This project is political; I want to expose the stories of an oppressed minority. It explores how queer individuals in Nairobi are grouped together in repressed conditions.

I interviewed individuals who identified as queer and asked each person to narrate their unique life story. The conversations were completely engaging and wholly intimate. I felt that something special had to be done with these stories and devised a one-on-one performance in a cramped bricolage black board cubicle — a representation of Nairobi’s queer space. This installation and performance was exhibited in Dakar at Dak’Art Biennial 2014. Homosexuality is illegal in Senegal. In order to ensure my safety, Amanda Kerdahi M. asked the invitees two questions: Do you support the anti gay bill in Uganda? Do you support the anti gay bill in Nigeria?

On the cubicle, excerpts of the transcribed interviews are written in white chalk with parts redacted. Outside of the cubicle, a plexiglass map with individual cards describes travel stories of a journey from my home base in Nairobi to each of the queer spaces I discovered in the city. Each audience member who enters the cubicle receives one of the selected performances inspired by the interviews. A rainbow flag painted on my face questions its universal use as a representation of queer identities. Inside, full disclosure of the interviews are withheld by mouth obstructions.

---

1 This installation and performance was exhibited in Dakar at Dak’Art Biennial 2014 and in Berlin, at the Maxim Gorky Theatre for an exhibition project with Savvy Contemporary and the N.B.K. entitled Giving Contours to Shadows.
Ato Malinda, Mshoga Mpya — the New Homosexual

---

Ma première expérience aut...
Do you support the anti gay bill in Uganda?
Est-ce que vous soutenez la loi anti gay en Ouganda?

Do you support the anti gay bill in Nigeria?
Est-ce que vous soutenez la loi anti gay au Nigeria?

Answer No:
Welcome to Nairobi’s queer space
Bienvenue dans l’espace gay de Nairobi

...you can lead them through the door...

Answer Yes:
You can view the installation from the outside.
Vous pouvez voir l’installation à l’extérieur, merci.
Ato Malinda, Mshoga Mpya — the New Homosexual
seize ans. So when the... is preaching he....
rencontres sur Nairobi Tommu is to wear... oh
les règles sexuelles sont... But that lady
faire ça si j'omène... à la maison.
So I had to leave
home... so I had to run away from home for
qui être passif c'est être...

Because they
belong on the
similaire... on
we will announce
tu le sauras.

told me “But
c’t tell her. But it’s
been here a
’I want her

didn’t really k
Parce a
et
their names. Je
Aaahh, we didn’t you’re a
Nous seulement
just... I don’t k
Exacter
to hear
Ato Malinda, Mshoga Mpya — the New Homosexual
Ato Malinda, Mshoga Mpya — the New Homosexual
to the grave. My first...

I think it's very fluid, others stood up and she there were rules. He's accepting it but he... I don't believe in something and saying to... I've always the time he talks about practice. So... But then it... is called me... Even now people... the means you're the don and out that there were... Yes! And does that mean that in... one day when I was... of... you know that a... he would always go to...
Ato Malinda, Mshoga Mpya — the New Homosexual