



PULSE

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Newsletter October - November 2021

Nhimbe Partners with
Swedish Arts Council
In Artistic Freedom.



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SWEDISH ARTS COUNCIL ON ARTISTIC FREEDOM.

NHIMBE TRUST PARTNERS THE SWEDISH ARTS COUNCIL

Nhimbe Trust in partnership with the Swedish Arts Council (SAC), and with funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), are collaborating on a three-year project (2021 – 2023) which seeks to promote artistic freedom within the context of elections. Target countries in the implementation of the action are Zambia, Algeria and Zimbabwe. The project provides enriching networking opportunities with like-minded organisations in the field of artistic freedom in countries such as Brazil, Singapore, France, Lebanon, Uganda, Norway, Finland and Ethiopia.

Kajsa Ravin, Director General of the Swedish Arts Council said,

“Contemporary art is often to be found at the heart of public debate. The fact that our agency, which has a thorough knowledge of culture, can now distribute this funding represents a boost for international efforts to promote artistic freedom...”

Lisa Sidambe, Nhimbe Trust’s head researcher on the project said the partnership *“is a strategic and timely intervention in amplifying the nexus between artistic freedom and electoral processes.”*

“Artists and cultural professionals have always played an instrumental role in advancing human rights and fundamental freedoms. Creating a space and platform where we can spotlight their level of participation and engagement in electoral processes is a welcome development...It also affords us an opportunity to conduct evidence-based research on continued threats to artistic freedom and the implications of that to processes of democratisation,” said Sidambe.



NHIMBE TRUST AND FREEMUSE ZIMBABWE REPORT UNDER THE UPR MECHANISM

Nhimbe Trust and Freemuse have made a submission to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council, assessing the Government of Zimbabwe’s compliance international human rights obligations as well as constitutional guarantees with respect to fundamental freedoms and cultural rights. The submission, which is preceded by a similar intervention made in 2016, analyses the criminalisation of artistic expression, censorship of artists and artworks, and the harassment and intimidation of cultural actors.

Between July 2016 and July 2021, Nhimbe Trust and Freemuse documented a clampdown on the right to freedom of artistic expression in Zimbabwe, where artists and cultural actors were subjected to systematic censorship, criminal prosecution as well as harassment and intimidation. Such violations of Zimbabwe’s obligations arise from the existence of legislative frameworks that are utilised to silence artistic voices as well as other forms of democratic dissent. The report notes that despite constitutional guarantees to the right to freedom of artistic expression, the Government of Zimbabwean has not undertaken adequate measures to ensure the full realisation of the right. **The report and fact sheet are accessible online**

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NFT

OPINION

'CREATIVE DISRUPTION' - LEVERAGING NFT IN THE ZIMBABWEAN CREATIVE SPACE

By Tinashe Gwariro, Policy Analyst Fellow, Nhimbe Trust

For a nation or a civilization to continue to develop it needs to continuously create innovations that provide new opportunities for progress, "Creative Disruption". The Blockchain evolution has offered people in the creative industry new opportunities to showcase their work and profit from it.

NFTs or Non-Fungible Tokens are the new digital craze that has taken the creative industry by storm. NFTs are a digital token that represent a specific asset, such as artwork or in this case popular digital artwork. Essentially it means each token is unique and represents ownership of a specific asset making it non-fungible. For instance, when you exchange one Bitcoin for another, they are exactly the same making it fungible therefore not unique. The idea is that these tokens allow the artist and the collector (buyer) to prove and enforce ownership of an asset and because its digital it is popular with digital artwork.

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OPINION

CREATIVE DISRUPTION - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TAKEOVER OF THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY

By Tinashe Gwariro, Policy Analyst Fellow, Nhimbe Trust

At a Glance For centuries humanity has used Art to evoke an emotional response, be it to drum up war, inspire revolutionary rallying cries, unite people for peace, communicate and educate people on matters of national or imperial importance. One thing that has always been consistent is the idea that it was human creativity that inspired the greatest creative work.

The 21st century however, is witnessing a creative disruption in the creative space. Artificial intelligence has posed both a threat and an opportunity for creatives. This evolution of creativity is redefining the meaning of what Art is, pushing the boundaries of creative expression and the pace at which it is developed.

But what is Artificial Intelligence (AI)? According to **SearchEnterprise AI**, Artificial Intelligence is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. This encompasses a wide range of subfields such as expert systems, natural language processing, speech recognition and machine vision among many others. **Should we worry?**

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