



The Family Scars

(A man's search for his soul)

Solo exhibition by
Louise Deininger

Curated by Piloya Irene

DATES: 30TH NOVEMBER - 30TH DECEMBER 2024

“Beneath the surface of the everyday, lies a complex web of stories, perceptions, and truths waiting to be uncovered.” The exhibition invites you to journey through the realms of critical thought, consciousness, spirituality, and identity. Featuring a diverse array of works that challenge conventional perspectives, urging viewers to question, reflect, and explore the unseen layers of existence and adaptability.

The family scars: Explores the intersection of traditional materials and rituals through installations, objects and paintings. Materials such as elephant dung which serve as a metaphor for cultural, political and social dynamics of our identity. The works primarily involve assembling various objects that represent different cultures reflecting on Louise's deep interest in exploration of the material world. The kitenge fabrics and gloves made from bark cloth create a constellation that captures individuality and each piece creating a dialogue about the connection between our movements and adaptability to different cultural norms.

The works are site specific as the artists' intention of realizing them in Gulu-Uganda, in a bid to trace her forefather's path through the Great lakes Region. Living her studio in Vienna, Austria, Louise chose to exhibit in Kampala as a mechanism of weaving connections to places she recalls spending time with family and loved ones.

Through mediums ranging from painting to immersive installations, the exhibition unpacks profound questions on what shapes our identity. How do we engage with the spiritual within an increasingly material world? And can art illuminate the complexity of the human mind? The family scar is not just a visual experience but a contemplative one—a space where boundaries dissolve, and possibilities emerge.

Each piece serves as an invitation to step beyond the surface, encouraging a deeper connection with the self and the interconnected web of life enhancing the dynamics of migration and its consequences where her siblings and relatives live in different parts of the world. The only way to connect with them is through exchange of personal belongings which symbolize the connection between humans and everyday objects. She makes use of objects collected from those still living and the deceased, rendering human spirituality through the memories held on to.

The creative process speaks to our emotions and relatable experiences associated with self-reflection. Her artworks uniquely blend personal narratives with a poignant exploration of memory and connection through drawing from her immigrant father moving from Uganda to settle in the UK and returning back after political and economic stability.

Text from Irene Piloya

Artist Profile

Louise Deininger is a multidisciplinary artist and doctoral researcher at blaxTARLINES, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana. Born in Jinja, Uganda, and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, and London, UK, she lives and works between Vienna, Austria, Gulu, Uganda, and Kumasi, Ghana. Her practice spans painting, sculpture, installation, textiles, film, objects, and socially engaged art, exploring how memory, cultural inheritance, and knowledge are preserved and transformed through material forms. Using indigenous and organic materials such as Ugandan bark cloth, East African kanga textiles, and elephant dung, her work investigates objects and landscapes as living archives that embody complex histories and ways of knowing. Through

processes of transformation, excavation, and reconstruction, Deininger examines how histories move across places, cultures, and generations, creating space for inherited narratives to be revisited and reimaged. She is the founder of GYCO Academy in Northern Uganda, an initiative that promotes youth leadership, creative learning, and cultural exchange through the arts. Deininger holds a BFA and MFA in Contextual Painting from the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, where she studied under Prof. Ashley Hans Scheirl. From 2021 to 2023, she served as Co-President of VBKÖ, the Austrian Association of Women Visual Artists.

Louise has held several exhibitions which include: (2024) "Beneath the Surface-Mapping the scars of colonialism" Michael Bella Gallery Solo Exhibition Vienna, Austria; "(auto)Destruction – and against it". Museum Of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, Cultural Centre of Novi Sad Group Exhibition Novi Sad, Serbia; "Scar Phases" Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology-KNUST Faculty of Art and Sculpture Solo Exhibition Kumasi, Ghana; "The Art of Seeing" Bonhams Group exhibition Vienna, Austria. ; "Loud whispers from the ancestors" SPARK FAIR Solo booth, Xenson Art Space Vienna, Austria; "Voices" Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts(The Hurston) Solo Exhibition Eatonville, Orlando Florida, USA (2023) "A Parade through the years" Eileen Kamin-

sky Family Foundation Mana Contemporary. Group Exhibition Jersey City, USA "Gespaltene Zunge" Museums Quatier (MQ) Group Exhibition Vienna, Austria;
 SYSTEMRELEVANT Künstlerhaus Vereinigung. Group Exhibition Vienna, Austria (2022) "Rays of the Ancestors" Parallel Art Fair Solo Booth Vienna, Austria ; "Don't leave false illusions behind" Group Exhibition Vienna, Austria (2021) "House of Losing Control" Vienna Art Week (Main Exhibition) Group Exhibition Vienna, Austria; "The Portal" Association of Austrian Female Artists-VBKOE; Parallel 21 Fair Group Exhibition Vienna, Austria; "Undoing Landscape" Curated by Adam Szymczyk -Art Director Documenta 14 Erste Foundation Academy Group Exhibition Vienna, Austria (2020) "DNA OF WAR Transcendence Through Forgiveness" Solo Exhibition Vienna, Austria ; "For the Days Yet to Come" Fluc,Wien Group Exhibition Vienna, Austria; "Isolation Collection- Description of a Struggle" Group Virtual Exhibition. Prague, Czech Republic; "Mixtsherz" Featuring Amoako Boafo and friends Group Exhibition Vienna, Austria; "Master and Joy of Colors" The BVLGARI Boutique Bahnhofstrasse Group Exhibition Zurich, Switzerland.; "Being in the Brain Of" Off Space, Frau Bernhard Solo Exhibition Vienna, Austria (2019) "Knowledge Art week" Solo Exhibition Nairobi, Kenya; "Here We Are Now"
 Art Care, Off Space Group Exhibition Vienna, Austria; "Money Manifestation" Off Space Lazy Solo Exhibition Vienna, Austria; "The Future is Now, the Future is Female" Off Space, The Loft Group Exhibition Vienna, Austria (2018) "Being in the Brain of" Public Domain Pogy and Bess Solo Exhibition Vienna, Austria; "Praktisch Scheiße" Kulturtankstelle Group Exhibition Salzburg, Austria (2017) "SubDocumenta" Off Space Exhibition at Documenta 14 Athens Museum Of Queer Arts(AMOQA) Group Exhibition Athens, Greece; (2016)"Bridging the Gap"Embassy/ Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya-Wien Solo Exhibition, Austria, Vienna.



Winye (Agreement)

Elephants dung, Acrylic pigment, Kanga textile, Ugandan bark cloth, cowry shells paper
Mache masks, Ugandan Tea bags, soil and sand from Northern Uganda-2024.

121x90cm



Wot (The trek)

Elephants dung, Acrylic pigment, Kanga textile, Ugandan bark cloth, cowry shells
paper Mache masks, Ugandan Tea bags, soil and sand from Northern Uganda-2024
122x90cm

122x90cm



Nyodo1 (Parenting1)

Elephants dung, Acrylic pigment, Kanga textile, Ugandan bark cloth, cowry shells, Marble, plant seeds, paper mache masks, Ugandan Tea bags, soil and sand from Northern Uganda-2024

122x80cm



Nyodo 2 (Parenting 2)

Elephants dung, Acrylic pigment, Kanga textile, Ugandan bark cloth, cowry shells, Marble, plant seeds, paper mache masks, Ugandan Tea bags, soil and sand from Northern Uganda-2024

90x40cm



Kuman ba (Like this)

Elephants dung, Acrylic pigment, Kanga textile, Ugandan bark cloth, cowry shells, Marble, plant seeds, paper mache masks, Ugandan Tea bags, soil and sand from Northern Uganda-2024

50x50cm



Nying pen (Surname)

Elephants dung, Acrylic pigment, Kanga textile, Ugandan bark cloth, cowry shells, paper Mache masks, Ugandan Tea bags, soil and sand from Northern Uganda-2024

50x50cm



Nying ma'acaki- (The Genesis-First Name)

Elephants dung, Acrylic pigment, Kanga textile, Ugandan bark cloth, cowry shells, Marble, plant seeds, papier Mache masks, Ugandan Tea bags, soil and sand from Northern Uganda-2024

50x50cm



Nying m'agiki (Last Name)

Elephants dung, Acrylic pigment, Kanga textile, Ugandan bark cloth, cowry shells, Marble, plant seeds, papier Mache masks, Ugandan Tea bags, soil and sand from Northern Uganda-2024

50x50cm



Nying ma'idiere (Middle Name)

Elephants dung, Acrylic pigment, Kanga textile, Ugandan bark cloth, cowry shells, Marble, plant seeds, papier Mache masks, Ugandan Tea bags, soil and sand from Northern Uganda-2024

50x50cm



Nying ma'idiere (Middle Name)

Elephants dung, Acrylic pigment, Kanga textile, Ugandan bark cloth, cowry shells, Marble, plant seeds, papier Mache masks, Ugandan Tea bags, soil and sand from Northern Uganda-2024

50x50cm



Dwan 1(Acoustics 1)

Wooden plinth, metal rods and traditional percussion instruments from Northern Uganda-2024

42x30x66.5cm



Dwan 2- (Acoustics 2)

Wooden plinth, Acrylic, metal rods and traditional percussion instruments from Northern Uganda-2024

42x30x66.5cm



Mung me Ot (The secret 1)

Wooden Plinth, Metal rod, Plants, Ugandan bark cloth-2024

42x30x66.5cm



Mung ma woko (The secret 2)

Wooden Plinth, Metal rod, Plants, Ugandan bark cloth-2024

42x30x66.5cm



Teno kwot (Resonance)

Calabash, Kanga, Acrylic, Elephants dung, textile, Ugandan bark cloth, cowrie shells, Banana fibre, rope, plant seeds, soil and sand from Northern Uganda-2024



Cang (Heal)

Calabash, Crochet, Acrylic, Kanga, Elephants dung, textile, Ugandan bark cloth, cowrie shells, Banana fibre, plant seeds, rope, soil and sand from Northern Uganda-2024



Kac (Shrine)

Mosquito net, Ugandan bark cloth, cowrie shells, Kanga, textile and rope-2024

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Xenson Art space is a multidisciplinary curated space aimed at nurturing the new creative generation, providing a safe space for artists to exhibit, and showcase their work, dialogue and network to bring about social and economic empowerment in their lives and immediate communities.