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THE AFRICA VANGUARD: 5 CREATIVES WORTH CELEBRATING THIS AFRICA DAY

By Afika Jadezweni, May 25, 2018



The 25 of May is no ordinary day for Africans. Africa Day commemorates the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now known as the African Union. Today we celebrate 55 years of independence and liberation from imperial European states – a celebration which may have not been possible if that 1963 meeting had not happened. Today there are 55 members countries, and even in the midst of often tumultuous African politics, our continent is a goldmine of creativity, art, and culture that we proudly exhibit to the rest of the world. This Africa Day we're giving a special mention to Africans who are impactful in the fashion industry whether it is through commerce, modelling, art or design:

Keyezua is an Angolan-Dutch artist who uses handmade masks to express feelings of grief, trauma, and suffering in a visually attractive manner as a means of giving these human experiences power albeit their unpleasantness. According to

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Dazed, Keyezua's latest series Fortia which forms part of the Refraction: New Photography of African and Its Diaspora exhibition at Steven Kasher Gallery, New York (April 19 – June 2, 2018) aims to subvert our perceptions of physical disability. The artist's father lost both his legs to diabetes shortly before passing away during her childhood, and this is perhaps why she chose masks made by six Angolan men who also no longer have legs. Keyezua takes pride in being an artist who uses the female form to tell a story, as she says 'I use the female body because I am a woman and I know what my body goes through when I am telling a story.'