

# DOPPIOZERO

---

## "Why Africa?" A SAVVY Contemporary non-response

SAVVY

19 Giugno 2015

This month we asked our friend Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung to engage with the question “Why Africa?”. A curator, a biotechnologist and a music aficionado, Bonaventure is the founder and director of SAVVY Contemporary in Berlin, an independent space for the discourse on art between the 'West' and the 'Non-West' which is currently running a crowdfunding campaign to support its upcoming exhibitions. The SAVVY team is an extremely passionate and talented group of volunteers committed to bringing high quality cultural content in an independent and bold manner. Please support their campaign [here](#), there are still a few days left to make the difference. And now, enjoy their unique contribution to our column.

*lettera27*

[Versione italiana](#)



"Why Africa?" is more than an eerie question to ask. It calls for obvious counterquestions like "Why not?", straightforward answers like "Africa is this or that"... most of which are furnished by banalities, simplicities and predictabilities. In its complexities on many cultural, economical, historical, political, social and you name it levels, Africa can not be questioned, nor can it be expressed in the same breath with words that try to identify reasons, causes, purposes or a *raison d'être*.

It is against this backdrop that we at SAVVY Contemporary will like to engage with this question (not respond to it) through the sonic. Music and other sound-spaces are the ultimate points of departure, but also entry points. It is through the textuality of sound and the performativity of sound that we will tackle the question "Why Africa?", as it is sound's waves that can penetrate all the nooks and crannies to reveal through rhythm. For it is through sound that the ancestors are kept alive and through rhythm that their pulses keep the beat. As Hopewell Seyaseya crafted it in *Nightsong* (1984):

Silvery in the moonlight night  
The river of my mind flows  
To the nightsong of the truly great  
Entombed in the caves of history  
At heroes' acre. The music  
Crescending through the valley  
Of ghost towns and stabbed villages  
Will come down to settle on our hearts  
Like dew on leaves, tears for those  
Who surrendered their lives at the altar  
Leaving in us an eternal flame.

These are some of the sounds that could embody, encompass and reveal some form and meaning of Africa, just as a fluid will take the shape of the container it is in, and as much as the songs too fall short of answering the question "Why Africa?"

To be continued... Stay tuned for part 2.

**Kelin Kelin Orchestra (Jean-Jacques Elangué) – Massa-Haï**

**King Ayisoba – Look Ma Shoe**

**Pierre Akendengue – Awana w'Afrika**

**Ekambi Brillant – Aboki**

**Les têtes brulées Essingan**

**Mahmoud Guinia – Assamaoui**

**Orchestre National de Barbes – Zawiya**

**Manu Dibango – Bolingo City**

**Zim Ngqawana – Ebhofolo**

**Max Roach and Dollar Brand – Streams of Consciousness**

**Fela Kuti – Shuffering and Shmiling**

**Fela Kuti – I. T. T. (International Thief Thief)**

**King Sunny Ade & His African Beats – Ori Mi Ja Funmi**

**Bola Johnson – Lagos Sisi**

**Sir Victor Uwaifo – Joromi**

**Chief Commander Ebenezer Obey & his International Brothers – Miliki Sound**

**K. Frimpong and his Cubano Fiestas – Kyenkyen Bi Adi M'awu**

**Ebo Taylor – Love And Death**

**Ogyatanaa – Yaa Amponsah**

**Tchala Muana – Amina**

With the support of  **fondazione  
cariplo**

Photo: [the little dog laughed](#), music films and life in Berlin. [October 2012](#)

---

Se continuiamo a tenere vivo questo spazio è grazie a te. Anche un solo euro per noi significa molto.  
Torna presto a leggerci e [SOSTIENI DOPPIOZERO](#)

---

