

welcome to our newsletter#12

June 2026



Cover Goldendean: PLAN B. A Gathering of Strangers (Or) This Is Not Working. iwalewabooks, 2018.

Welcome to our newsletter #12!

In a world trying to promote identity as a narrow concept, let's be together. Let's read to each other. Let's be in the streets. Let's taste, dream. Let's be the protective force for those made vulnerable.

Often the struggle against fascisation can feel isolating, but we urge you to resist this orchestrated sentiment. Those loving the edges, adoring multiplicity, desiring joyful shapeshifting, and rejecting the borders as definitions of freedom and possibility are more. Way more, and way more powerful.

In this light, we recommend returning to two earlier published works:

Firstly, South African artist, general troublemaker and educator Goldendean's bold masterpiece *PLAN B. A Gathering of Strangers (Or) This Is Not Working*. Published in 2018, it speaks to 2026. As a gathering of strangers, we say No to xenophobia and fascism. If you need encouragement for your bold imagination, here is your [book](#).

We pair this with our book on the work and worlds of contemporary, multifaceted artist Yassine Balbzioui: [Identity to Rent](#). This book is a force - flamboyant, respectful, and wild, like the artist himself. While being asked to accept mediocrity as a standard, *Identity to Rent* presents, as we wrote then, "elegant gesture of showing a joyful middle finger" directed towards all attempts to tame the anarchist imagination.

We wish you courage and far reaching dreams. Hold your communities close.

And we look forward to connecting wherever next we will meet - be it Johannesburg, Lagos, New York or Frankfurt.

Love,

iwalewabooks

PRIDE IT IS!

The Shit and the Sunrise - edited by Adebayo Quadry and Ayodele Olofintuade

Borrowing its title from Wura-Natasha Ogunji's poignant work, *The Shit and the Sunrise* invites us into the dynamic and ever moving heart of Lagos, and Nigeria as a whole. Through the lives and works of talented artists, we experience the space(s) through the chaotic combination of hope and despair. We engage with voices from Lagos, Abuja, and beyond, each negotiating the tension between dreaming and surviving under the weight of discrimination, sociopolitical inequality, and oppression.

Available in English and as a free e-book [here](#).



Theo Eshetu at the Biennale di Venezia

The [Biennale di Venezia](#) held a number of surprises. Quite unsurprisingly, the idea of national pavillons showed its datedness.

But there are moments that make one stand still, in the midst of complications, and wonder. One of those is facing the work by Theo Eshetu, Garden of the Broken Hearted (2026) - which is such a beautiful moment of wonder, an analogue counterpoint to the digital work he is widely known for - like with his early work Till Death Us Do Part.

For an insight into this work from 1987, writing media history, we recommend our book by the same title. This publication provides background information and offers insight into the multilayered aspects of this complex work, with contributions by Simon Njami, Hannah C Jones, kara lynch, Bea Gassmann de Sousa and Ugochukwu-Smooth Nzewi.

Available on paper and as e-book - also in Venice book stores.

Image: Video still from Till Death Us Do Part.



Our new series: Bookshops we love

There are few things that are more radical than opening a book store for many languages in a small town Germany. But these two do: Agnes and Edward Schofield, lovers and lovers of poetry, beauty, sprezzatura and literature.

We are happy to be featured with our titles on decoloniality, art and archives in the new book store [Meckel by Schofield](#) in Bad Ems, Germany - and look forward to hosting readings, book signings, and other events right here.

Image: *Uche Okeke. Art in Development* on the shelf, *Meckel by Schofield*.



iwalewabooks print shop residencies

Have you been following the activities of our iwalewabooks print shop at 16 by 16 in Lagos? Right now, the third print-shop residency is in full action - do follow our instagram account for updates and open calls.

We believe it's not only important, but a core pleasure to be able to publish zines, books, and artworks by ourselves. We feel affirmed by note number 62 of the book "ISBN? No Thanks and Other Notes Before Starting a Publishing House" -



62/ I go back to the beginning: the important thing is to make the books and publications that we can with whatever we have on hand or can manage. And to start right now.

Looking forward to starting right now with you.

iwalewabooks:mark

each newsletter, we share a quote from our works with you

"To exist as queer and to love is an act of civil disobedience, a protest of the ways in which we are rendered silent in violent and mundane ways. 'I am deliberate and afraid of nothing,' Audre Lorde exclaims in *From a Land Where Other People Live*."

Goldendean, *Postscript A: Becoming Monster*. In: *Plan B*. iwalewabooks, 2018.

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