

NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA

WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON

# TRANSITIONS

JOHN ODOCHAMENY AND PETER ELUNGAT

THE NAIROBI GALLERY

AT

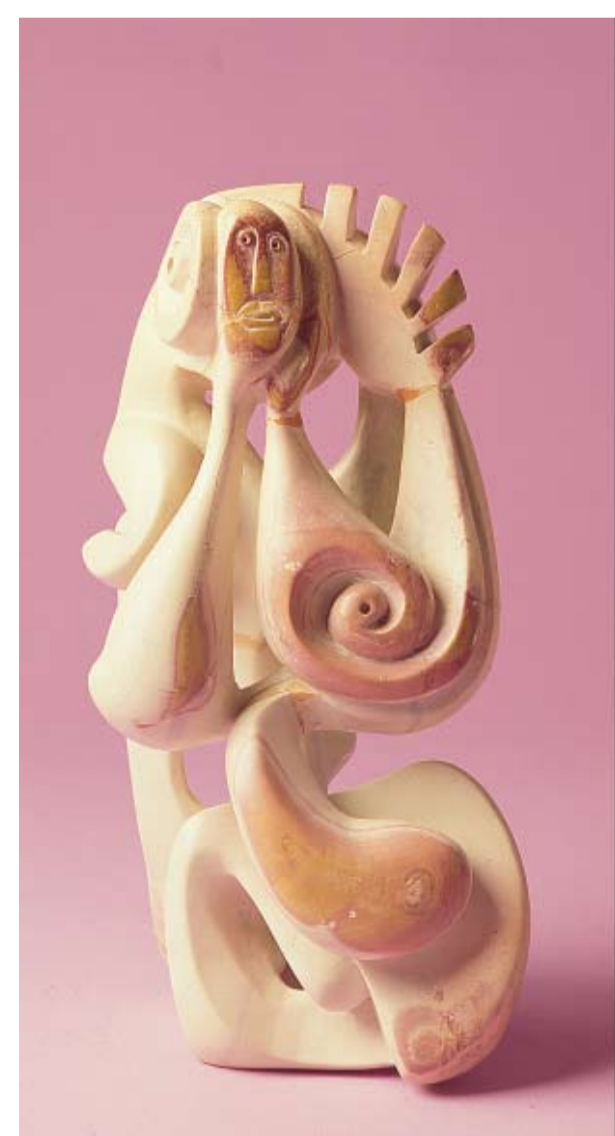
The Old PC's Office next to Nyayo House

October 20th, 2015 - January 20th, 2016

Private Entry and ample free parking  
open daily 8.30am - 5.30pm

Since October 2013, The Nairobi Gallery has been the home of the *Murumbi African Heritage Collections*. During that time, it has been showcasing East Africa's Pioneer Artists whose works are featured in the Murumbi collections. These artists started their careers in the 1960's and 1970's against all odds, at a time when art was not considered a viable career. Works by *Ancent Soi*, *Jak Katarikawe*, *Sanaa Gateja*, *Expedito Mwebe*, *Elkana Ongesa* and *Francis Nnaggenda* have been displayed in the small "Pioneer Gallery". A stunning ceramic vessel by *Magdalene Odundo* holds the place of honour in the gallery at *Point Zero*, the starting point for measurements from Nairobi to all other destinations in the world. The current exhibition in the Pioneer Gallery features works by the last of these Pioneer Artists, sculptor *John Odochameny*, along side oil paintings by *Peter Elungat*, an East African artist from a new generation. His canvases have found wide appeal in East Africa and abroad. Both artists focus a great deal on feminine forms, from Giacometti-like women with delicate heads and hands to female forms in more supple shapes. This exhibition marks an ongoing transition in East African contemporary arts.

*The Pioneer Artists of East Africa are to take part in a major exhibition in the USA in 2017.*



JOHN ODOCHAMENY is one of Africa's most prolific artists and he taught many of East Africa's leading sculptors while he was artist-in-residence at African Heritage in the 1980's, during which time he created his famous MASS COMMUNICATIONS series out of the debris of the industrial age. Odochameny later updated this series with MASS COMMUNICATIONS II created from mobile phones and other electronic items from the technological age, kindly provided to the Murumbi Trust by Safaricom (*see photo right*).

John also works in other materials like soapstone (*see two of his stunning sculptures at left*), one of which stands at the *Murumbi Peace Memorial* in the Nairobi City Park.

