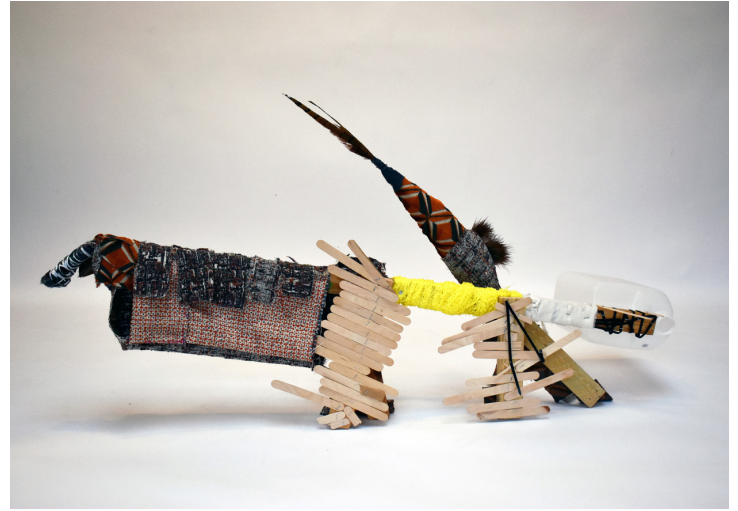


Andrew Omoding  
*Animals to Remember*  
*Uganda*  
26 April/23 June 2024

Andrew Omoding, *Drum*, 2022.  
Image courtesy of the artist and ActionSpace.



Camden Art Centre is delighted to announce a major solo exhibition by Andrew Omoding (b. 1987, Uganda), following the success of his residency at the Centre in 2019. In an ambitious new commission developed site-responsively for Gallery 3 and the Reading Room, Omoding will repurpose abandoned materials and objects, interweaving them with new metalwork produced in a London foundry, music, and video in an installation that embraces the characteristic exuberance and generosity of his practice.

Omoding's work is largely autobiographical, infused with memories of his childhood years in Uganda. Led by an inquisitive nature and discerning eye, he salvages materials then choreographs them in complex structures that sit between figuration and abstraction. Spools that store fibres and threads, and much larger scale equivalents that have an industrial purpose, are a recurring motif in the installation. He masterfully binds, wraps, stitches, sutures, and layers materials with an intuitive, systematic and dynamic approach to colour texture and form, and an innate sense of volume, weight, balance and spatial values.

Music is a backdrop for the creation and appreciation of Omoding's work—often traditional Ugandan folksongs or contemporary African pop music that he plays whilst working in his London studio. The energy and rhythm of the music directly informs the pace of his work, as well as the improvised movements of his fingers and hands. Some objects are scaled to his body to be used performatively, as instruments.

In a much-celebrated open studio presentation at Camden Art Centre in 2019, Omoding created a series of makeshift shelters, or tents. Constructed with found fabrics, stitched and suspended like floating patchworks, these textile constructions came from the heart of a family tradition and the love and care of familial bonds. These provisional structures also bore relation to homes created out of necessity, wherever one finds oneself and with whatever protection is at hand—a site of refuge. The trauma of migration, of leaving home and making a new one in a foreign land, is a relevant subject in Omoding's biography. He immigrated to the UK as a refugee from the Ugandan civil war when he was 12 years old, to re-join his mother who he hadn't seen since he was nine months old.

Omoding's neurodivergence is reflected in his work in the way in which he processes his experiences, past and present. Amid the complex and at times contradictory nature of everyday life, Omoding looks to material, sound, and movement to communicate, finding embodied expression in the energy and formal qualities of sculpture, welcoming the audience into the experience, and making space for them to conjure their own memories and associations.

The spirit of storytelling, following the oral tradition typical of his native East African region, brings Omoding's work to life. His vignettes—assemblages of ideas, words and fragmentary images—are not restricted by coherent narrative, nor a beginning or end. In these works, meaning and titles are mutable, emerging through the process of making—a kind of 'becoming' in which the artist conjures his characters into being in consort with the materials at hand. The exhibition's title, *Animals to Remember Uganda*, suggests the artist's role as a Shepherd, caring for and curating this flock of semi-abstract animals inspired by memories from his childhood in Uganda, created with the found detritus from his adult life in London. Omoding mentors other artists with access requirements or learning disabilities, passing on his knowledge of craft and making both as course leader on Camden Art Centre's pioneering programme for learning-disabled people, and in his current role as a teacher at Tate.

A new essay by Marc Steene will be published as the latest edition of Camden Art Centre's long-running File Note series. Produced for every exhibition, File Notes represent an important strand of the organisation's programme, enabling the commission of a new piece of long-form writing accompanied by a reading/listening/watching list compiled by the artist. They are an accessible resource, available in the galleries for a small charge and online for free.

This exhibition is produced in partnership with ActionSpace, a visual arts organisation supporting learning disabled artists across London, who have represented Omoding since 2009. Generously supported by The Elephant Trust and Foundation Foundation.

#### Notes to Editors

For further information, interviews and images please contact:  
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#### Camden Art Centre

Camden Art Centre is a place for world-class contemporary art exhibitions and education. Situated in Hampstead, North London (charity number 1065829) Camden Art Centre is a place for art and artists; a place for the curious, the novice and the expert alike. It's a place to see, to make, to learn and to talk about contemporary art, whether in our building, attending off-site projects or via our digital forums. Founded by artists in 1965, the Centre continues to be a space for the most vital and diverse mix of practices and ideas and is dedicated to supporting artists at every stage of their careers.

#### Andrew Omoding

Andrew Omoding (b. 1987, Uganda) lives and works in London. Recent solo exhibitions include *Welcome to Me, Scarborough. To See and Hold My Work*, Woodend Gallery, Scarborough (2022); *EXPLORERS Conference: Art, Rights and Representation*, MK Gallery, Milton Keynes (2019); *It's my work, come see, come see.*, Camden Art Centre, London (2019); and *Art, Materiality and Representation*, SOAS University of London, London (2018). Recent group shows include *Season One*, Cromwell Place, London (2022); *Shaking the Everyday*, Cockpit Arts, London (2021); *Summer Exhibition 2021*, Royal Academy of Arts, London (2021); *The Future Is Loading*, Shape Arts, virtual (2020); *Prints!*, Project Ability, Glasgow (2019); *Outside In: Journeys*, Sotheby's, London (2018); *Radical Craft: Alternative Ways of Making*, Craftspace, Aberystwyth (2017); and *The Shop of Curiosity*, The Geddes Gallery, London (2016). In 2019, Omoding was the Artist in Residence at Camden Art Centre, and he has previously held residencies at the Barbican Arts Group Trust in 2019, and Craftspace in 2017.

#### ActionSpace

ActionSpace is a visual arts organisation supporting learning disabled artists across London. They seek out and unlock talent, and create bespoke opportunities for learning disabled artists to realise their potential. ActionSpace has a unique reputation for providing long-term supported studio practice and delivering high-quality professional artistic development through mentoring, exhibitions and a network of partnerships with cultural organisations.  
<https://actionspace.org/>