



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.

Objective

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



Paula Karanja

+(254) 713 235 399 | paula.karanja@gmail.com | [Website](#) | Nairobi, Kenya

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 **Lesege 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.

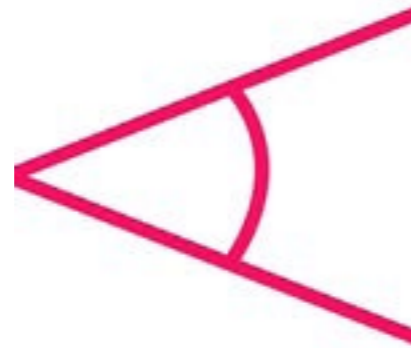


Community Involvement

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.



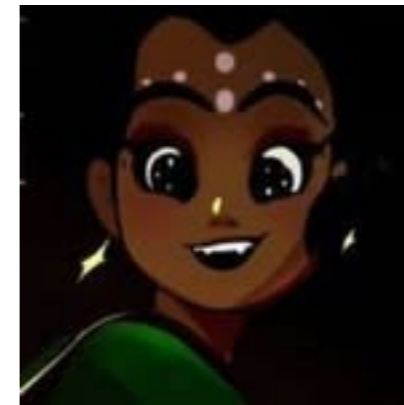
Fallohide Africa



Mask Prize



New Comma



Poppihin



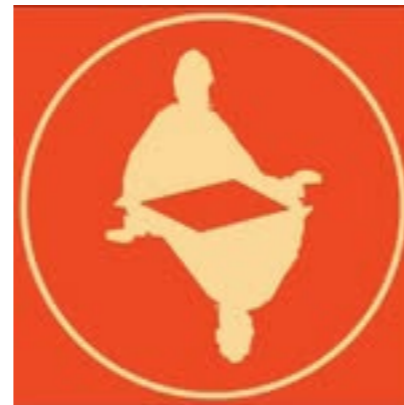
Inkspace Bureau



Qwani



QwaniComix



KultureKlub



Mia Nane



WebGen +254



