Wola Nani is a non-profit making organisation established in 1994 in response to the ongoing Aids crisis in Africa. It is committed to providing a caring and developmental service that enables people living with HIV to respond positively to their status. As one of South Africa’s best known charities Wola Nani has developed an income generation initiative through the global appeal and success of their paper products that now provides employment for over 40 HIV-positive craftswomen.

This project has developed new ideas and directions for products and manufacturing techniques celebrating the craft workers skill and the ad hoc simplicity of the original paper bowls. Taking their current paper-mache process as the starting point, Simon’s project explores the qualities and properties of paper as well as the potential for change in scale to develop new and innovative lighting designs.

Kingston University is developing a programme to work with African manufacturers of the craft based products in order to raise their profile and income, by exploring its creative potential.

For further information please contact Kat Hewitt: kat.hewitt85@gmail.com
NOTES TO EDITORS.

Kington Wola Nani Staff Team:
Professor Jonathan Briggs is an experienced educator and doer in the web and ecommerce space. Co-founder and Business Development Director at the OTHER media, Jonathan Briggs is also professor on eCommerce at Kingston University.

Professor Richard Ennals graduated from Cambridge University and currently lecturers on the Informatics and Operations Management course at Kingston University.

Simon Maidment graduated from the Royal College of Art and after working for Tom Dixon, established his own consultancy Sam Design Ltd. Domestic and international clients have included Authentics, Mathmos, Habitat, Driade, Levis, Offi and Homebase. His work is concerned with the familiar and in particular the perception of materials, forms, and making techniques. His approach to design reflects his interest in intelligent making: the shrewd and creative use of materials and manufacturing techniques. Simon is head of Product Design at Kingston University and also teaches at the Royal College of Art.

Professor Catherine McDermott is a well-known contemporary design writer and curator. In 2001 she established the MA Curating Contemporary Design course, run in partnership with the Design Museum, which is now one of the UK’s most successful training programmes. With the Wellcome Trust she developed Dream Lab in 2009; a curating project delivered to 20 Chinese Universities. In January 2010 she was included in Design Week’s Hot 50 list of people who have helped to change design.

Rebecca Wright is the Course Director of Graphic Design & Photography at Kingston University and has been involved in education design enterprise projects in Africa for a number of years. Her work explores the role of graphic design in constructing personal and cultural identities. A graphic designer and writer on design, her most recent book ‘Design Diaries: Creative Process in Graphic Design’ is to be published by Laurence King in Autumn 2010.

Kingston/Wola Nani Student Team:
Curatorial Team: Kat Hewitt and Jessica Sims, MA Curating Contemporary Design
Graphic Design: Dan Prettejohn and Billy Steel, graduates, Graphic Design & Photography course at Kingston University,
Photography: Dan Prettejohn.
Research: MA Business School students