

**For Immediate Release**

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**Rewind, Remix, Reclaim Festival**  
**An artistic retrospective on the 1985 UN World Conference on Women**

- *A first of its kind festival that commemorates the 40th anniversary of the UN World Conference on Women held in Nairobi in July 1985*
- *The festival features dynamic activities including self-defense courses, artists' talks, panel discussions, workshops, film screenings, and exhibitions in a vibrant and exciting atmosphere*
- *A presentation by Alliance Française de Nairobi and Goethe-Institut Nairobi supported by the French-German Cultural Cooperation Fund in partnership with UN Women East and Southern Africa*



*African Women Orchestra performing at the Rewind, Remix, Reclaim festival ©Paul Munene*

Rewind, Remix, Reclaim is an artistic exploration of the legacy of the conference. As the title suggests, the festival aims is to reflect on the legacy of the World Conference on Women and the Forum, to examine the artistic, political, and activist practices of the past, to assess their

relevance today, and to ask what aspects of them might be relevant in the current East African context.

"The idea that all women are sisters, trapped in one and the same form of oppression, has long been up for debate, not least due to an intervention by the American Combahee River Collective in 1977, in which the term intersectionality was coined. During the conference in Nairobi, it became clear that the days of an idealized sisterhood should be a thing of the past. For it was dominated by white feminism, and silenced dissonant voices and experiences," observes Cristina Nord, director at the Goethe-Institut in Kenya. "The idea to explore the legacy of the UN World Conference on Women in the anniversary year 2025 needed supporters. We reached out to artists, intellectuals, film workers, performers, musicians, deejays, city guides, yoga practitioners from Kenya, and the curator Wanjeri Gakuru, who put it all together."

"The festival *Rewinds* to the voices and moments of the 1985 conference, *Remixes* them with today's feminist movements and activism, reimagining and critiquing the strategies set out 40 years ago and *Reclaims* the unfinished goals of 1985," explains Charles Courdent, director at the Alliance Française in Nairobi.



Artist Sebwali next to her artwork showcased at the *Rewind, Remix, Reclaim* exhibition ©Paul Munene

Through an open call, four female artists were selected to create works that reflect on specific topics discussed during the conference four decades ago. They also delved into what progress has been made by society thus far. The artworks invite the audience to reflect on their topics, some even through participatory formats.

"The festival has been an excellent bridge between several feminist realities and shared joys from across the globe. There's a sense of kinship and continuity evident across the

intergenerational panel conversations, film screenings, comedy performances and art exhibitions. Women everywhere and across time simply desire a better world for themselves and others. It's been great to gather and build on the gains of the 1985 conference and find possible ways forward," says Wanjeri Gakuru, the festival curator.

The festival also commemorates the conference by revisiting its activities - such as self-defense courses, artists' talks, workshops, and talks in a vibrant and exciting atmosphere. Some participants of the original conference will feature in the panels. Additionally, both artists and humanitarians from various groups will provide perspectives on today's gender equality or lack thereof.



An attendee of the Rewind, Remix, Reclaim exhibition opening ©Paul Munene

The thought-provoking 11-day programme seeks to engage with the public both on an intellectual and an emotional level, highlighting the gaps that societies and communities still must fill to create a world that condemns violence against women and recognizes gender equality.

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**For more images:**

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### **About the curator – Wanjeri Gakuru**

[Wanjeri Gakuru](#) is a freelance journalist, essayist, curator and filmmaker. A cross-section of her writing has appeared in Transition Magazine, The Elephant, CNN, The Sunday Times, Nataal, Akademie Schloss Solitude, LA Times Magazine and The Africa Report among others. She is a founding member and the Partnerships Director of Rogue Film Society (RFS), a collective of multi-talented African filmmakers and thespians working in film, TV, theatre and advertising. Wanjeri has contributed variously to curatorial projects and publications including Just A Book (Goethe-Institut Kenya, 2016), #RafikiZetu: Kenyan LGBTIQ Stories, as told, by Allies (Denis Nzioka, 2019), Family Matters (Goethe-Institut Namibia, 2021), Kazi ya Mkono (SoLab, 2022), Archive of Forgetfulness (2022), Love Letters to Cinema (2022) and Rebels (2024). She hosted and curated the Mengi Mengi Film Club in partnership with Book Bunk, a social impact organisation restoring Nairobi's public libraries.

### **About the Goethe-Institut**

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. It contributes widely to the promotion of artists, ideas and works. In Nairobi, the [Goethe-Institut](#) connect with partners across the country to foster Kenyan-German cultural and educational exchange through cultural projects and events such as concerts, film screenings, exhibitions, literary events, festivals, and many more artistic gatherings. In addition, the institute offers capacity trainings, co-productions, school collaborations, information and knowledge platforms as well as German language teaching.