

Boucher, Brian. "6 Must-See Artists at the 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair," *Artnet News*, 4 May 2017.

artnet® news

6 Must-See Artists at the 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair

The fair's third New York edition brings artists from eight nations out of Africa's 54.

Brian Boucher, May 4, 2017

With African artists owning just 0.01 percent of the secondary market of the art trade, as the head of Sotheby's new African art department recently pointed out, the growing 1:54 fair (one Africa, 54 countries) aims to pump up a tiny sector that has been largely neglected. Now in its third edition in the sunny, airy main hall at Brooklyn's Pioneer Works, the fair brings artists from the African diaspora, as well as galleries from pretty much anywhere you can find African people. (Attesting to that fact, the fair also takes place in London and will inaugurate an inaugural Marrackech edition next year.)

Including just 19 galleries, the fair can be surveyed in a couple of hours, and that quick hop will bring you globally familiar practitioners like William Kentridge, as well as some who have never exhibited on these shores before, like JP Mika. The organizers mixed it up this year, with half of the galleries presented only now, in the third New York edition of the fair.

Here are the artists who caught our eye in a two-hour visit.

Marcia Kure at Officine dell'Imagene, Milan

The three collages on view here bring together parts of human and animal bodies, suggesting with formal grace that humankind is not such a different beast than the creatures we cultivate and confine. Their feathers, hides, and bones are not so distinct from our hair, skin, and skeletons. Born in Nigeria and now living in Princeton, New Jersey, Kure creates images that could also be read to symbolize, to put it diplomatically, the cultural blurring that may come with colonization.



Marcia Kure, *Of Saints and Vegabonds*, 2016