

TRANSCRIPT . FEBRUARY 2010

Michael Soi: “We Need To Get People Who Are Not This Greedy.”

Michael Soi graduated from art school in 1996. He is a keen spectator of contemporary social and political trends.

Where do you get your inspiration from?

From politics. And unfortunately, Kenyan politics at this particular moment is really messed up. I'm not telling Kenyans anything new.

Why do you use animal characters in your work?

Every animal character that I depict in my work has a meaning. The use of the cat character is to bring out the similarities that exist between a politician and a cat – and that is selfishness.

The use of the pig is to depict gluttony and greed. There is a lot of greed going around in Kenyan politics that needed to get addressed. I think this is also a very effective way to protest. My work can actually be seen as a silent pictorial protest of some sort.

Are Kenyan youth adequately involved in politics?

We have a lot of youthful MPs in the Parliament right now who are doing very little to champion the causes of young people. I don't know. I don't know what to say. We

need to get rid of all these politicians, maybe by the year 2012. What I think Kenyans need to do is try and get different people, try and get people who are not this greedy.

If you look at the draft constitution right now*, it's got a lot of very interesting things in it. This whole issue of recalling a non-performing MP: I think that is the way to go, because, honestly, there is a lot of people who get into positions of power and do nothing for their people.

These are people who don't deserve to have any power. Not at all.

**This interview was conducted on December 3rd, 2009 - the Draft Constitution has since been modified.*

Michael Soi graduated from art school in 1996, and has been making visual commentary about Kenyan society and politics for since then. Find out more about him on the [Creative Africa Network](#).

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