



NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA

WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON

AND

THE MURUMBI TRUST

PRESENT

AT THE NAIROBI GALLERY

September 9th through December 8th, 2018

Opening Ceremony 2pm September 9th by

**AMB. AMINA C. MOHAMED, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION**

An Invitation to introduce you to.....

## PIONEER WOMEN OF THE ARTS

**NINE WOMEN FROM EAST AFRICA, HAVE REMARKABLE STORIES TO TELL. EACH HAS TAKEN A DIFFERENT PATH TO ACHIEVE THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD OF ART. EACH HAS BEEN ACCLAIMED FOR THEIR UNIQUE STRUGGLE.**



**MARGARET TROWELL** –All artists in East Africa owe a debt to this pioneer artist and teacher whose motto was “Art for Life’s sake” and “to make it plain that art is of the people and natural to the people”. Among her many accomplishments were six books, numerous exhibitions by art students in East Africa and abroad and an art school that became the best in the region and perhaps all of Africa. *Left: The cover of Margaret Trowell’s first book on African art and crafts (1937). Still a classic.*



**JOY ADAMSON** – Known to millions through her books and a TV series on Elsa the Lion, Joy was a self taught, talented painter of flowers and fish. She proved she was just as interested in people. She will be remembered for her portraits of peoples in their traditional dress. Most of her paintings now hang in the National Museums of Kenya or in State House.



**MAGDALENE ODUNDO** –whose ethereal clay vessels stand on their own without equal. Having been given an OBE by the Queen of England for service to arts, she has chosen at this time in her life to lend her potters’ touch to making monumental glass installations. She now holds the highest position in international arts of any East African as Chancellor of the University of Creative Arts in the UK.



**ROSEMARY KARUGA** – Born of a Ugandan father and Kenyan mother, Rosemary was the first woman to attend the prestigious Makerere University School of Fine Arts. Now at 90 years of age, she can look back on a career of firsts, having exhibited her works with the leading artists of the continent.



**GERALDINE ROBERTS** – a lifetime experience as a painter and University Lecturer in Fine Arts including Makerere University and Kenyatta University. She is always pushing the boundaries of what paint, colour and new materials can achieve and exploring the world to bring her inimitable style to her creations as well as generating income generating activities for artists and others.



**ROBIN ANDERSON** –Co Founder of the leading contemporary art gallery in East Africa in 1968, Gallery Watatu, the late Robin Anderson is famous for her elegant “batiks” on silk depicting Kenyan peoples and wildlife. Gallery Watatu brought a platform for serious contemporary art in East Africa with recurrent exhibitions by leading artists.



**YONY WAI-TE** – Co-Founder of the leading gallery of East Africa, Gallery Watatu, with artists Robin Anderson and David Hart. Her wildebeest and wildlife paintings populate hotels and public buildings throughout East Africa and have gained her an international following and reputation synonymous with the safari style of the region.



**NANI CROZE**—has brought another dimension to the Art of the region, with her stained glass windows and recycled glass objects. Her monumental works appear in public spaces like the courtyard and entry of the National Museums of Kenya, and her glass objects are a delight for those living in East Africa and beyond.



**THERESA MUSOKE** – One of the first women to obtain a degree from Makerere University, her distinctive works of romanticized wildlife in a moody mixture of abstract batik and oil paintings have won great acclaim. She has also taught art at Makerere and other leading institutions of art in East Africa.