



Goethe-Institut Kenya P.O.Box: 49468 . 00100 GPO Nairobi

**For immediate release**

20<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## **Networks of Belonging: A Series of Artistic Exhibitions across East Africa**

The Goethe-Institut supports Sudanese artists in the region by fostering local artistic networks, professional exchange, and sustainable structures of inclusion



Die for you © Sannad Sharif

The Goethe-Instituts in Kenya, Rwanda, & Ethiopia, and the Goethe Centres in Uganda and South Sudan are organizing a series of exhibitions named *Networks of Belonging* to support Sudanese artists exiled in the East Africa region.

Following an open call, five artists based in each of the five countries were selected: Hussein Merghani Hussein (Addis Abeba), Juma Moris (Juba), Hamza Tirab (Kampala), Mohamed Ibrahim (Kigali), and Sannad Sharif (Nairobi).

The ongoing civil war in Sudan has displaced many artists. In collaboration with Goethe-Institut Khartoum, the Networks of Belonging project responds to this by fostering local artistic networks, professional exchange, and sustainable structures of inclusion. As part of the joint venture, each of the selected artists is granted a production budget to develop new artworks and include them in the exhibition.

The Institute in Khartoum, Sudan, remains closed since 2023 until further notice. The Goethe-Institut Sudan's cultural program activities, however,

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continue and are being coordinated from Cairo. This creates virtual and in-person spaces for Sudanese partners, artists, and cultural professionals where intergenerational and interactive dialogue and exchange among Sudanese communities can take place and creativity can be fostered.

The Network of Belonging exhibitions are scheduled to take place between July and November. The exhibition in Nairobi by Sannad Sharif will open on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

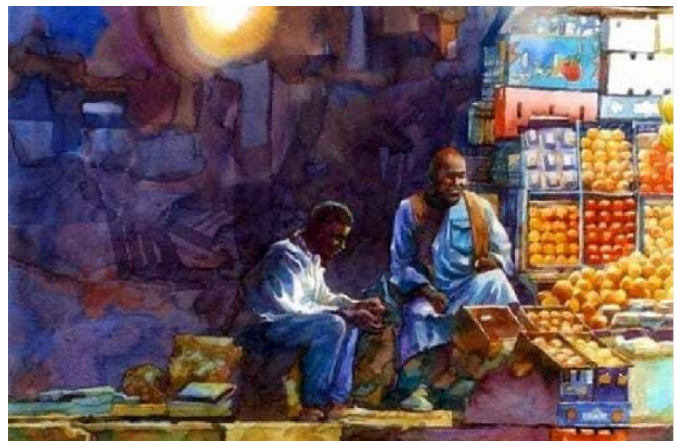
## Sample works of selected artist

Hussein Merghani Hussein  
(Addis Abeba)

Hussein Merghani Hussein's specialty lies in watercolour paintings, drawing inspiration from the Sudanese environment, and focusing on the intricate dance of light and texture.

His true resonance lies within the realm of traditional watercolour paintings.

Fruit Slot at Night ©Hussein Merghani Hussein



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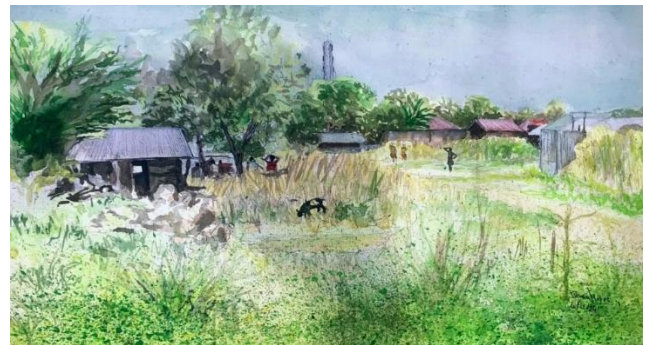
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## Juma Moris (Juba)

Juma Moris is known for his unique approach to color, using his paintings to express both real and imagined themes with elements of abstraction. His artworks often blend narrative and visual art, portraying his personal, social, and political experiences with authenticity and depth.

©Juma Moris



## Hamza Tirab (Kampala)

Hamza Tirab is a visual artist, trainer, human rights activist, and cultural practitioner. He uses art as a tool for documentation, awareness-raising, cultural preservation, and social transformation, with a particular focus on peacebuilding, justice, identity, and the rights of women and minorities.

©Hamza Tirab



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## Mohamed Ibrahim (Kigali)

Mohamed Ibrahim is a multi-faceted creative with immense experience in concept development, project dossier creation, creative writing and editing. Additionally, he is a prolific photographer and uses his creative vision also in film and videography.

Al Duroob (2020 – 2023) Operetta/Short film  
©Mohamed Ibrahim



## Sannad Sharif (Nairobi)

Sannad Sharif's work explores themes of resilience and transformation, shaped by the loss of his studio and artworks during the war in Sudan. He continues creating with improvised materials, avoiding traditional forms and political slogan, but instead focusing on pure artistic expression.

Blu face ©Sannad Sharif



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## **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 connects with partners across the country to foster Kenyan-German cultural and educational exchange through cultural projects and trainings, co-productions, school collaborations, information and knowledge platforms as well as German language teaching. <https://www.goethe.de/ins/ke/en/index.html>

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