

Artist Statement

My multidisciplinary practice approaches art as an act of decolonial reclamation, engaging memory as a living, migratory force that continually carries the past into the present while shaping possible futures. Through painting, object, collage, sculpture, installation, assemblage, and socially engaged practice, I investigate the interconnected histories of identity, place, belonging, and cultural inheritance.

Central to my work is the transformative potential of materials. I work with raw earth, elephant dung, East African kanga textiles, Ugandan bark cloth, tea bags, cowrie shells, and found objects, materials that embody cultural, ecological, and historical narratives. Rather than serving as passive mediums, these materials function as active agents, carrying traces of movement, exchange, resilience, and transformation. Through their presence, I create encounters between personal experience, collective memory, ancestral knowledge, and the natural world.

My practice functions as a living archive, one that revisits inherited histories through processes of excavation, layering, and reconstruction. Drawing from personal, communal, and diasporic experiences, I seek to reveal overlooked connections, challenge fixed narratives, and create spaces where fragmented histories can be reassembled and reimaged. The works emerge through an ongoing dialogue with materials, histories, and ancestral presence, allowing for multiple interpretations and forms of engagement.

For me, artistic creation is a form of soul work. Through hybridity, material transformation, and acts of remembrance, I bring together memory, land, spirituality, and cultural inheritance in ways that honour continuity and resilience. The resulting works invite reflection, fostering pathways toward healing, connection, and a deeper sense of belonging.



The Rahlstiege, East African kanga textile installation.
Vienna, Austria

Jalweny (Warrior)

2018–2025

Pigmented elephant dung, acrylic,
torso, plastic brain, Tibetan
medicine, Ugandan bark cloth,
beads, crochet, cowrie shells and
East African kanga textile.

45 × 30 × 28 cm

Accompanying hat: pigmented
elephant dung on papier-mâché
hat, East African kanga textile,
Tibetan medicine, Ugandan bark
cloth, beads and mixed media.

34 × 30 × 28 cm





Fikira (Idea)

2023

Metal, East African kanga textile, cowrie shells, pigmented
Elephant dung, Ugandan bark cloth and rope

37 x 23cm



The golden boots sculpture



Loud whispers from the ancestors
SPARK FAIR VIENNA Solo booth.
Vienna, Austria

LOUD WHISPERS FROM THE ANCESTORS SERIES-7 works



Kuhisi(Sensing)

2023

Pigmented Elephant dung with
acrylics on canvas, East
African kanga textile and
cowrie shell
90x125cm



Fikiria(Thinking)

2023

Pigmented Elephant dung
with acrylics on canvas, East
African kanga textile and
cowrie shell
195x155cm

Hisia(Feeling)

2023

Pigmented elephant
dung with acrylics on
canvas, East African
kanga textile and cowrie
shell
195x155cm





Tayari (Willing)

2023

Pigmented Elephant dung
with acrylics on canvas, East
African kanga textile and
cowrie shell
195x155cm



Mwili (Body)
2023
Pigmented Elephant dung
with acrylics on canvas, East
African kanga textile and
cowrie shell
90x125cm



Nafsi(Soul)

2023

Pigmented Elephant dung with
acrylics on canvas, East African
kanga textile and cowrie shell
90x125cm



Roho (Spirit)

2023
Pigmented Elephant dung
with acrylics on canvas, East
African kanga textile and
cowrie shell
90x125cm

JOURNEY HOME THROUGH, THE SPIRIT OF THE ANCESTORS. Works produced during 2023 spring
ESKFF-Eileen Kaminsky Family Foundation, artist residency at Mana Contemporary, Jersey City.



Bed Mot (Patience)

2023

Acrylic on canvas, collage,
cowrie shells, coins, raw
earth and mixed media
152x150cm

Bedo (*Being*)

2023

Acrylic on canvas and mixed
media

40x30cm



Actualize (Timiza)
2023
Acrylic on canvas, collage,
raw earth and mixed media
40x30cm



***Tugo kas to teko dhako (Play
followed by Strength of a
Woman)***

2023

Acrylic on canvas, raw earth,
cowrie shells, ashes from
Mexico and Uganda tea bags
152x127cm



Gwedho (Bless)
2023
Acrylic on canvas
40x30cm



Gwedho 2 (Bless 2)
2023
Acrylic on canvas, raw
earth and cowrie
shells
40x30cm



Uongozi wa Kijamii (Social Hierarchy)

2023

Acrylic on canvas, raw earth,
ashes, Uganda tea bags and
mixed media

152x127cm



Almasi (The Diamond)
2023
Acrylic on canvas,
collage, Uganda tea bags and
mixed media
152x127cm



Safar (The Journey)

2023

Acrylic on canvas,
collage, Uganda tea bags and
Mixed Media
152x127cm



RAYS OF ANCESTORS SERIES

Zambarau (Purple)
2022
Acrylic on canvas and
Elephant dung
195x155cm



Ratong (Yellow)
2022
Acrylic on canvas and
Elephant dung
195x155cm



Ralum (Green)
2022
Acrylic on canvas,
Elephant dung, cowrie
shell
30x40cm



Tipo3 (Shadow 3)
2022
Elephant Dung, mirror
and wooden Rosary
21x 100 cm



Kac (Shrine)

2024

Mosquito net, Ugandan bark cloth, cowrie shells, East
African Kanga, textile rope and mixed media

200 x140 x150 cm



Mung me Ot 1 (The family secret 1)

2024

Wooden plinth, metal rod, East African kanga textile, cowrie shells, twigs and Ugandan bark cloth

42 x 30 x 66.5cm



***Erokamano Dani (Thank you
Granma)***

2022

Crotchet and Elephant dung on
wooden frame
170x160cm





Tipo 2 (Shadows)

2021-2022

Elephant dung ,mirror and
wooden rosary.

21x100 cm

Saa (illusion of Time)

2021-2022

Antique wooden clock, Elephant dung, rope
and mixed media

143x23cm



DNA OF WAR, TRANSCENDENCE THROUGH FORGIVENESS



Cutting of the Cord

2020

Elephant Dung, natural clay, sisal ropes, grass and
beech wooden box

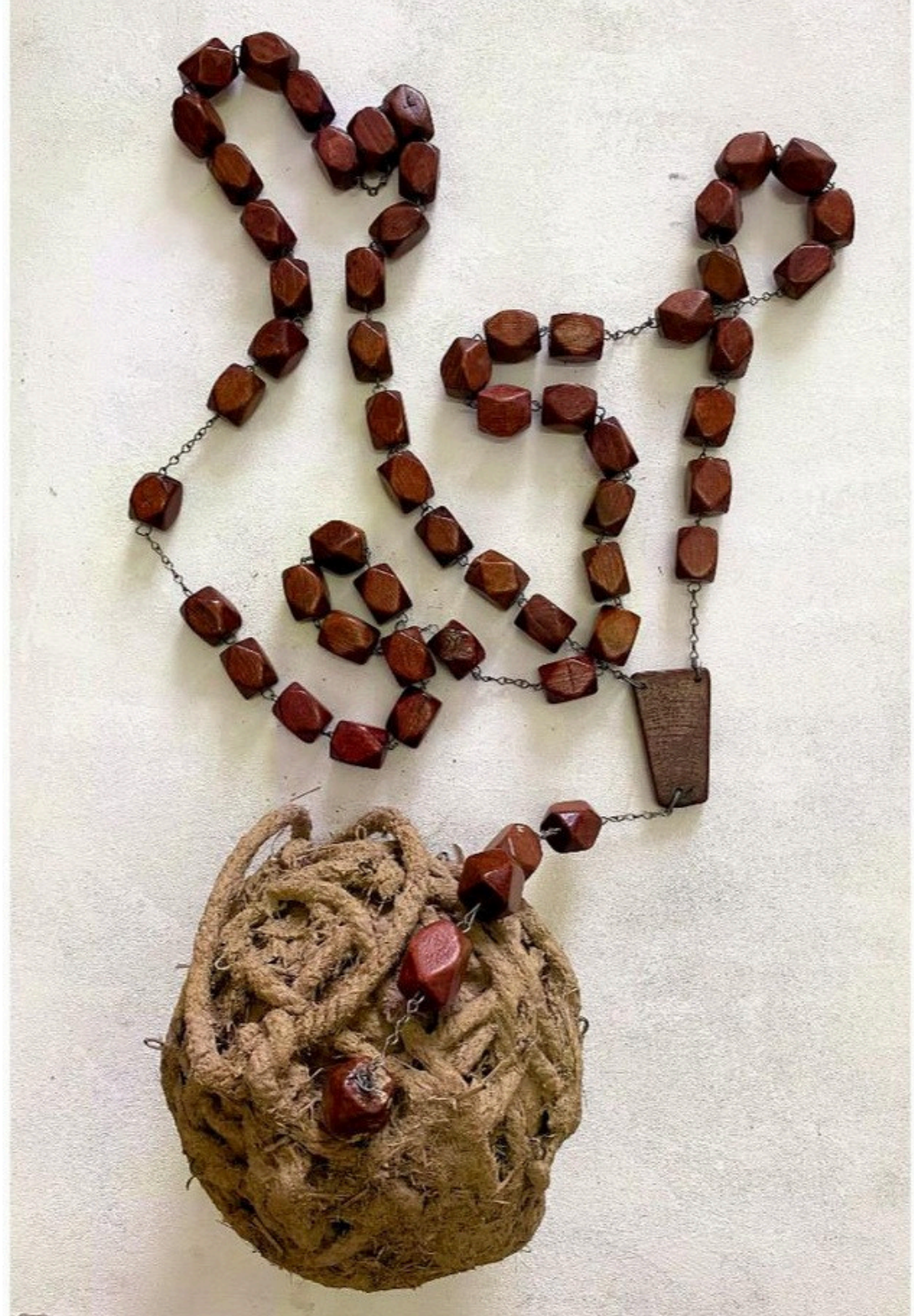
120x 20x120cm

Dhoot (Door)

2021

Elephant dung, natural clay, wooden
rosary, rope, mixed media

186cm x 19cm



Artist Biography

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 reimagined. 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.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

Voices, Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts (The Hurston), Eatonville, Florida, USA

GLIMPSES: The Intergenerationality of Identity, Eindorf Kunstraum, Vienna, Austria

2024

Loud Whispers from the Ancestors, SPARK Art Fair, Solo Presentation with Xenson Art Space, Vienna, Austria

Family Scars (A Man's Search for His Soul), Xenson Art Space, Kampala, Uganda

Scar Phases, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana

Beneath the Surface: Mapping the Scars of Colonialism, Michael Bella Gallery, Vienna, Austria

2022

Rays of the Ancestors, Parallel Vienna Art Fair, Solo Booth, Vienna, Austria

2020

DNA of War: Transcendence Through Forgiveness, Vienna, Austria

2019

Knowledge Art Week, Nairobi, Kenya

2018

Being in the Brain Of, Public Domain, Porgy & Bess, Vienna, Austria

2016

Bridging the Gap, Embassy of the Republic of Kenya, Vienna, Austria

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026

In Minor Keys, 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, Arsenale, Venice, Italy (blaxTARLINES/KNUST Presentation)

Feminist Futures Forever, Belvedere 21, Vienna, Austria

Self-Assertiveness, AG18 Gallery, Vienna, Austria

Anchor, soul to soul, The 7 Space Art Gallery & Wellness Center, Newark, New Jersey, USA

US, Art & History Museums (A&H) Maitland, Orlando, Florida, USA

2025

Passion, Simacek Collection, Künstlerhaus Vereinigung, Vienna, Austria

2024

(auto)Destruction – and Against It, Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina & Cultural Centre of Novi Sad, Serbia

The Art of Seeing, Bonhams, Vienna, Austria

2023

A Parade Through the Years, Eileen Kaminsky Family Foundation, Mana Contemporary, Jersey City, USA

Gespaltene Zunge, MuseumsQuartier (MQ), Vienna, Austria

SYSTEMRELEVANT, Künstlerhaus Vereinigung, Vienna, Austria

Collectors Choice, Galerie Hilger NEXT, Vienna, Austria

2021

Undoing Landscape, curated by Adam Szymczyk, Erste Foundation Academy, Vienna, Austria

Undoing Landscape, curated by Adam Szymczyk, Parallel Editions Art Fair, Vienna, Austria

House of Losing Control, Vienna Art Week, Vienna, Austria

Independent Space Index, VBKÖ, Vienna, Austria

2020

Garden of Knowledge, Ars Electronica (International)

ARTCARE, Parallel Vienna Art Fair, Vienna, Austria

For the Days Yet to Come, Fluc, Vienna, Austria

Mixtsherz: Featuring Amoako Boafo and Friends, Vienna, Austria

2019

Between the Sheets, VBKÖ, Parallel Vienna Art Fair, Vienna, Austria

2018

Praktisch Scheiße, Kulturtankstelle, Salzburg, Austria

2017

SubDocumenta, Athens Museum of Queer Arts (AMOQA), Off-Site Project of Documenta 14, Athens, Greece

RESIDENCIES

2024

Artist Residency, blaxTARLINES, Organisational Network and Incubator for Art in Ghana, Kumasi, Ghana

Artist Residency, Art & History Museums (A&H), Maitland, Florida, USA

2023

Artist Residency, Mana Contemporary, Jersey City, New Jersey, USA

Artist Residency, Burning Man Project, Black Rock Desert, Nevada, USA

AWARDS & HONOURS

2025

Empower Her Award, Creative Innovation

2019

Black Austrian Art and Culture Award