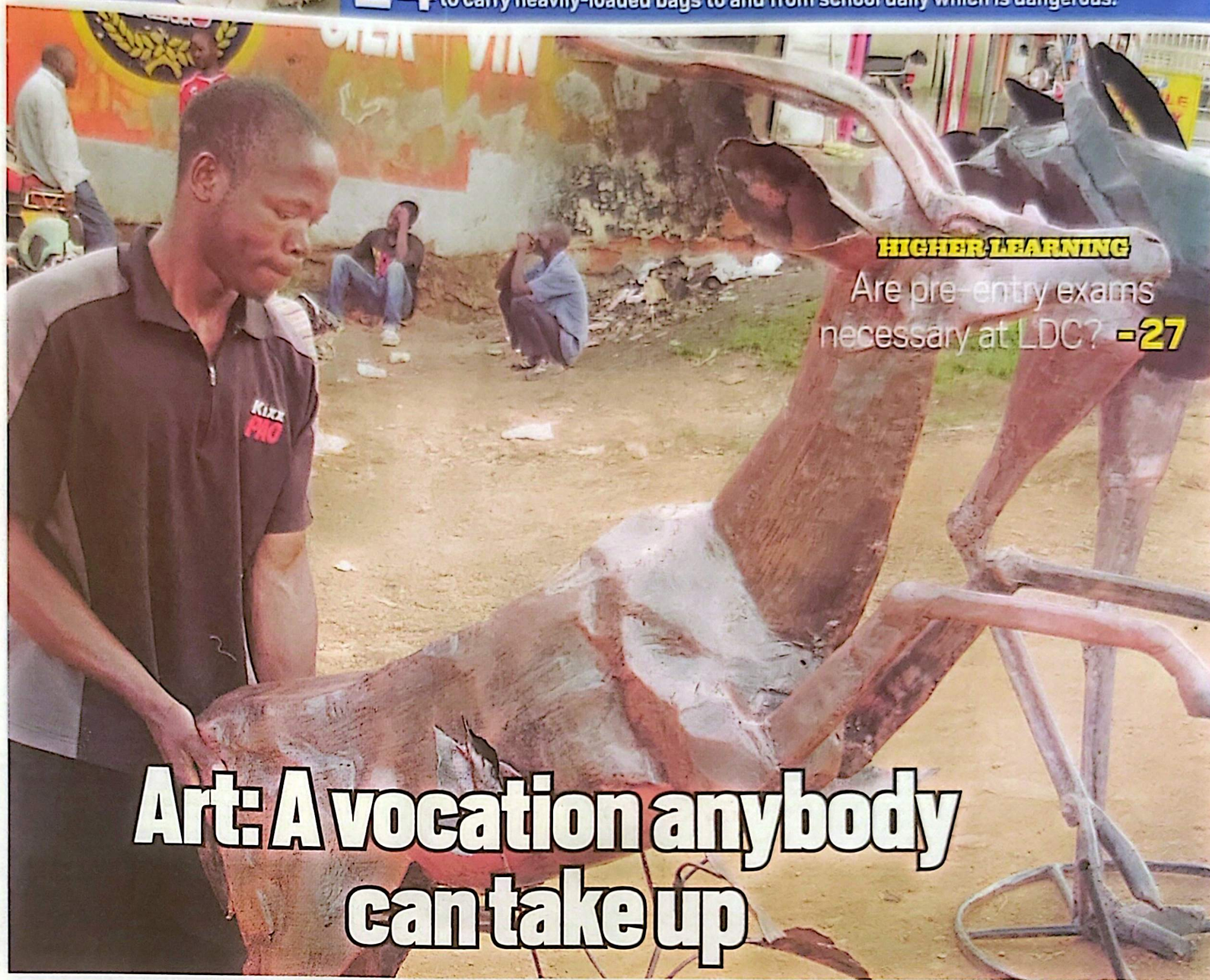


24 POLICY/PRACTICE SCHOOL BAGS: It is becoming common for pupils to carry heavily-loaded bags to and from school daily which is dangerous.



HIGHER LEARNING

Are pre-entry exams necessary at LDC? -27

Art: A vocation anybody can take up

BY DORCUS MURUNGI
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The misconception has always been that Art and Design is for those with talent. In fact many Ugandans are afraid of taking the course up to higher levels of education. But art, just like any other skill can be acquired.

Andrew Ainamani is a graduate of Industrial Art from Makerere University. To him, anybody with a passion and determination is eligible of doing art. He says art is not only about drawing but about various activities that revolve around everyday life.

"People are not born who they are. It takes determination, hard

work and passion to learn," Ainamani says adding that art could be about anything such as designing, sculpting or drawing.

Ainamani says when he was growing up, he did not know that he would draw but he later learnt that he could after serious practice while at school. "When I joined Mbarara High School in 2006 for my Senior One, the

teacher asked us to discover our talents. I tried out several other things but I later learnt that I could draw. I concentrated on that and as time went on, I kept advancing the skill," he recalls. He says he continued with art up to university and after graduation, he started up his own business.

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PATHFINDER

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empowering the
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CAREERS: Social media mistakes that will ruin your career -25

Uganda Bureau of Standards and Quality
Regulated by the Ministry of Education

View to the right of the page is a photograph of a person sitting on the ground, looking down at their hands.

works of the artist (Ainamani) are displayed in a gallery, showing his skill in sculpture and drawing.

baseball, and other sports. The article discusses the importance of physical education in schools and how it can help students develop a healthy lifestyle.

and the role of the teacher in guiding students towards their career goals. The article also mentions the importance of having a clear career plan and setting realistic goals.



HANDS-ON

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES FOR JOB CREATION

Art as a vocation

Often misconceived as a vocation for those with a talent, art has increasingly become the number one earner for those who dare to break the stereotypes.

...FROM COVER

"When I finished university, I did not sit home or move around from office to office looking for a job just like many graduates, instead, I started up my own workshop. I can draw a variety of art pieces but mostly portraits," he explains.

According to Ainamani, portraits range from Shs350,000 each to Shs8 million depending on size.

"I charge depending on sizes, A3 goes for between Shs350, 000 and Shs400,000, A2 Shs450,000 and Shs650,000, A1 between Shs750,000 and Shs850,000 and A0 Shs4 million to Shs8 million," he notes.

Just like Ainamani, Ahmed Mande another Industrial Fine Art graduate from Makerere University says he is a visual artist and contemporary painter who started way back while in Primary School.

"Whenever, I would be given an assignment, I would always be the first to complete it. But even after accomplishing my task, I would go ahead to draw for more than 40 per cent of my classmates," he explains.

Source of income

Mande reveals he started commercial art in 2015 soon after completing his studies. "I have no regrets," he states.

Though Mande admits he had a talent in art, he observes that somebody who thinks they are not naturally talented in art can also succeed in art.

"Anyone can be an artist provided they work hard for it. Institutions are there to train you but when you have the knowledge and resources, plus patience and the passion for learning new things, then you are good to go," he notes.

He advises those interested in studying industrial art to a higher level to do enough research and practice as well as consult already established artists. They should also visit exhibitions in galleries.

But most importantly, Mande advises those in the art field to avoid negative comments from mockers. "Do not get discouraged when some people look at your art pieces and make negative comments. In art, much practice does the magic," he says.



A portrait of Rwandan president Paul Kagame. This is one of the many portraits that Andrew Ainamani's has drawn and earns from. COURTESY PHOTOS

TIPS FOR ARTISTS

Andrew Ainamani, a graduate of Industrial Art from Makerere University advises artists on perfecting their skill.

Painters. He advises those interested in painting to master drawing and sketching, colour blending, shading, brush techniques, and composition.

Drawers and illustrators. Ainamani says they need to master how to draw, shade, colour, compose, and also learn the basics of digital illustration and animation.

Sculptors. He says they should often learn a wide variety of techniques and materials such as ceramic, metal working, and must be able to sketch and draft ideas on paper.

Do not duplicate

According to Erick Ssebuliba, a sculptor who also offers training to people with interests in that field, it takes concentration and patience for one to become a distinguished artist.

"When someone pays attention

to something, they finally achieve results. If you want to be a better artist, you have to pay attention to detail, be creative as well as embrace research," he says.

He also encourages young artists to keep in touch with experienced artists so that they help them to advance their skill.

However, Ainamani advises those interested in art to be original and avoid duplicating ideas.

"There is much competition out there. For one to stand out; you need an element of originality and maturity in what you do," he says.

Develop own style

He also notes that becoming a good artist takes more than just raw skill and talent. He elaborates that hard work and developing an individual style are at the heart of being a good artist. "Dedicating yourself to your

art every single day, is the best step you can take to becoming a good artist," Ainamani says.

All in all, art is a vocation that one can acquire and live off for a lifetime.



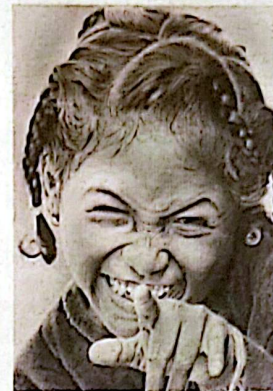
Ainamani demonstrates how he draws his portraits.

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT MABLE

Discouragement

"Do not get discouraged when some people look at your art pieces and make negative comments. In art, much practice does the magic."

AHMED MANDE, ARTIST



I did not look for a job

"When I completed university, I did not sit home or move around from office to office looking for a job just like many graduates, instead, I started up my own workshop. I can draw a variety of art pieces but mostly portraits."

ANDREW AINAMANI, ARTIST



Erick Ssebuliba displays one of his sculptures. Ssebuliba says it takes patience to become a distinguished artist. PHOTO BY EMMANUEL MURUGA

350,000

THE AMOUNT SOME OF THE PORTRAITS GO FOR