



Portrait of Kiripi Katembo, ©Jonas Nzanzu Siku

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## Kiripi Katembo

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## Biography

Born in 1979, Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Died in 2015 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, where he lived and worked

Kiripi Katembo is exclusively represented by the gallery MAGNIN-A, Paris.

Kiripi Katembo is a photographer and filmmaker from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He directed his first experimental film “Voiture en carton” with a mobile phone in 2008 during his studies at the Academy of fine arts of Kinshasa. With his workshop partners he founded the association YEBELA, composed of young directors and photographers that work on video and photo projects and depict the everyday life of Kinshasa’s inhabitants. Between 2008 and 2013 he worked on the series “Un regard” that was presented at the first edition of Afrikaribu and exhibited at the Biennale of Bamako in 2011. This series earned him a price from the Fondation Blachère in 2011.

Both in his photographs and in his short films, Kiripi Katembo depicts the everyday life of the inhabitants of Kinshasa as well as the instable political and economic context of his country. Thanks to the use of the mobile phone or little video cameras he manages to film as close as possible to the street, avoiding the ban on filming of the Congolese government. His work can also be very poetic as in the series “Un regard” where he photographs the reflections of people and landscapes in the puddles of Kinshasa.

## SOLO SHOWS

2017

*Hommage à Kiripi Katembo*, Centre Wallonie Bruxelles de Kinshasa  
*Hommage à Kiripi Katembo*, 5th Biennale of Lubumbashi, DRC

2014

*Kiripi Katembo Siku : Mutation*, Galleri Flach, Stockholm, Sweden

## GROUP SHOWS (SELECTION)

2015

*Beauté Congo - Congo Kitoko*, Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France  
 (curator: André Magnin)  
*Folk Art Africain ?*, Frac, Bordeaux, France (curator: Claire Jacquet)

2013

*Mutations*, 67th edition of Festival d'Avignon 2013, France; 5th edition of Connexion Kin,  
 International Festival of KVS - Koninklijke Vlaamse Schouwburg

2012/2013

*Africa / Africa*, Centre d'art contemporain, Meymac, France  
*Mutations*,  
 BOZAR - Palais des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium ; KVS - Koninklijke  
 Vlaamse Schouwburg, Brussels, Belgium

2012

*Un Regard*, 4th edition of Summer of photography, International Photography Festival  
 of BOZAR - Palais des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles, au Musée Royale de l'Afrique Centrale,  
 Tervuren, Belgium  
*Crossing Point Residency*, Rencontres d'Arles, Photo-Festivals with the Fondation  
 Blachère  
*Mutations*, 2nd edition of Bato Congo, Festival TAZ - Theater Aan Zee, Ostende, Belgium  
*Libre Corps en Espace Public*, 3rd edition of Dream City, Biennale of Contemporary Art  
 in Public Space, Tunisia

2011

*Un Regard*, 9th edition of Rencontres de Bamako, African Biennale of  
 Photography, Bamako, Mali

2010

*Un Regard*, 2nd edition of Rencontres PICHA, Biennale of Lubumbashi, DRC

2008

*Un Regard*, 1st edition of Afrikaribu, DRC

*Installation Photo/Video with the Collective Yebela* at the National Museum of  
Kinshasa, DRC

CINEMA

2008

*Voiture en carto*, Film screening for the 4th edition of Festival Pocket Films au Centre  
Pompidou à Paris, France

PRODUCTION

2013

*Atalaku*

2009

*Ciebola*

2008

*Voiture en carton*

AWARDS (SELECTION)

2013

Laureate for the realisation of the poster for the 67th edition of Festival d'Avignon 2013,  
with *Survivre*, 2009 from the series *Un regard*, France

2011

Fondation Blachère Award with the series *Un Regard* for the 9th edition of *Rencontres  
de Bamako*, Mali

Award for the best african documentary, in the category short film with the film *Après  
Mine* at Academy Movie Award, Nigeria

2010

Award for the best african documentary, in the category short film, with the film *Après  
Mine* at Festival de court métrage d'Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

# HYPERALLERGIC

## Photographer Kiripi Katembo, Master of Reflection, Dies at 36

- by [Joseph Nechvatal](#) on August 9, 2015



“Subir, Un regard” (2011), Lightjet Print, 60 x 90 cm (Collection of the artist© Kiripi Katembo / Courtesy Galerie MAGNIN-A, Paris and Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain press service)

The Congolese photographer, painter, and film producer Kiripi Katembo (aka Kiripi Katembo Siku) died last week at age 36 of cerebral malaria in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, according to the Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain.



Kiripi Katembo

Born in 1979 in [Goma](#), Katembo studied at the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Kinshasa. He is known best for his 2009 series, *Un regard*, which consists of images captured in the reflections of water puddles of the Congolese capital. The influential body of work connects with and updates a long tradition of [mirroring in photography](#) we saw earlier this year in Paris with an exhibition of [Florence Henri](#), *Mirror of the Avant-Garde (1927–1940)*. Some of Kiripi Katembo's photograph prints are currently on view in Paris at curator André Magnin's huge exhibition of Congolese art, [Beauté Congo – 1926–2015](#), at Fondation Cartier.

Describing his *Un regard* series, the artist once [explained](#):

Photography also provides a way of seeing beyond reflection as it opens up a poetic window on another world, the world in which I live. I want each image to tell of the children born here who have to grow up surrounded by pools of water, and of the families who survive while others leave to live in exile. To me, this is one way of campaigning for a healthier environment and to denounce through images what Kinshasa's inhabitants see as fate.

In Kiripi Katembo's photographs and short films, he documented the daily life of the inhabitants of Kinshasa and the unstable political and economic situation facing his country.

His work has been featured at the Venice Biennale, the Berlinale, Bamako Encounters, the Royal Museum of Tervuren (Brussels), the Centre for Fine Arts (Brussels), TAZ in Ostend (Belgium), the *Rencontres d'Arles*, and the *Avignon Festival* for which he designed the [poster](#) for the 67th edition in 2013.



“Tenir, Un regard” (2011), Lightjet, 60 x 90 cm (Collection of the artist (© Kiripi Katembo / Courtesy Galerie MAGNIN-A, Paris and Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain press service)

His films have been shown at film festivals in Berlin, Toronto, IDFA, and Carthage, Tunisia. The seven-minute digital film, *Cardboard Car Film* (2008), made with a mobile phone camera, takes us through the vigorous streets of his beloved metropolis of over 10 million people. Katembo was also founding director of the film company Mutotu Productions and the executive director of the *Yango Biennale* in Kinshasa. He was also the founder of Yebela, an art collective for Kinshasaian artists.

Katembo was also second assistant director of the feature film *Viva Riva* by Djo Tunda Wa Munga and assistant director of Kim Nguyen’s child soldier drama *Rebelle* (in English, [War Witch](#)), which received an Oscar-nomination and was Canada’s entry in the Best Foreign Language Film category at the 85th Academy Awards. His Mutotu Productions also produced Dieudo Hamadi’s *Atalaku*, which was awarded best documentary film at the *Cinema du Reel* festival at the Centre Pompidou in 2013. He also co-directed [Congo in Four Acts](#) with Dieudo Hamadi and Divita Wa Lusala, which received two awards at *Cinéma du Réel* (2010) and the *Africa Movie Academy Awards*.