

LIGHT WORK AND THE AFRICA INSTITUTE ANNOUNCE LIMITED SEASON OF "EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED" PODCAST

On July 11, Light Work and The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, Sharjah are pleased to present a limited podcast series titled, "Everything is Connected: African Artists in the 60th edition of the Venice Biennale". Hosted by writer, curator, and producer Folasade Ologundudu, this six-part series engages in insightful dialogues with artists and curators from the African diaspora participating in the historic 60th edition of the Venice Biennale. Through these conversations, Ologundudu explores the creative forces at play and delves into the societal contexts that shape the artistic practices across various disciplines including painting, sculpture, installation, film, and art history.

In each episode, Ologundudu engages with participants representing Nigeria, Benin, Egypt, Angola, and more at the 60th Venice Biennale, which celebrated unprecedented diversity as 13 African countries participated and marked the largest African representation in the Biennale's history. Participants of the podcast series include: Aindrea Emelife, curator of the Nigerian pavilion; Azu Nwagbogu curator of the first-ever Republic of Benin pavilion; the South African collective MADEYOULOOK, consisting of Molemo Moiloa and Nare Mokgotho; Wael Shawky, representing Egypt for the first time, at the Egyptian pavilion in the Giardini, and more.

Episodes were developed as curators were preparing for their presentations before the vernissage, during the VIP opening week in April of 2024, and in the weeks that followed. This approach captures the critical arc of each participant's inclusion, which investigates not only the artists and curators' intentions behind their work, but also their reflections of the impact they hope to have in the presentations of their art and ideas on topics such as



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African modernism, a return to indigenous knowledge, the rewriting of history through art, and the post-colonial identities of nations from the global South.

Stay tuned as "Everything is Connected, The Venice Biennale edition" unfolds, available starting July 11 on all major platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, and more. <u>Click here to listen to podcasts on our website</u>.

Light Work is a US-based creative media platform at the intersection of art, education, and culture. Founded by Folasade Ologundudu, Light Work, collaborates and partners with artists, curators, academics, and creative contemporaries through engaging conversation on art, and culture, and the state of our society capturing the energy and complexities of the contemporary moment. Light Work takes a 'community first' approach to storytelling, archiving, and building new narratives by recognizing that culture starts in communities. Confronting the challenges our society faces in an increasingly technologydriven, resources-extracting world, Light Work uses the power of conversation and deep storytelling to develop thought-provoking intellectual conversations that spark inspiration. Through intimate conversation, engaging dialogue, and stimulating content, Light Work seeks to inspire the next generation of artists, creators, and cultural producers, to lead their best lives.

Folasade Ologundudu is a curator, podcast creator and writer, based in New York, whose practice seeks to uncover ideas related to the universal human condition. She has written art criticism, profiles, interviews, and essays for ArtForum, ARTnews, Cultured Magazine, Frieze, Photograph Magazine, among other publications. Ologundudu is also the founder of Light Work, a creative media platform rooted at the intersection of art, education, and culture. Through her podcast, *Everything Is Connected*, she holds conversations with artists curators, and entrepreneurs deeply rooted in visual arts, and community building.



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