

Press Release

Amsterdam, 4 september 2011

Prince Claus Fund for
Culture and Development

Prince Claus Fund's Principal Award for Pan-African Magazine Chimurenga

The Prince Claus Fund: 15 years of protecting and promoting culture and freedom of expression

The Prince Claus Fund's 2011 Principal Award has been granted to Chimurenga, which plays an important role in breaking taboos throughout the continent. Ten other artists, thinkers, journalists and organisations from countries that include Tibet/China, Zimbabwe and Kazakhstan are also being honoured for their dedication to culture and development. On 14 December, HRH Prince Constantijn will present the Principal Award at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam.

Chimurenga

Chimurenga ("Struggle for Freedom") is a Pan-African publication on culture, art and politics. It is an innovative platform for free ideas and political reflection by Africans about Africa. Its founder, the writer and DJ Ntone Edjabe, grew up in Cameroon, studied in Nigeria and is now based in South Africa. Chimurenga is published each month online and is distributed two to three times a year both in Africa and elsewhere. The Chimurenga Library, a unique collection of independent African cultural magazines, is available online and also in the form of a travelling exhibition. Chimurenga frequently collaborates with other media such as the Pan-African Space Station, which comprises a series of performances and radio broadcasts that focus on new African music.

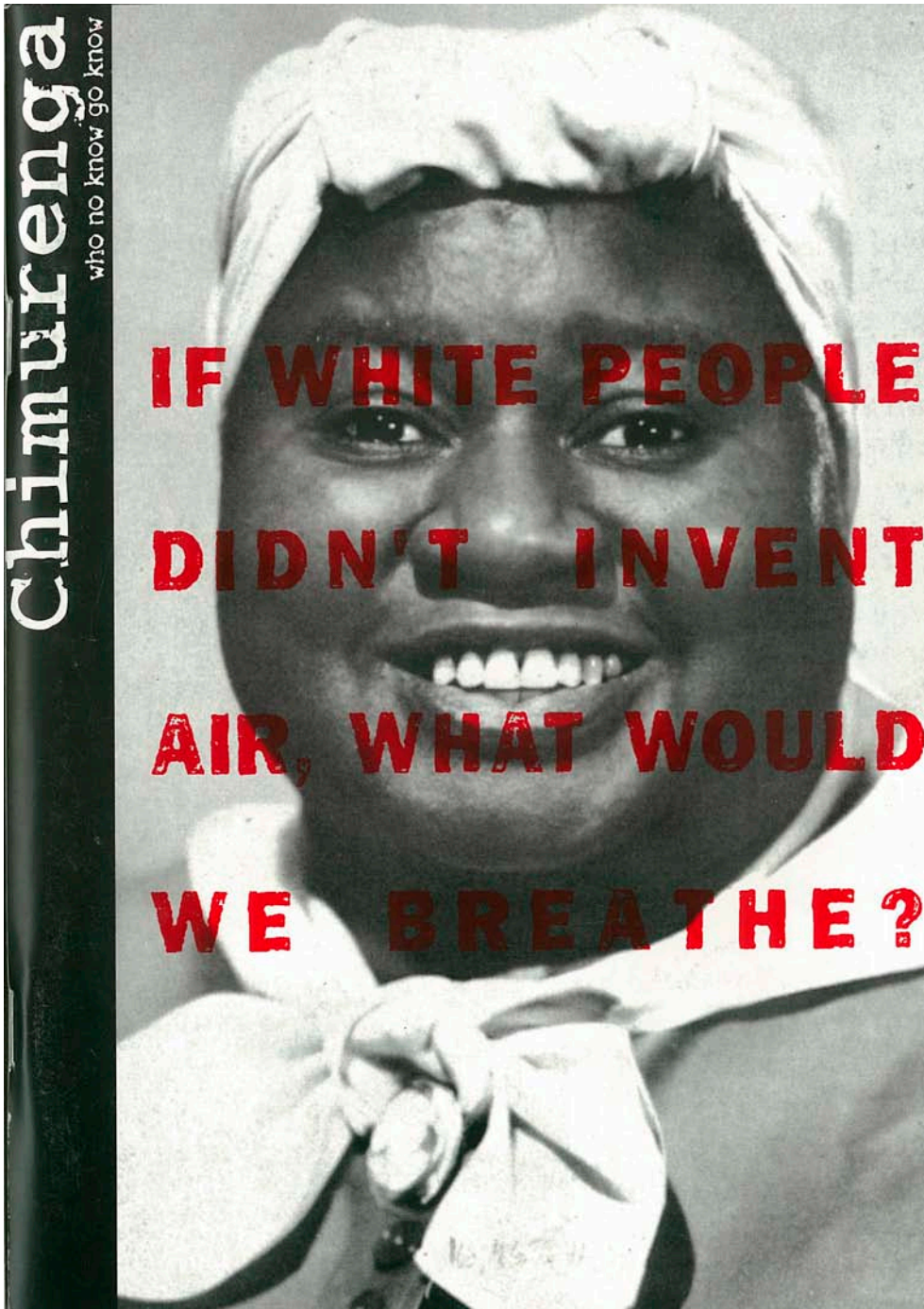
The Prince Claus Awards

Through the Prince Claus Awards, each year the Fund honours eleven cultural pioneers, whose work is located on the frontline of free cultural expression. Time and again these are courageous people working under difficult circumstances; people who are an inspiration for all those around them. The fact that they merit lasting attention was once again demonstrated when Ali Ferzat, the Syrian cartoonist and 2002 Prince Claus Fund laureate, was assaulted and dumped on a street.

The Principal Laureate receives the sum of €100,000. The awards' presentation will take place on 14 December 2011 during an official ceremony at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam. It will be held in the presence of the Fund's Honorary Chairmen, HRH Prince Constantijn and HRH Prince Friso, along with other members of the Royal Family. The remaining ten laureates will be presented with their awards of €25,000 by the Dutch ambassadors in the countries where they reside. The laureates are selected by an independent, international committee.



Ntone Edjabe at Chimurenga
headquarters in Cape Town
© Sally Shorkend, 2010



Cover detail: Chimurenga 5: Triptych: Head/Body (& tools)/Corpses
© Dread Scott, 2004



Cover detail: Chimurenga 8:
We're All Nigerian!
© Chimurenga, 2005

Ten Prince Claus Awards



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Said Atabekov, Kazakhstan

Atabekov (Bez Terek, 1965) is a shrewd artist, who plays a leading role in the contemporary culture of Central Asia. He shifts boundaries and opens up new horizons in a difficult transcultural environment.

The Book Café, Zimbabwe

The Book Café (launched in Harare in 1997) is a lively platform for free cultural expression in a country that for many years has endured violent censorship and an inadequate cultural infrastructure.

Nidia Bustos, Nicaragua

For more than 30 years, the work of Nidia Bustos (Nicaragua, 1952) has inspired the campesinos (small-scale farmers), who develop their communities through cultural activities. In 1980 she launched MECATE (the Campesino Movement for Artistic and Dramatic Expression), which concentrates on performances in villages and now consists of more than 80 theatre and music groups.

Rena Effendi, Azerbaijan

The work of photographer Rena Effendi (Baku, 1977) upholds human dignity and resilience. Her portraits reveal her awareness of individual experience and her ability to look beyond surface impressions.

Regina Galindo, Guatemala

Regina Galindo (Guatemala City, 1974) is an enthralling and radical performance artist, whose work opposes violence, oppression and injustice.

Ilkhom Theatre, Uzbekistan

The Ilkhom Theatre (founded in Tashkent in 1976) combines contemporary forms and techniques with elements of Tashkent's rich performance tradition, local street theatre, improvisation and circus traditions.

Kettly Mars, Haiti

Kettly Mars (Port-au-Prince, 1958) is a moving and energetic writer, who maintains an incisive view of reality and creates a fascinating portrait of Haitian society.

Rabih Mroué, Lebanon

The work of performance artist Rabih Mroué (Beirut, 1967) examines the social implications of revealing "truth" as based on his experience of the Lebanese Civil War.

RIWAQ, Palestinian Territories

The Riwaq Centre for Architectural Conservation (founded in Ramallah in 1991) plays an essential role in Palestinian society because it protects and reinforces endangered heritage.

Tsering Woesser, Tibet/China

Tsering Woesser (Lhasa, 1966) is an audacious writer/blogger from Tibet, whose work provides a unique outlook on the complexity of present-day Tibet.

More information

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for further details, interview requests and accreditation for the Awards Ceremony. In-depth information about the laureates, the complete jury report and copyright free photos of all the laureates are available at www.princeclausfund.org