



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

17th September 2026

The Water Between Us



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“You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them, and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them,” said environmentalist and Nobel Laureate, Prof. Wangari Maathai.

Against that backdrop, Musyi Arts & Productions presents *The Water Between Us*, an immersive multidisciplinary installation and lecture performance co-created by artists Esther Kamba and Louisa Schiedek. Rooted in research conducted between Hamburg and Nairobi, the project interrogates water as an arena of colonial power, ancestral knowledge, and gendered resistance. Rather than scrambling for immediate fixes, the work invites audiences to inhabit the discomfort of ecological and historical crisis.

“We talked a lot about getting comfortable with not finding solution, and yet, of course, we were always searching for them. Surely not for the last time,” says artist Louisa Schiedek.

The Water Between Us expands on this indigenous ecological wisdom, inviting audiences to dismantle the divide between human existence and the natural world while addressing a deeper crisis in how we understand ourselves, nature, and our place within it, and listening to what water remembers.

“I was shocked to discover that many of our rivers have lost their names and become sewage channels, while the dams we celebrate are entangled in hydrocolonial histories of controlling water, land and people,” says artist Esther

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Kamba. “But what shocked me most was the erasure of African knowledge from how we understand, name and respond to the climate crisis so it is time to reclaim African ways of knowing, remembering and experiencing our weather, rivers, land and environment, and place them at the centre of the conversation.”

Through this co-production, Musyi Arts and the Internationaler Koproduktionsfonds (*International Co-production Fund*) of the Goethe-Institut highlight the vital role of cross-cultural and interdisciplinary collaboration in generating critical artistic dialogue across East Africa and beyond.

Cristina Nord, the director of the Goethe-Institut Kenya, states: “We are very happy about this Kenyan-German coproduction. A joint artistic endeavour like ‘The Water between Us’ brings people together; it creates new avenues, new networks and new perspectives. That is the aim of the International Co-production Fund: to promote innovation and cooperation on an equal footing, thus helping mutual understanding to grow.’

The three-day event is free to attend but subject to registration.

Event details:

Dates: 23–24 September 2026

Venue: Goethe-Institut, Nairobi

Admission: Free (RSVP required)

Daytime Exhibition: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Evening Performance: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Registration Link: <https://shorturl.at/xzu0Y>

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About Louisa Schiedek

Louisa Schiedek studied literature and gender studies at HU Berlin, followed by theater directing at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg (HfMT) (*University of Music and Drama*) in Hamburg. As a performer, dramaturg and mainly director, she has staged productions at HAU Berlin, the Schauspielhaus Hamburg, and the Theater Bielefeld. In her artistic work, Louisa often explores structural critique, ecstasy, and hybridity.

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About Musyi Arts and Production

Musyi Arts is a Nairobi-based contemporary performance and theatre organisation founded and led by artist, director, dramaturg and curator

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Esther Kamba. It develops and produces research-led performances that engage questions of identity, power, embodiment, place and the environment. Its work moves between theatre, performance art, lecture-performance, installation, sound and site-responsive practices, often drawing on archival research, oral histories, embodied knowledge and contemporary artistic methodologies.

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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