



PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL JURY SELECTS FIVE AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR THE INAUGURAL TOYOTA TSUSHO CFAO AFRICAN ART AWARD

*Five emerging artists from across Africa honoured from around 100 nominees.
Grand Prize and four additional awards to be showcased in exhibitions in Togo, Japan and
France.*

Boulogne-Billancourt, 9 March 2026 - The international jury of THE TOYOTA TSUSHO CFAO African Art Award (“the Award”) has selected the five award recipients of the inaugural edition of this distinction dedicated to emerging contemporary artists from the African continent.

At a time when African contemporary art is gaining visibility in biennials, museums and art fairs worldwide, THE TOYOTA TSUSHO CFAO African Art Award aims to offer a structured, long-term platform for artists working on the Continent. Established in August 2025 by Toyota Tsusho Corporation and CFAO, it is designed to help nurture the next generation of African talent and support vibrant, resilient communities.

For this first edition, 35 art professionals, including curators and art critics active around the world proposed approximately 100 artists, representing a wide range of local art scenes across Africa. From these nominations, a shortlist of 12 artists was drawn up on the basis of originality, coherence and relevance.

Following a rigorous review by 10 jury members, a total of five award recipients were selected across five categories: one Grand Prize, two Distinguished Awards (joint second-place winners) and two Sponsor Awards (one for TTC and one for CFAO).

“Art is not an accessory to society; it is one of the ways in which societies reflect, question and project themselves into the future. With more than 170 years of presence across the African continent, it is natural for CFAO to engage alongside artists and communities. Through THE TOYOTA TSUSHO CFAO African Art Award, we want to support the diversity of contemporary practices emerging from Africa and help carry these voices and the Continent’s cultural radiance far beyond its borders” said Richard Bielle, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, CFAO.

Five award recipients from across the Continent

The five award recipients reflect the diversity, depth and inventiveness of contemporary creation in Africa today. Their practices span painting, sculpture, photography and mixed media, and are rooted in local realities while engaging with global conversations.

In addition to international recognition, the Award includes prize money, exhibition opportunities in Togo, Japan and France, and the production of a catalogue for each exhibition, providing the artists with both visibility and concrete tools to further develop their careers.

Grand Prize (Grand Winner)



Name: MOFFAT TAKADIWA

Nationality: Zimbabwe

Style: Mixed Media

Artist Biography: Moffat Takadiwa studied for Diploma Fine Art in Harare Polytechnic College, Zimbabwe.

He has exhibited internationally, including the 60th Venice Biennale (2024) and the São Paulo Biennale (2025). His work has also featured in notable institutional shows such as Galerie Édouard-Manet (France), Craft Contemporary (Los Angeles, USA) and the National Gallery of Zimbabwe (Harare).

Distinguished Awards (joint second-place winners)



Name: GOSETTE LUBONDO

Nationality: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Style: Photography

Artist Biography: Gosette Lubondo graduated in visual communication from the Academy of Fine Arts in Kinshasa in 2014. Her work has been exhibited at biennales and in group exhibitions such as the Kampala Biennale, the Lubumbashi Biennale, and at the Hirosaki Museum in Japan in 2024. In 2021, she was awarded the Maison Ruinart Prize, which is given annually to an emerging artist exhibiting at Paris Photo. In 2022, her work was presented at the Fowler Museum at UCLA. Her work is part of important collections such as the Musée du Quai Branly Jacques Chirac, Canal Centre Pompidou, Frac Nouvelle-Aquitaine (Bordeaux), the Saint Louis Museum (Missouri), and the Mast Foundation (Bologna).



Name: UNATHI MKONTO

Nationality: South Africa

Style: Mixed Media

Artist Biography: Unathi Mkonto pursued a Bachelor in Architecture at Nelson Mandela University. He was also a design fellow at Architecture for Humanity in Johannesburg. Residencies that he has participated in currently are TOLET at Zeitz Mocaa, AVOID at the A4 Arts Foundation, Stevenson Amsterdam gallery and Alma Martha, both in Cape Town, South Africa. Solo exhibitions include *Flat* (2018) at Blank Gallery in Cape Town; *Juxtapositions* at Stevenson gallery (2023), *Enclosed Camp* (2022) at Open 24 hours Gallery in Cape Town as well as *Mkonto I Mazwana* (2021) at Spaceby in Cape Town.

Sponsor Awards (Special Jury Prizes)



Name: KATLEGO C.L. TWALA

Nationality: Botswana

Style: Painting

Artist Biography: Katlego C.L. Twala studied at the Swedish Academy of Realist Art and the Barcelona Academy of Art, grounding her practice in strong technical foundations. She received the New Emergence Art Prize in 2024. Her first art fair was the 2025 Latitudes Art Fair, where she presented a sold-out solo booth with the Banana Club Artist Fund. This was followed by a presentation at the FNB Art Joburg Art Fair with Everard Read Gallery.



Name: TIZTA BERHANU

Nationality: Ethiopia

Style: Painting

Artist Biography: Tizta Berhanu graduated in 2013 from the Addis Ababa University, Alle School of Fine Arts and Design. Her latest solo exhibition, *Agape*, took place at Addis Fine Art, Addis Ababa in 2024. Her work has been exhibited in various group and solo shows in Nigeria, South Africa, Sweden, and the United States, including three solo exhibitions with Addis Fine Art: *Heber* in Addis Ababa (2021), *The Armory Show* in New York (2021), and *Synthesis of Souls* in London (2023).

About CFAO

A leading player in Africa, the CFAO Group's mission is to offer affordable, high-quality products and services to as many people as possible in the sectors of mobility, infrastructure and renewable energy, healthcare, and consumer goods.

Involved at every stage of the value chain - import, production, and distribution - we comply with the highest international standards to guarantee the reliability of our offering.

Thanks to our in-depth knowledge of local markets, the diversity of our business expertise, and our extensive pan-African distribution network, we are a strategic partner for leading global brands expanding across the continent.

Our purpose, ***With Africa For Africa***, unites every employee around a common goal: building a sustainable future in Africa.

CFAO is a subsidiary of Toyota Tsusho Corporation.

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For more information about THE TOYOTA TSUSHO CFAO African Art Award:

Web site: toyota-tsusho.com/english/african-art-award/



THE TOYOTA TSUSHO CFAO African Art Award



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