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Biennale of
contemporary
african art

Press release
DAK'ART 2012. 28/02/12

Dak'Art
2012

Dak'Art 2012

DATES: May 11 - June 10, 2012

PLACE: Dakar, Senegal

Web: www.biennaledakar.org

CURATORS: Christine EYENE, Nadira LAGGOUNE, Riason NAIDOO

THEME: " CONTEMPORARY CREATION AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS "

The tenth edition of the biennale is held in a particular context. Indeed, 2012 is an electoral year in Senegal as was 2000. This year also marks the twentieth birthday of the most former biennale of the African continent. DAK'ART is maintained as a key event in the international art calendar. The theme chosen for this edition is expected to examine through various angles the dialogue that contemporary artists maintain with a social environment which is in constant mutation. Throughout the world and especially in Africa, the moments of crises alternate with the periods of stability. Some countries come out of a period of financial crisis, while others, of a social dead end; the movement of the peoples has never been as determinant for the quest of new balances. In this quest, the culture is decisively one of the levers employed. The artists knew every time how to play a beautiful partition in the social mobilizations, the raising of the conscience of individuals and groups, whatever is their ranks or their social standings, to commit to individual or collective responsibilities.

Contemporary creation and social dynamics, is a field of investigation which academics, art critics and artists are invited to explore in the context of the meetings and exchanges of the edition 2012 of the Biennale.

Ousseynou Wade, general secretary of Dakar Biennale

Dak'Art 2012 will feature numerous events. Besides the international exhibition featuring artists from several countries in Africa and from the Diaspora at the Museum Theodore Monod, an exhibition at the National Gallery will show three guest artists: Peter Clarke, Goddy Leye and Berni Searle.

At the Maison de la Culture Dousta Seck, the Valencian Institute of Modern Art (Spain) will invite us to discover an exhibition of visual artists and architects. Finally, two exhibitions will pay tribute to two great artists, Papa Ibra Tall and Joe Ouakam. Meetings and exchanges will invite international speakers to discuss on the theme "Contemporary creation and social dynamics". ... Not to mention the OFF that will provide numerous exhibitions in Dakar, Saint-Louis and throughout Senegal.

Selection 2012

The selection committee composed of three members met **in Dakar from the 16th to the 18th February In 2012.**

Members of the selection committee had to consider three hundred and twenty nine applications submitted by artists from thirty-six African countries and twenty-one other countries. Fifty-one artists that submitted applications have previously participated in at least one edition of the Biennale.

Based on the expectations from the General Secretariat of the Biennale and following the meeting of the Orientation Committee, the selection had to focus on artists of the African continent and of the Diaspora submitting recent works.

Each proposal was the subject of an extensive consultation between members of international selection committee. Consideration were given to original approach, aesthetic and conceptual qualities, as well as the actuality of the discourse, regardless of the theme of the Dakar Biennale in 2012.

Forty-two artists from twenty-one African countries and one from Reunion Island are selected for the international exhibition.

Selected artists

Name	First name	M/F	Nationality
Adel	Marwa	F	Egypt
Alleck	Nirveda	F	Mauritius
Assie	Romarie	M	Ivory Coast
Ba	Cheikhou	M	Senegal
Baba-Ali	Younes	M	Morocco
Baker	Bridget	F	South Africa
Beckett	James	M	South Africa
Caranda-Martin	Doughba Hamilton	M	Liberia
Chachage	Rehema	F	Tanzania
Cissé	Mamadou	M	Senegal
Diallo	Bakary	M	Mali
Emmanuel	Paul	M	South Africa
Eyongakpa	Em'Kal	M	Cameroon
Fatmi	Mounir	M	Morocco
Foli	Jessica	F	South Africa
Goliath	Gabrielle	F	South Africa
Hoareau	Stéphanie	F	France Réunion Island
Kameli	Katia	F	Algeria
Kimani	Wanja	F	Kenya
Konan	Pascal	M	Ivory Coast
Lamrani	Jamila	F	Morocco
Mba Bikoro	Nathalie	F	Gabon
Modisakeng	Mohau	M	South Africa
Modum	Chika	F	Nigeria
Mteki	Nancy	F	Zimbabwe
Mutelekesha	Victor	M	Zambia
Nasr	Moataz	M	Egypt
Ndiaye	Cheikh	M	Senegal
Ngqinambi	Ndikhumbule	M	South Africa
Niang	Ibrahima Piniang	M	Senegal
Nsengiyumva	Laura	F	Rwanda
Ramanankirahina	Amalia	F	Madagascar
Sagna	Henri	M	Senegal
Segueda	Léopold	M	Burkina Faso
Seydi	Mamady	M	Senegal
Shadi	Lerato	F	South Africa
Sinzogan	Julien	M	Benin
Tabti	Oussama	M	Algeria
Tundula	Christian	M	DR Congo
Yumbi	Hervé	M	Cameroon
Zaidi	Rafik	M	Algeria
Zouggar	Sofiane	M	Algeria
<i>42 artists</i>		<i>16 women, 26 men</i>	
<i>from 21 African countries and Réunion Island</i>			

Dak'Art 2012 curators



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Christine Eyene is an Independent Curator and Art Critic currently working with Autograph ABP, London. In 2011 she was curator of the African section of the 3rd edition of 'Photoquai – Biennial of World Images', Musée du Quai Branly, Paris and 'Gwanza – Month of Photography', National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare.

Her current exhibitions are: 'Reflections on the Self: Five African Women Photographers', Hayward Touring, UK (2011-2014) and 'Women Speak Out', Dakar and touring Africa (2011-2012). Previous projects include 'FOCUS – Contemporary Art Africa', as part of Art Basel Public Program, Switzerland (2010-2011).

As an art critic she has contributed to *Africultures*, *Art South Africa*, *Basler Zeitung*, *Manifesta Journal*, *Third Text*, and written essays in art books and exhibition catalogues.

Eyene has been member of jury of Fondation Blachère Prize at the Bamako Encounters 2007 and 2009, as well as Dak'Art Biennale 2008 and 2010. She is currently member of the selection committees of Art Moves Africa and Visa for Creation, Institut Français.

Website: eyonart.blogspot.com

Nadira Laggoune is curator and art critic. Graduated in Law and Masters degree in audiovisual and critical theory of art, doctoral student in art, she is currently a lecturer at the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Algiers where she teaches the history of the contemporary image, aesthetics and leading a seminar on contemporary art since 1986.

She has taught in parallel the mastery of critic and aesthetics at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Art and the Higher Institute of Music in Algiers from 1995 to 2000.

She has been on numerous juries of plastics arts in Algeria and abroad including the Arab Fund for Culture (AFAC). Today she is a permanent member of the Fund for Assistance to the Algerian Cinematographic Production, of IIAC.

She has written extensively on contemporary art in general and mainly on actual Algerian art, its development and question of gender in art.

She is the curator of many international and local exhibitions, such as the Panafrican Festival of Algiers in 2009, the International Festival of Contemporary Art in Algiers (FIAC 2009 and 2011).

Nadira Laggoune-Aklouche lives and works in Algiers, where she works to give visibility to new generations emerging in the field of contemporary art in Algeria and the African continent.

Riason Naidoo was born in 1970 in Chatsworth (Durban), South Africa. He has BA and MA in Fine Art from University of the Witwatersrand. Riason has curated several photographic exhibitions dealing with the archives – most notably on the work of photographer Ranjith Kally – and more recently the exhibition entitled *The Indian in DRUM* magazine in the 1950s. He most recently directed the South Africa-Mali Project: *Timbuktu Manuscripts* project for the South African Presidency and the Department of Arts & Culture, also NEPAD's first cultural project. He has previously been in charge of artistic projects at the French Institute of South Africa (IFAS) in Johannesburg; taught drawing, painting and art history in the Department of Architecture at the University of Witwatersrand; and worked as Education Officer at the Durban Art Gallery. He has been on exchanges to the MS University of Baroda in India (1997) and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Bordeaux in France (2001).

He is currently director of the South African National Gallery and the Old Town House museums, part of Iziko Museums based in Cape Town. He recently curated *1910-2010: From Pierneef to Gugulective*, that showcased a century of South African art at the South African National Gallery. He has also worked as an artist in painting and new media.

Organization

The Dakar Biennale is organized by the Ministry in charge of Culture in Senegal.

■ Partners

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Press

- For any request for documentation and media, thank you in advance to send us your accreditation.

The form is available at www.biennaledakar.org .

Accreditations are to be returned before April 20.

- A press room will be available online for accredited journalists.

- Press Contact: comdakart@biennaledakar.org