

Media Information

October 15, 2026

"Turning Towards the Sun" at Zeitz MOCAA: AFMAC exhibition marks the culmination of Julie Mehretu's BMW Art Car project following a series of five inter-continental workshops.

+++ Landmark exhibition presented by Zeitz MOCAA, AFMAC, and BMW on view from 11 December 2026 to 15 August 2027 +++
BMW Art Car #20 designed by Julie Mehretu on display in the museum's Atrium Bowl +++ Works by six artists and filmmakers exploring Pan-African solidarity and moving image practices +++

Munich/Cape Town. Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA), the African Film and Media Arts Collective (AFMAC) and BMW present **"Turning Towards the Sun"** an exhibition bringing together six artists and filmmakers to explore moving image and collective learning practices on the Continent: Ethiopian director **Zeresenay Berhane Mehari**, French-Senegalese filmmaker **Mati Diop**, Kenyan multidisciplinary artist **Jim Chuchu**, Kenyan filmmaker **Wanuri Kahiu**, African-American poet **Robin Coste Lewis**, and British interdisciplinary artist collective **The Otolith Group**. The exhibition will be on view from 11 December 2026 to 15 August 2027 on Level 4 of the Museum.

The catalyst for this continental project and exhibition was **Julie Mehretu's** nomination as the artist for the BMW Art Car #20 that will be on display in Zeitz MOCAA's Atrium Bowl for the duration of the exhibition. Inspired by **Arundhati Roy's** 2020 reflection that "the pandemic is a portal", Mehretu approached this commission as a way of constructing portals into new worlds shaped by Pan-African perspectives and brought to life by the histories and futures of Pan-African cinema. Together with filmmaker **Mehret Mandefro** and late Executive Director and Chief Curator of Zeitz MOCAA **Koyo Kouoh**, Mehretu began constructing these gateways through the African Film and Media Arts Collective (AFMAC) and a series of five inter-continental workshops – held in Lagos, Nigeria; Tangier, Morocco; Nairobi, Kenya; Dakar, Senegal; and Cape Town, South Africa – led by artists, including several participating in the exhibition.

Julie Mehretu reflects: "For me, the idea of a portal is about opening up possibilities – creating space to imagine beyond the worlds we have inherited. African cinema holds an extraordinary history of artists using the moving image to document and reimagine their realities. Through AFMAC, we create opportunities for artists to encounter one another, and to explore what could emerge when these histories and perspectives come into conversation."

Peter van Binsbergen, Chairman and CEO of BMW South Africa: "For more than 50 years, BMW has been committed to culture, with the BMW Art Cars at the

heart of this engagement. 'Turning Towards the Sun' demonstrates the catalytic power of artistic freedom: what began with Julie Mehretu's vision for her BMW Art Car #20 has evolved into a wider platform for artistic exchange and collaboration across the African continent. Cultural engagement also has a strong tradition for BMW in South Africa, not least through our partnership with Zeitz MOCAA since the museum's founding."

Inspired by the ideals of Pan-African solidarity and post-liberation visions, the exhibition presents video installations which look at cultural manifestations of women's rage; the complexities of Black queer masculinities on the Continent; the youth's experiences of complicated political moments; as well as African cosmo-technics and the expanded field of animation through the literature of Nigerian author Amos Tutuola. The exhibition also includes a history of cultural institutions on the Continent and figures who have championed Africa as a generative site of knowledge production within the field of filmmaking.

Zeitz MOCAA Assistant Curator Khanyi Mawhayi remarks: "The exhibition asks, 'How do we build sustainable Pan-African social and pedagogical infrastructures between artists and institutions in Africa?' 'Turning Towards the Sun' is an invitation to think expansively about cinema and its related pedagogies; to trace networks of solidarity across Africa and embrace the generosity that emerges when we imagine people as the infrastructure that sustains film and cinema on the Continent."

The title of the exhibition takes its cue from a quote by **Ousmane Sembène** in the 1983 documentary **Twenty Years of African Cinema (Caméra d'Afrique)** by Tunisian filmmaker **Ferid Boughedir**. When questioned on Europe's reading of his films, Sembène insists he does not concern himself with European understandings of his films, asserting, "Why should I be like a sunflower turning towards the sun? I, myself, am the sun." This exhibition recontextualises his statement to propose that attention to filmmaking from Africa and its diaspora represents a turning towards the sun. In this context, the sun is the artistic knowledge and cultural production emerging from the African continent and its global diaspora, namely, the Black geographies that exist and inhabit multiple regions of the world.

"Turning Towards the Sun" forms part of Zeitz MOCAA's ongoing series of in-depth, research-driven exhibitions that centre and contextualise the practices of

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significant artists from Africa and its diaspora, while engaging with pivotal themes in Pan-African history. Extending beyond the Continent's borders, this programme embraces historic and new connections, positioning Africa in a global context and the world within Africa. The exhibition is in partnership with BMW and is part of the African Film and Media Arts Collective (AFMAC) project.

"Turning Towards the Sun" is curated by Zeitz MOCAA Assistant Curator Khanyi Mawhayi, with support from **Dr Phokeng Setai** and **Dr Greer Valley**, and assistance from **Angela Muritu**, **Inshaaf Jamodien**, **Evyn Banawoye** and **Reem Aljeally**. Its geographic scope spans what Koyo Kouoh called the "wider Black geographies of the twenty-first century".

As a Pan-African and pan-diasporic institution, Zeitz MOCAA remains committed to presenting and preserving contemporary art from Africa and its diaspora, advancing art historical knowledge, supporting artists and strengthening its education programmes, while ensuring access for all.

Zeitz MOCAA's curatorial and exhibition programming is generously supported by the Mellon Foundation and BMW South Africa.

The BMW Group's Cultural Engagement, with exclusive updates and deeper insights into its global initiatives can be followed on Instagram at [@BMWGroupCulture](https://www.instagram.com/BMWGroupCulture).

If you have any questions, please contact:

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Zeitz MOCAA

Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA) is a public not-for-profit institution that collects, preserves, researches, and exhibits contemporary art from Africa and its diaspora; conceives and hosts international exhibitions; develops supporting educational, discursive, and enrichment public programmes; encourages intercultural understanding; and ensures access for all.

The Museum's galleries feature rotating temporary exhibitions, with dedicated space for the permanent collection. The institution also includes the BMW Centre for Art Education and the Koyo Kouoh Atelier, a museum residency programme for artists living and working in Cape Town.

Zeitz MOCAA, situated at the Silo District, South Arm Road, V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, South Africa, is open Monday through Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm (last entry at 5:30 pm).

zeitzmocaa.museum

African Film and Media Arts Collective (AFMAC)

The African Film and Media Arts Collective (AFMAC) is a translocal network of artists and cultural organizations across Africa and its diaspora, reimagining artistic connection as a form of infrastructure. In this context, infrastructure extends beyond roads, cables, servers, and screens. It also includes the relationships that sustain artistic communities: trust, study, fellowship, exchange, and structural support across borders, histories, and forms.

Developed by visual artist Julie Mehretu in the context of her BMW Art Car #20 project, with filmmaker Mehret Mandefro and curator Koyo Kouoh, AFMAC brings contemporary art into sustained conversation with cinema to create new conditions for Pan-African media arts. Its work supports artists in making ambitious, risk-taking media-based work, and opens new channels for the work to be funded, circulated, and encountered by the communities and publics it is made for.

Through workshops, screenings, and collaborative production models, AFMAC approaches the archive of Pan-African cinematic heritage as a shared commons: a living resource through which artists can study, experiment, and imagine new forms together.

BMW Group Cultural Engagement

State Opera for all Gerhard Richter **CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP** Kochi-Muziris Biennale
BMW Art Cars Olafur Eliasson Art Basel Max Hooper Schneider Städel Invites Frank Stella
BMW Art Club **INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE** Art D'Égypte Cao Fei Esther Mahlangu
Zaha Hadid Les Rencontres d'Arles Jeff Koons India Art Fair **LONGEVITY** Julie Mehretu
PARTNERSHIP BMW Open Work by Frieze Andy Warhol Lu Yang Preis der Nationalgalerie
Samson Young Bavarian State Opera **CREATIVE FREEDOM** BMW Young Artist Jazz Award
Ken Done **INTERACTION** Premio de Pintura Gallery Weekend Berlin Art Market Budapest
Paris Photo Leelee Chan Art Dubai **SUSTAINABILITY** BMW Photo Award Leipzig
Teatro alla Scala BMW Classics Jenny Holzer BMW Art Guide by Independent Collectors

Driven by Culture. Culture is knowledge, a sanctuary of beauty and depth, of meaning and peace. An inspiring escape. Tranquil at best, even unsettling sometimes. As a corporate citizen, the BMW Group takes social responsibility seriously, as part of which it has been involved in hundreds of cultural initiatives worldwide for over half a century, in the fields of contemporary art, music and film

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as well as in design. As a long-term partner, creative freedom is key – and as essential for groundbreaking works as it is for major innovations within a business enterprise like ours.

Further information: www.bmwgroup.com/culture and www.bmwgroup.com/overview

Instagram: [@BMWGroupCulture](https://www.instagram.com/BMWGroupCulture)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@bmwgroupculture>

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The BMW Group

With its four brands, BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial services. The BMW Group production network comprises over 30 production sites worldwide; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2025, the BMW Group sold 2.46 million passenger vehicles and more than 202,500 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2025 was € 10.2 billion on revenues amounting to € 133,5 billion. As of 31 December 2025, the BMW Group had a workforce of 154,540 employees.

The economic success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. Sustainability is a key element of the BMW Group's corporate strategy and covers all products – from the supply chain through production to the end of their useful life.

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