

## Phantasms of the Non-City

presented by Arts Alive in association with the LagosPhoto festival

**Photographers:** Cyrus Kabiru, Karl Ohiri, Uche Okpa-Iroha, Adeola Olagunju, Mouhamadou Sow

Launched in 2010, LagosPhoto is the first and only international arts festival of photography in Nigeria. In a month-long festival, events include exhibitions, workshops, artist presentations, discussions, screenings, and large-scale outdoor prints displayed throughout the city with the aim of reclaiming public spaces and the general public with multifaceted stories of Africa. LagosPhoto aims to establish a community for contemporary photography that will unite local and international artists through images that encapsulate individual experiences and identities from across all of Africa. LagosPhoto presents and educates audiences about photography as it is embodied in the exploration of historical and contemporary issues, the sharing of cultural practices, and the promotion of social programmes. LagosPhoto presents a contemporary and historical visual essay of the continent to both a local and global audience.

*Phantasms of the Non-City* presents a selection from the 2013 edition of the LagosPhoto festival in Lagos, Nigeria, which examines how the development of urban centres in Africa and the technical advancement of photography have transformed our sense of place in a globally connected world.

The twenty-first century has been characterised by the rise of the mega-city; in its wake appears the phantasms of the non-city. A product of the digital revolution, the non-city cannot be defined by the spatial perimeters of an individual's environment, but emerges in the virtual connectivity between places.

The phantasms of the non-city are born of displacement, fantasy, and an unstable sense of identity, which defy photojournalism's quest for a truth grounded in a prior reality. The artists presented in *Phantasms of the Non-City* adopt photographic practices expanded by technical and performative strategies to reflect the circulation of images in our society, and their mass consumption and capacity to document personal and collective world views.

LagosPhoto 2013, whose theme is *The Megacity and the Non-City*, opens in Lagos, Nigeria on 25 October 2013 at Art21 at the Eko Hotel and Suites (Victoria Island). The festival extends to satellite venues in arts and cultural spaces in Lagos, including the Goethe-Institut, Nimbus Gallery, African Artists' Foundation Gallery, Omenka Gallery, the Federal Printing Press, and A White Space. Outdoor exhibitions in congested public spaces of Lagos include Freedom Park, Falomo Roundabout, the University of Lagos, and Muri Okunola Park.



- 1 Adeola Olagunju. *Dreamland*. from *Resurgence: A Manifesto*. 2012. 16x24 inches
- 2-3 Cyrus Kabiru. *C-Stunners* series. 2012
- 4 Mouhamadou Sow. *Boys playing in the surf at Plage de Virage*. October 2012
- 5 Karl Ohiri. *Patchwork*, from the series *My Granddad's Car*. 2011

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