

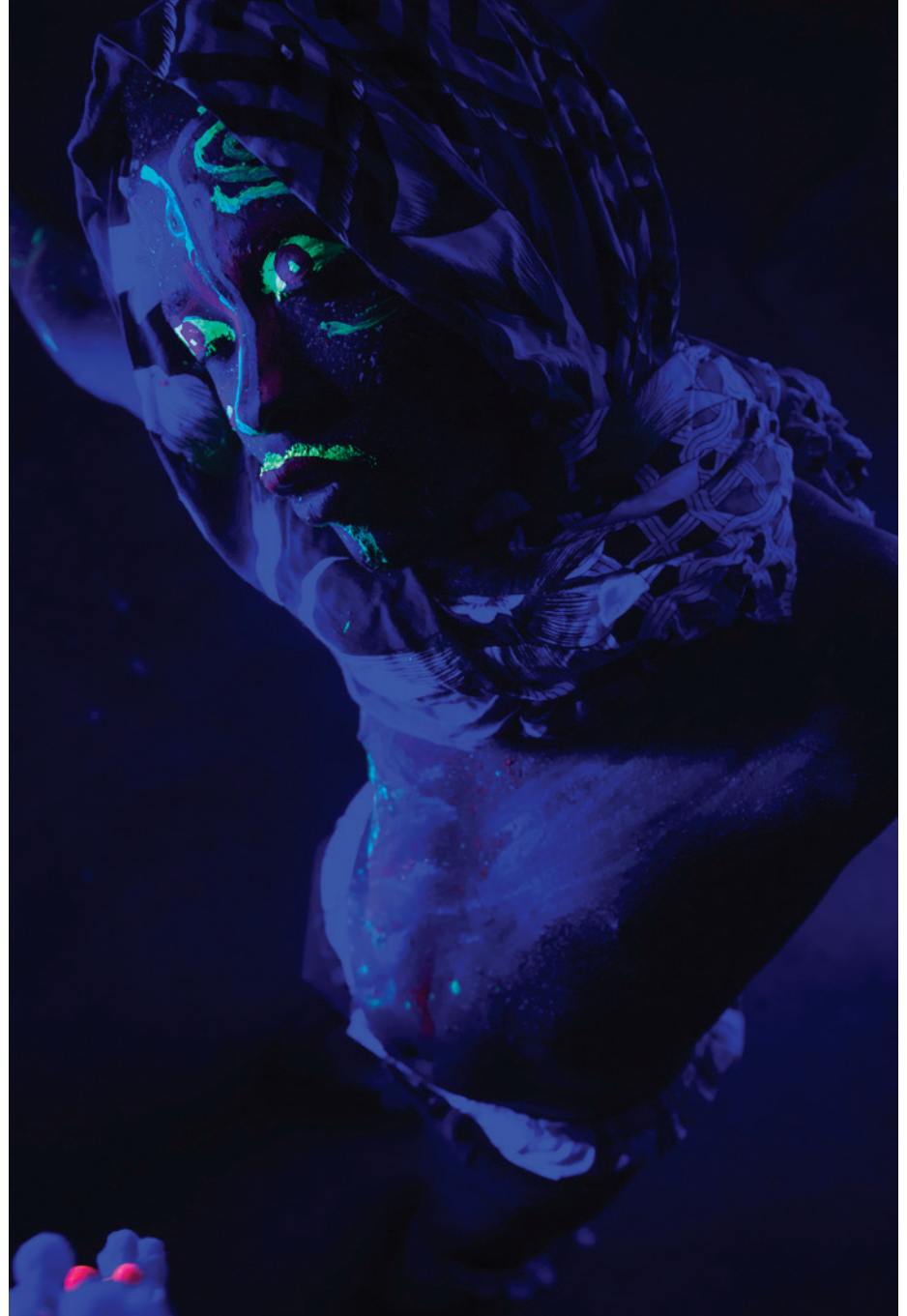


**SkySam Presents
The Black Light
Portrait Party**

**GOETHE
INSTITUT**

24th April - 11th May 2018
SkySam presents the
Black Light Portrait Party
by Sam Matengu
Curators: StArt Art Gallery
Goethe-Institut Namibia

Hansolo (1)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable



SkySam presents the Black Light Portrait Party **An exhibition of photographs exploring UV Light**

The Black Light Portrait Party is an exhibition comprising of photographs created using Matengu's self-taught understandings of ultraviolet (UV) lighting. Using neon body paints in collaboration with Sue Beukes, Matengu worked with local artists living and working in Namibia to create these portraits. As an artist, Matengu feels it is important to draw on the community aspect of visual and performing artists in Windhoek to reflect on what it means to be part of this community. In this way, Matengu reflects on his immediate community as well as the space of the Namibian arts world.

This process has created portraits that describe their subjects as figures of strength as well as vulnerability. For this exhibition, Matengu worked with Hansolo, Nashilongweshipwe Mushaandja, JC, Nga-I, Nunu Namises, RaMa, Ulla and the Universe Girls.

Photography is fundamentally the harnessing and manipulation of light. We are used to seeing the world

through photography as we see it ourselves under normal daylight and nighttime conditions. Historically, photographers have developed their practice by altering conditions of capturing what is presented by natural light, or indeed by introducing artificial measures to enhance natural light. By altering the light itself, Matengu purposefully shifts our understanding of visibility and light, and of the absence of it. Creating different contours of the body with neon paints which reflect the UV light more strongly than skin or certain cloths, our perceived understanding of how a body exists in space is also shifted. We are invited into a new, constructed reality imagined by the artist and the sitters. We are invited to attend the Black Light Portrait Party.

Sam Matengu, owner of and photographer at SkySam Photography, was born in Windhoek and moved to the United States and then Belgium as a child. After spending some time in Zambia later in life, Matengu returned to Namibia and worked in the hospitality industry pursuing a love for food. Along with his passion for food, Matengu had a keen interest in photography, and

pursued the development of this skill in 2015. In 2016, he set up SkySam Photography and experimented with photography in various lighting conditions. Finding a particular interest in long-exposure photography, Matengu has explored this technique substantially. Delving further into experimentation of different effects of light, Matengu's photographic process has morphed into using UV lighting. Matengu would like to thank Paolo Schneider for his assistance with the artistic process in this body of work.

*Goethe-Institut Namibia
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Tel: 061 22 57 00 | info.windhoek@goethe.de*

*For more information about this exhibition please contact
StArt Art Gallery at 0816411305 or startartgallery@gmail.com*

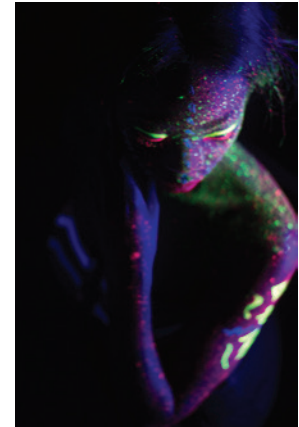
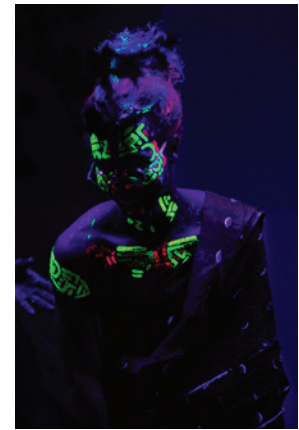
*Curation: Helen Harris and Gina Figueira
Photography: SkySam Photography
Layout and design: Helen Harris*

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*JC (1)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable*

*Ulla The Designer (1)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable*

*The Afro Futurist (1)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable*

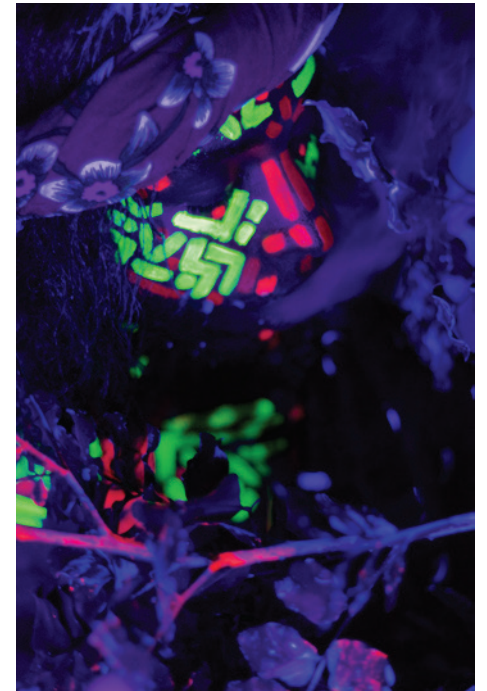




Hansolo (2)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable



Hansolo (3)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable



Opposite: *Ulla The Designer (2)*
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable

JC (2)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable



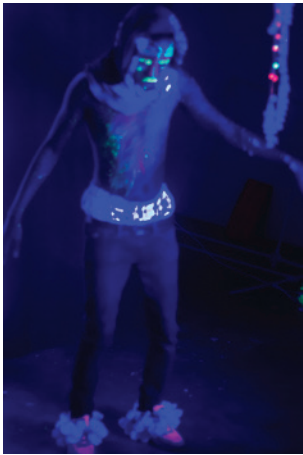
The Afro Futurist (2)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable



Hansolo (4)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable

Below and cover: RaMa (1)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable





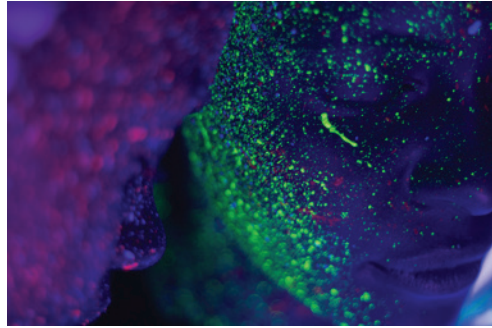
Hansolo (5, 6, 7)
2018
digital photographic print
dimentions variable



Flowers (1)
2018
digital photographic print
dimentions variable



Nunu (1)
2018
digital photographic print
dimentions variable

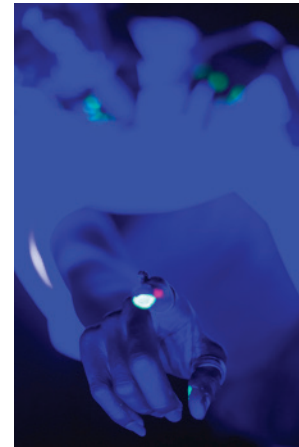


Opposite top left:
JC (3)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable

Opposite top right :
The Universe Girls (1)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable

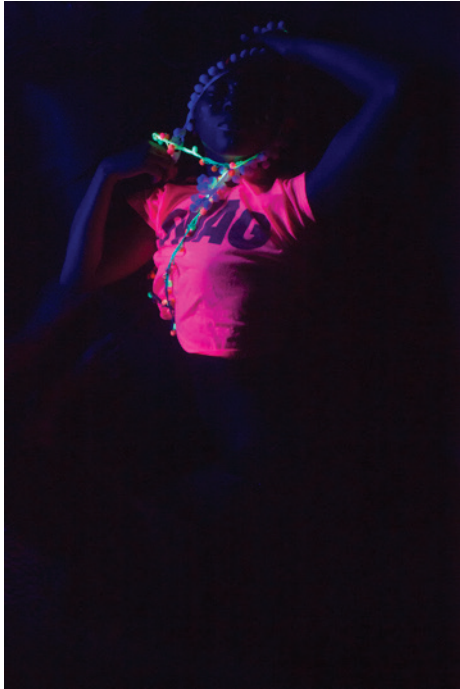
Opposite bottom left:
The Afro Futurist (3)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable

Opposite bottom right:
The Universe Girls (2)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable



Nga-I The Ovi Trap Chief (1)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable

Nunu (2)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable



RaMa (2)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable

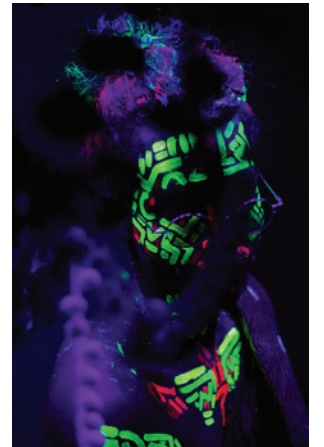


Nunu (2)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable

Flowers (2)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable

Succulent (1)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable

JC (4)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable





The Universe Girls (3)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable



The Universe Girls (4)
2018
digital photographic print
dimensions variable



Start Art Gallery Catalogues, Vol 4

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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art gallery