

About Watch Africa:

Watch Africa CIC was launched as a film festival in 2013 by Fadhili Maghiya in response to the lack of representation and cultural provision of Black and African culture within Wales. Since then, Watch Africa has grown into a cultural consultancy and production company that operates on a global scale. We provide a range of consultancy, production and research services, as well as a platform for African films, art and culture in Wales and beyond.



The team at Watch-Africa

- ✓ Fadhili Maghiya – Chief Executive Officer
- ✓ Dr Sarah Younan – Creative Director
- ✓ Nuno Mendes – Community Engagement Lead for Culture Connect Wales
- ✓ Joanne West – Communication Lead for Culture Connect Wales
- ✓ Angelique Umuhoza – Finance and Human Resources

Here's a selection of projects we have delivered and been involved in:

1. Watch-Africa Film Festival – www.watch-africa.co.uk

Watch-Africa is Wales' Annual African Film Festival celebrating the best of African cinema. Launched in 2013, the festival provides a platform for African films, art and culture in Wales. It brings a wide-range of films covering areas across the continent, as well as engaging and interactive activities and events related to the festival. It provides a platform for works by African, African diasporas as well as Welsh and international directors and artists which bring fresh perspectives on Africa to its economic, social, political and cultural life.

Watch-Africa 2022 trailer - <https://vimeo.com/762171800>



10 fed - 11eg
10th - 11th Nov
Aberyswth Arts
Centre,
Aberyswth

11eg
11th Nov
Cardiff Museum

12fed - 13eg
12th - 13th Nov
Chapter, Cardiff

14eg - 15fed
14th - 15th Nov
Taliesin, Swansea

17eg - 20fed
17th - 20th Nov
Pontio, Bangor

25ain - 26ain
25th - 26th Nov
Magic Lantern,
Tywyn

10fed - 27ain Tachwedd
Gwyllo Gŵyl Ffilm Affrica
2022

10th - 27th November
Watch Africa Film Festival
2022

www.watch-africa.co.uk



BRITISH COUNCIL
Cymor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales

Ffilm
Cymru Wales

Film Hub
Wales
Cymru Wales

FAN
Ffilm a Nodweddau

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

AMGUEDDFA CYMRU

University of
South Wales
Prifysgol de Cymru

2. Culture Connect Wales - <https://cultureconnect.wales/>

Culture Connect Wales supports diverse talent in finding opportunities in the film and TV sector in Wales. Run by and for the community, CCW promotes jobs and opportunities, offers advice and support for people looking to get into the sector, or looking for their next gig. The project started in 2021 and is funded by Welsh Government's Creative Wales, ITV, BBC, Channel 4 and S4C.



3. Wrote a report for Wales Arts International ([Smooth Seas do not make Skilful Sailors](https://www.wai.org.uk) | Arts Council of Wales (wai.org.uk))

In autumn 2020, as part of a series of focus groups by Arts Council of Wales to enact on our Black Lives Matter July 2020 statement, WAI held a series of conversations to re-imagine our international work in the context of a post-Pandemic world that is facing a Climate Emergency.

We are very grateful to Watch Africa Cymru for their report “Smooth Seas do not make Skilful Sailors” in response to our discussions. We agree with the recommendations of this report, and that Wales’ pioneering Well-being Act is an useful roadmap to deliver on our commitments to Wales’ Well-being Goals, Wales’ contribution towards the UN Global Goals.

Over the coming months we are looking to co-commission further reports from other minoritised groups.

Arts news

Smooth Seas do not make Skilful Sailors

A response to Wales Arts International’s focus group work on re-setting our international work by Watch Africa

Cymru.

25.02.2021

Share this



4. Language as Treasure - <http://treasure.cultureconnect.wales/>

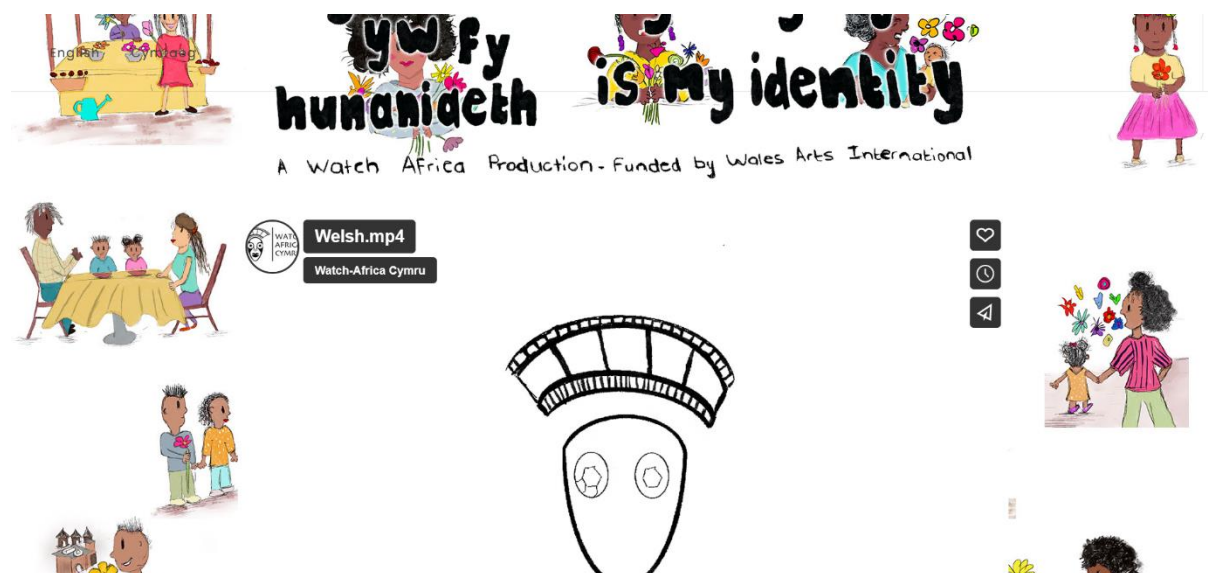
My Language is my identity

Outside Wales, not enough people know of the Welsh language Cymraeg and the culture that grows through it Cymraes. But do people in Welsh know about the multitude of languages that thrive among our diverse communities? Languages shape our identities, they allow us to express ourselves in words and expressions that feel like home. We can reveal our most intimate selves when we are able to use just the right words to express them. In school, we learned English. Often, our tribal languages were seen as less desirable, even neglected by our own parents. Languages can be lost, forgotten or left behind. But we've learned to pick up languages as we move, as a tool for connecting with people, to embrace our heritage, or a code that connects us to our community. And when we speak English, we colour the language with the brush of our own tongue. Sometimes, we break it...

We don't always manage to share the gift of multiple languages with our children, but when we do, it enriches their lives. Just as the songs of our mothers still ring in our heads.

My Language is my Identity investigates the relationship to languages by people of African descent living in Wales and invites reflection on the similarity of experience between all speakers of minoritized languages. Perhaps, there are lessons to be learned among other communities who live with a multiplicity of languages. For certain, there is place in Wales for a multitude of languages and a shared wealth of experience among all communities who speak more than one language.

Video - <https://vimeo.com/679925128>



5. DaraSanaa

The Visual Arts can provide livelihoods, contribute to wellbeing, explore heritage and identity, inspire innovation and be a source of lifelong learning. However, artists in East Africa face hurdles to access culturally appropriate, relevant and easily accessible content to develop their creative practice. This report sets out imagine Decolonized, Digital, Creative Futures through collaborative research with emerging creatives from East Africa and their peers in Wales. In the introduction, the terms 'Decolonized', 'Digital' and 'Creative Futures' and their relevance to this research are discussed. The second chapter presents the Methodology used in this research. Findings from the research are discussed in chapter three, and the fourth and final chapter proposes digital activities and resources that emerge from these findings.

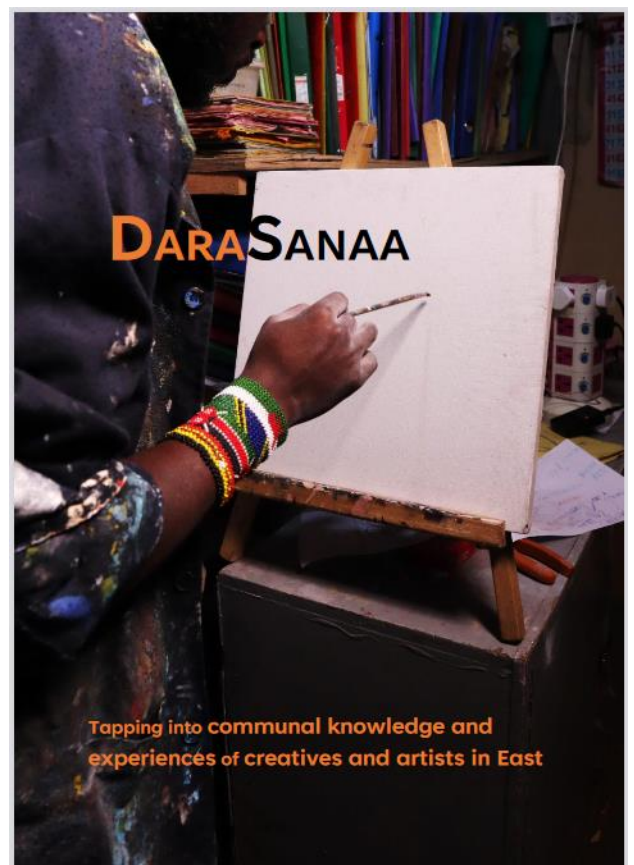
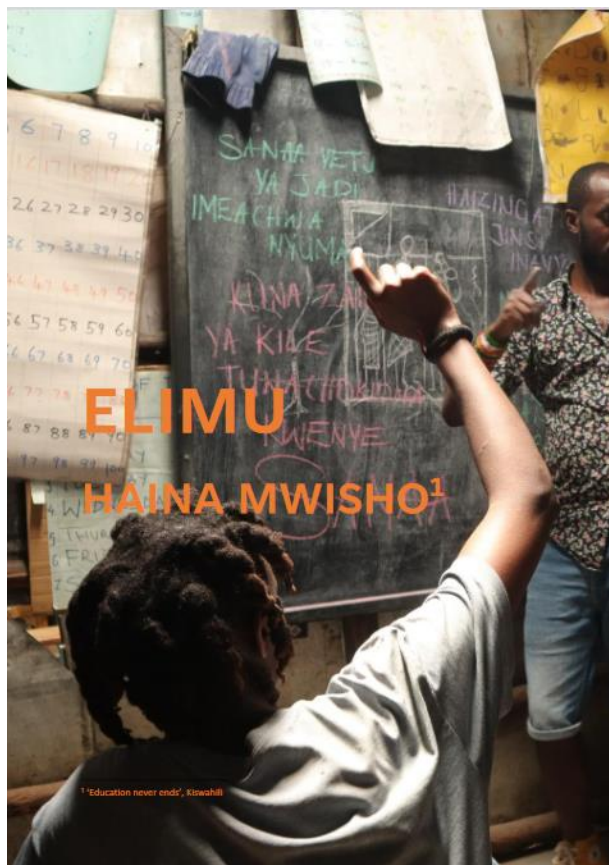
This research was undertaken in the spirit of open-source sharing of knowledge and ideas. An illustrated version of this report, suitable for sharing via digital media, is available alongside an easy-read and audio-transcribed version. The report is available in Kiswahili and English.

'Elimu haina mwisho' – education never ends (Kiswahili).

With thanks to Tafaria Centre for the Arts and our funders, British Council East Africa.

You can read the report here -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jc21dRWuDKMV7yJpU5iljv2Pf6Wew0KG/view?usp=sharing>



6. Diaspora youth arts mentoring and digital showcase: [Days Ahead | Siku za Mbele | DYDDIAU O'N BLAENAU](https://daysahead.info/) - <https://daysahead.info/>

This project began with a call-out for young creatives from the African community and Diaspora and the vision to explore deep narratives, tracing colonial tropes and creating new knowledge in their stead. During our weekly online sessions, we invited Black, African and Diaspora artists to share their practice and journey with us, and discussed the importance of creativity, activism and heritage. New artworks, narratives and understandings grew from these workshops which you can view here [WORKSHOPS](#)

But we also found new questions; what unites the creatives involved in this project? From Black Welsh to White African, Mixed Heritage, Third Culture Kid, Asylum Seeker to Butetown Native or British Ghanaian the identities we carry are individual and unique, and many of us know more than one sense of self. Hazel Ravu describes her hidden selves like an undercover agent, code-switching to fit in as the only Black girl in her school and neighbourhood.

There is no one Black or African identity. And yet, this cohort of artists know they carry these labels – it seems the luxury of ‘neutrality’ is reserved for white artists only. To be a Black Artist can be a source of joy, as Gabin Kongolo’s performance *My Skin Is My Logo* proudly states. It can also be a reductive label and a source of conflict. Sean Suter’s poems question *Where Do I Belong?*

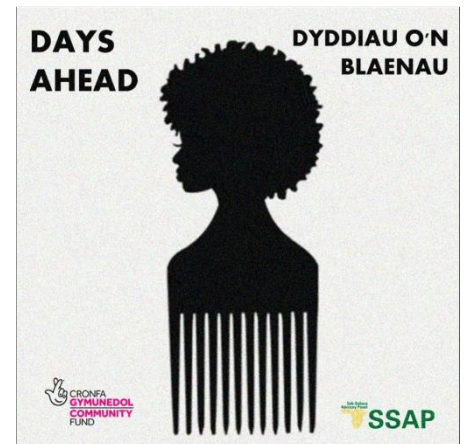
African creativity is not confined to Western labels and disciplines, it is multidimensional and cross-disciplinary. We have brought together poems and stories, performance, paintings, zines, photographs and graffiti for this online exhibition. Our artwork explores digital and physical spaces, from Instagram to the pub to football stands, reflecting on how we inhabit our bodies and environments.

Through the artworks we share with you, we are telling our stories, speaking of our struggles and experiences in a beautiful way, vibrant and powerful and in your face. We are not a monolithic people, but a movement, rich with global connections. We occupy multiple spaces, at the margins, at the centre and in-between. Some of our work will connect universally, some may challenge or confuse those who do not share our lived experiences. Through this showcase we invite you to question hierarchies and labels. Our artworks reflect on where we come from, where we are, and where we want to go next. We share with you our points of view and our journeys.

As Charles Obiri-Yeboah writes in his pilot script:...Try this fufu, this jollof and this waakye.

Check website - <https://daysahead.info/>

Watch project trailer here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WFzg-95AN4>



Madaraja/Pont/Bridges project connecting artist in Wales with those in Africa -

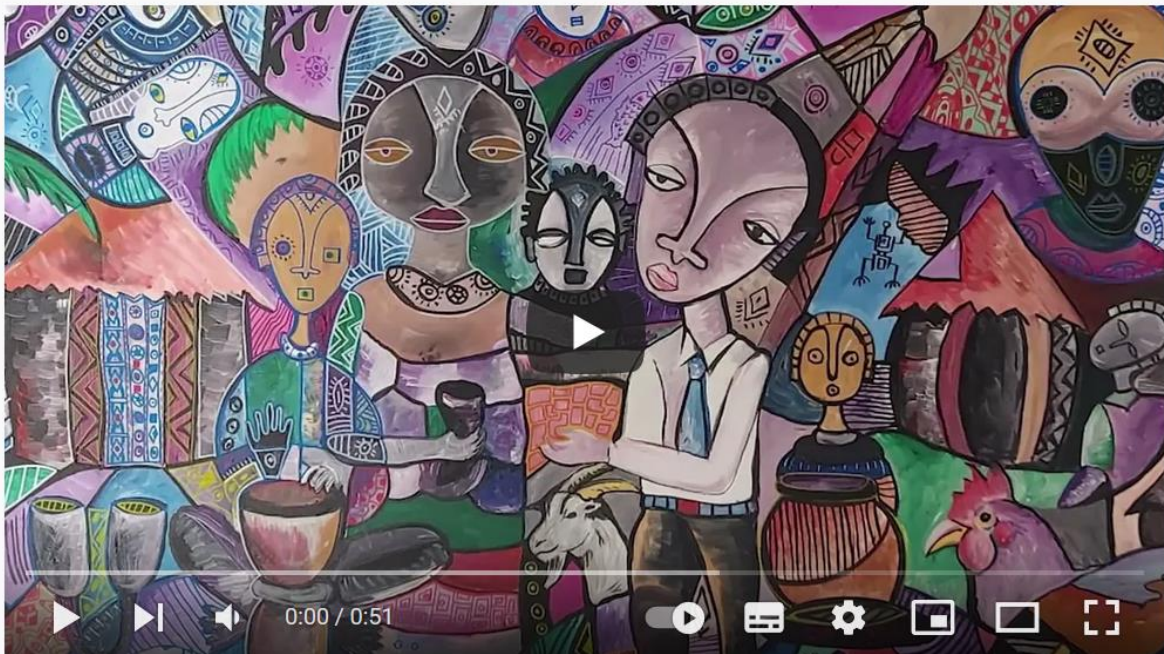
<https://www.ssap.org.uk/pages/madarajapontbridges>

How can we imagine equal and decolonised arts when dominant cultural narratives continue to shape our experiences and collective imagination? We are going to work with creatives in Wales and Africa to establish de-colonised vehicles or bridges for culture, combining digital and traditional tools and drawing on African and diasporic cultures. Acting locally but thinking globally, we will build bridges 'pont' in Welsh and 'madaraja' in Kiswahili that link Wales and the African continent.

This project brings together Welsh creatives of all ethnicities (with emphasis on Black voices in Wales) and those in the African continent to explore how bridges and cultural links can be built to foster mutual relationships between Wales/Cymru and the African continent. We want to tap into the potential of diasporic communities in Wales and creatives from other communities to build bridges and promote the self-representation of people of African descent in the sector, changing narratives about the continent and about who we are.

Check website - <https://www.madaraja.co.uk/store>

Exhibition trailer below - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lbtJ8QJ0iY>



Madaraja Art Exhibition Trailer

7. Watch Africa Consultancy - Diversity, Inclusion and Identity in the Arts

At Watch-Africa, we believe in helping people and organisations live the definitions of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. Operating from a point of lived experience, we guide difficult conversations around Identity, Race and Social Justice.

Our diverse team of experts have backgrounds in art, literature, policymaking, international development, capacity building, heritage and activism.

We are passionate about helping organisations continue to turn good intention into positive action and helping communities to flourish.

Sometimes understanding the ethical and business case for diversity is not enough. Through our consultancy practice we offer an extensive portfolio of services tailored to each client's specific requirements that includes the following services:

- Coaching, Mentoring and Reverse Mentoring Services
- Diversity Recruitment
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Experiential Learning
- Independent Diversity Adviser – Interview Panels
- Diversity Networking and Round Tables
- Motivational Speakers
- Youth
- Institutional and Organisational Capacity Building
- Evaluation and Consultation
 - National Museum Wales
 - Wales Arts International
 - Arts Council Wales
 - Armoury Museum
 - Size of Wales
 - Disability Arts Cymru
 - BECTU