

KAZ'O'ZA ART

Redefining *the* Future of Art



For 36-year-old Ange-Noëlle M. MUYUBIRA, the phrase one man's trash is another man's treasure is more than a cliché. For her, the phrase has been more symbolic than anything else. The phrase has quite literally breathed new life into a community of artisans and is breathing new life to a vibrant crafts industry in Burundi.

Soon after returning from England where she lived for more than 10 years, Ange was troubled by the fact that many artisans in Burundi still languished in poverty. The fact that there was also a shortage of skills made her think even deeper on how she could help turn the tide.



To do this, Ange started Kaz'O'zah Art. The word Kaz'O'zah is derived from the Kirundi word *Kaz'O'zah* which means the future. And quite literally the Art Incubator she initiated would help shape the future lives of many artisans in Bujumbura.



Art incubator

Today, the Art Incubator is helping equip life skills to a wide range of people, many of whom coming from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“Having never gone to school, I did not know what else to do than to beg for money among family members. But I was trained here and today, I can sew and weave and thereby earn a decent, honest living,” explains Marie-Gorethe Nizigiyimana who is a widow and a mother of ten children.

Currently, the Art Incubator is training and gaining new life skills that quite literally are giving a second chance in life to some 35 talented people which include 22 women and 13 men, all of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

This social enterprise employs a vibrant team of 7 young professionals in Account, Design, Communications & Public Relations and Administration to promote and support the artisans.

“My goal is to start a Consortium of Exportation of Burundi Art & Craft. Members of this Consortium will be the graduated Incubees from Kaz'O'zah Art -who will then have their own businesses with their own trained staff- and other Burundi artisans. Art, I believe, will contribute to showcase the beauty of Burundi to the world.” a passionate Angel explains.

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CONTACT



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