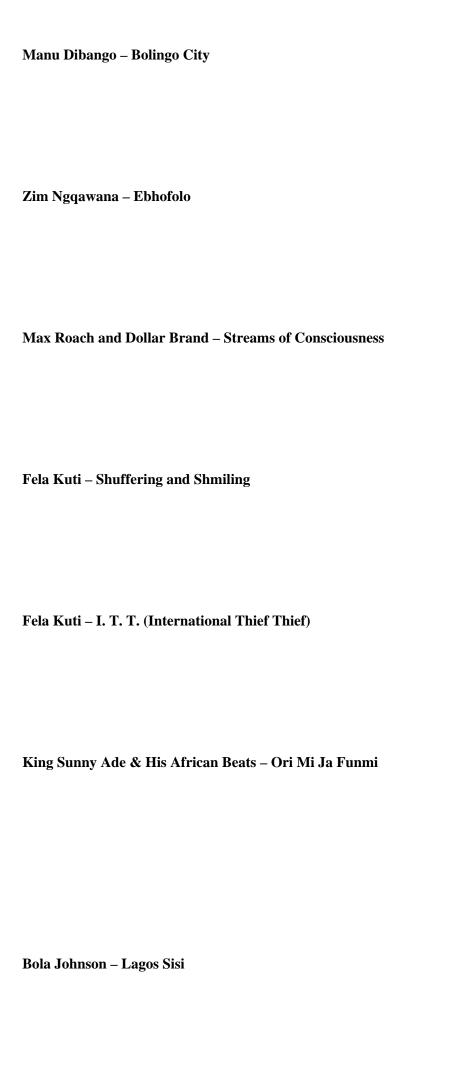
Seyaseya crafted it in *Nightsong* (1984):

These are some of the sounds that could embody, encompass and reveal some form and meaning of Africa, just as a fluid will take the shape of the container it is in, and as much as the songs too fall short of answering the question "Why Africa?"

To be continued... Stay tuned for part 2.

Kelin Kelin Orchestra (Jean-Jacques Elangué) – Massa-Haï

King Ayisoba – Look Ma Shoe
Pierre Akendengue – Awana w'Afrika
Ekambi Brillant – Aboki
Les têtes brulées Essingan
Mahmoud Guinia – Assamaoui
Orchestre National de Barbes – Zawiya



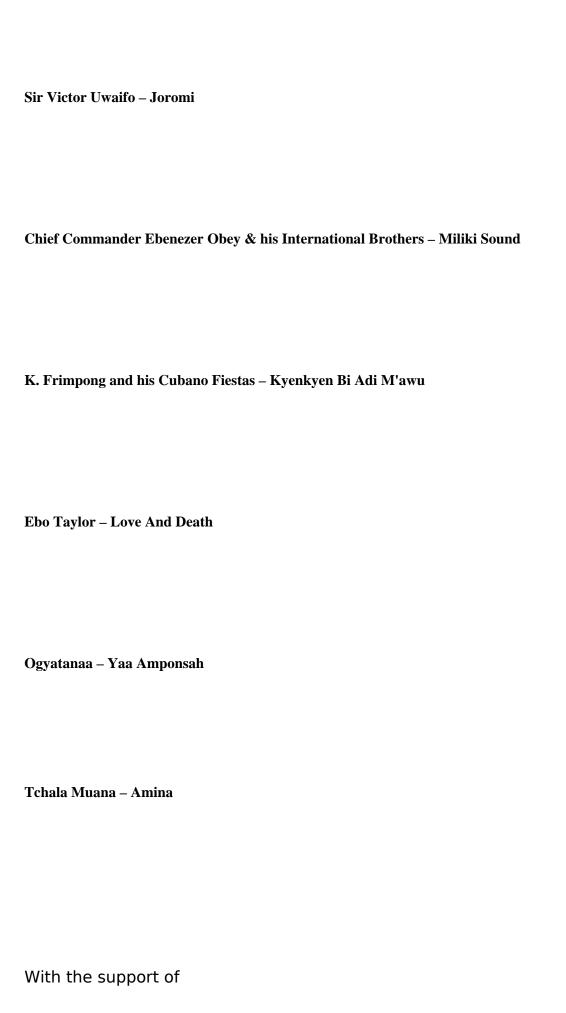




Photo: the little dog laughed, music films and life in Berlin. October 2012

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Se continuiamo a tenere vivo questo spazio è grazie a te. Anche un solo euro per noi significa molto. Torna presto a leggerci e SOSTIENI DOPPIOZERO