



**PAULA KARANJA**

Artist Profile

## Professional Summary

Paula Karanja is a Nairobi-based Animation Filmmaker and Visual artist whose work has a strong focus on allegorical storytelling, speculative writing and world-building. Her work delves into a more comprehensive examination of traditional and modern Pan-African identities, cultures and human behaviour. She specializes in Creative Direction, Art Direction and 2D Animation creating rich, immersive visuals for Animation, Games, XR and Graphic Applications.

As an Animation Adjunct Lecturer, Paula is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of African filmmakers, teaching 2D Animation, Design and Animation History at institutions like the African Digital Media Institute (ADMI) and Kenya Institute of Mass Communication (KIMC).

Paula has contributed to projects for clients including Disney, Triggerfish and Fallohide Africa, among others. Her work has been featured at prestigious venues like Saatchi Gallery, Turner Contemporary, Alliance Française Nairobi and Kuona Trust, showcasing her versatility across independent and commercial roles alike.

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## Objective

**2D Animation, Art Direction, Visual Development, Design and Paint for Animation, Games, XR and Graphic Applications.**



# Paula Karanja

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## Work Experience

**Independent Producer, Director, Art Director** | September 2018 - Present

**Creative Consultant** | Fallohide Africa | January 2024 - Present

**Animation Lecturer**

Kenya Institute of Mass Communication | September 2022 - Present

Africa Digital Media Institute | July 2023 - February 2024

**Visual Development Artist**

Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire | Nalo Studios | April 2021 - January 2022

**Illustrator and Graphic Consultant**

Dots and Graphics Limited, Kenya | May 2019 - August 2019

The Tsunami Studio, Kenya | November 2018 - April 2019

Avandu Vosi Studios, Kenya | August 2018 - April 2019

**Sculptor's Apprentice**

Kevin Oduor - Kuona Trust Studio, Kenya | January 2018 - April 2018

## Education

**Data Science, Moringa School** 2025 - Present

**2D Animation Certificate (Rubika), Africa Digital Media Institute**

2020 - 2021

**Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art and Design), Kenyatta University**

2014 - 2018

## Mentorship and Training

**Young Game Developers & Animators Incubator, Création Africa**

February 2024 - November 2025

**Creative Producer's Workshop, Some Fine Day Pix** October 2025

**Immersive Futures Lab, Fallohide Africa** November 2024

**Digital Lab Africa Bootcamp, Tshimologong Precinct**

April 2024 - August 2024

**Pan African Metaverse Summit 2023**

**Xbox Game Camp Africa 2023**

## Press

**2021** - The Standard 'Highlighting girls in the Tech World'.

**2021** - KTN News Kenya, Featurette 'Girls in ICT'.

**2015** - Business Daily 'The Rebirth of Art with Societal Themes'.

**2015** - The Star 'Mask Award recognises young Artists'.

## Exhibitions

**2025** - Novembre Numérique at Alliance Française, Nairobi.

**2023** - New Comma's Common Ground event at Carnaby, London.

**2022** - 'PNGs Only' an Augmented Reality Showcase held at iHub Kenya.

**2018** - 'A Step In Growth' art exhibition held at Kuona Trust.

**2016** - 'Transformation/Mabadiliko' art exhibition at Zandra Rhodes Gallery, Rochester and Turner Contemporary, UK.

**2015** - Mask Art Prize Winner art exhibition held at Saatchi Gallery, London.

## Awards

Mask Art Prize Winner 2015, Kenya

## Publications

Acid Box Project, 2025

Kenyan Comics Anthology, 2024

## Skills

Animation, Art Direction, Visual Development, Illustration, XR (AR/VR).

Traditional Painting and Sculpture.

Production, Distribution and Merchandising, Educational Consulting and Programming.



## Career Highlights



Contributing to the anthology **Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire** as a **Visual Development Artist** on “**You Give Me Heart**”. Directed by South African filmmaker **Lesego Vorster**. The series won an Annie Award animation’s highest honor. Click the image to watch the trailer.

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## Community Leadership and Membership

- Huescape Art Collective - Founding Member**

A Kenyan community of entertainment design artists founded in 2023. As passionate professionals the collective collaborates on Animation, XR and Game Design projects.

- [WebGen 254](#) - Educational Manager**

A group of Kenyan Web Generation animators amplifying and educating the next generation of Kenyan animators.

- [QwaniComix](#) - Program Manager**

QwaniComix champions the artistry of young writers and comics, curating a community of creatives where there is a place for everyone.

- [Women In Animation](#) - Member/Mentor**

An advocacy group supporting female identifying and non-binary people in animation, visual effects and gaming.

- [Black N Animated](#) - Member/Mentor**

An advocacy organization that informs, educates and inspires black creatives in animation industry careers.

- [Rise Up Animation](#) - Member**

An advocacy organization that supports people of colour rise up in the animation industry.

- [Africartoons](#)- Member**

Africartoons is a platform for established cartoonists based in Africa whose work is regularly published in the mainstream media.

- [REVEAL! Comics ConversationsEA](#)- Member**

A platform to discuss, celebrate & hangout/interviews with comic artists, launch new comic books.



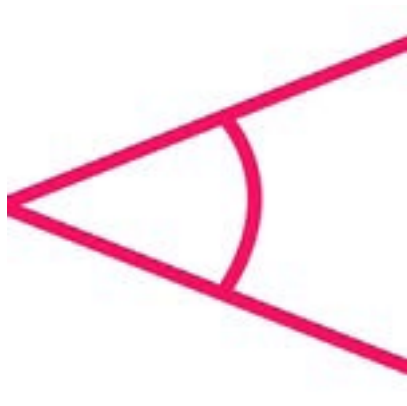


# Community Involvement

My collaboration with these organizations and collectives have included production, direction, art direction, distribution and merchandising, business and creative counsel, exhibitions and workshops, mentorships and educational programming, policy and communications work with artists in these fields. Click the icon to learn more.



Fallohide Africa



Mask Prize



New Comma



Weza Interactive



Inkspace Bureau



Qwani



QwaniComix



KultureKlub



Mia Nane



WebGen +254



Poppihin



