



Press kit
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DAK'ART
2014

11^e
biennale
de l'art
africain
contemporain

Dak'Art 2014 | Biennale of Contemporary African Art

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Dak'Art 2014 : May 9- June 8

Dak'art, that's the great rendez-vous dedicated to contemporary African art. The eleventh edition will take place from **May 9th to June 8th, 2014 in Dakar** and will gather many artists and visual art professionals from Africa and the world.

Dak'Art is the major biennale of contemporary art in Africa. It provides a platform for art professionals and set forth the artistic trends in Africa. It is a legitimating space of African artistic creation, being the main place of meetings and theoretical questionings about art and aesthetics in Africa.

■ Press meeting of July 3rd 2013

The official launch of the eleventh edition of the Dakar Biennale was held Wednesday, July 3, 2013 during a press conference at the National Gallery in Dakar. The General Secretary, Babacar Mbaye Diop presented the outlines of Dak'Art 2014, at his side his predecessors, **Amadou Lamine Sall, Remi Sagna Ousseynou Wade and expert Sylvain Sankale.**

In the presence of **40 journalists and art professionals**, the discussion focused particularly on the status of the biennale, the history of Dak'Art, its prospects and guidance.

After summarizing the history of the Biennale since its inception in 1990, Babacar Mbaye Diop has announced the names of members of the Orientation Committee as well as the **College of Curators: Elise Atangana Abdelkader Damani and Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi.** He then detailed his program for 2014.

A rich and innovative program: in addition to scientific meetings and screenings of films on contemporary art, the International Exhibition of African artists and the Diaspora, exhibitions of guest artists and tribute exhibition, **an exhibition of cultural diversity** will gather several artists from around the world (African, European, American and Asian); an exhibition will present the results of the **African sculpture symposium** scheduled for October 16 to 31, 2013 at the Village of the Arts; **Dak'Art into the Campus** will combine art and environment in the context of a collaboration between artists and students, and finally, the **Salon of the National Collection** will present a selection of artworks among the thousand owned by the Senegalese government.

The press conference was also an opportunity for former General Secretaries of the Biennale to comment on a crucial point: **the statute of the Biennale.**

For **Amadou Lamine Sall**, the first General Secretary of the Biennale, Dak'Art's autonomy has been a long fight. He advocates a public-private median formula and a Biennale opened to other continents.

Ousseynou Wade ensures that the best status for the Biennale is the status of a foundation to meet the needs of partners concerning guarantees on the use of funds offered to the Biennale.

The art critic **Sylvain Sankale** states that according to the law of public finances, any money given to a department of the state is automatically transferred to the Ministry of Finance and redistributed as needed, process that private partners dislike. Hence, the urgent need to establish the Biennale as a foundation of public service, to receive and manage private funding.

Rémi Sagna on the other hand, emphasizes the need to prioritize local financial resources before those of partners to ensure the autonomy of the Biennale.

Babacar Mbaye Diop wishes the statute of a foundation for the Biennale to be carried out by 2016.



■ Program Dak'Art 2014:

The program below is provisory and subject to change.

Dak'Art 2014 : May 9 – June 8, 2014

- **Meetings and Exchanges on the theme "the art professions"** will invite artists, scholars, critics, historians and academics.
- **The exhibition of African and Diaspora artists** presenting the official selection.
- **Exhibition of guest artists**
- **Tribute exhibition**
- **Exhibition of the national collection of art**
- **Exhibition of cultural diversity**
- **Exhibition presenting the results of the symposium of African sculpture**
- **Off exhibitions**
- **Dak'Art into the Campus:** the University of Dakar will host the opening conference, happenings and concerts, a show of Art & Environment and a presentation of the awarded artists.
- **Animations** in the Village of the Biennale and in the city and screening of films about Contemporary art films.

■ Curators

The orientation committee has chosen three curators for Dak'Art 2014 to set the selection of the International Exhibition and the choice of guest artists:

Elise ATANGANA,
Abdelkader DAMANI ,
Smooth UGOCHUKWU Chukwudi Nzewi

■ Elise ATANGANA



(France/Cameroon) : responsible of selection of Diaspora artists.

Elise Atangana is an independent producer and curator and communication officer at SNCF, based in Paris.

She collaborated with Simon Njami on different projects such as Luanda Triennale (2003), Havana Biennale (2006) and the African Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2007).

From 2007 to 2012, she worked as a communication officer at SNCF Foundation supporting social projects with young audiences. In parallel, she co-founded in 2010 On The Roof, a curators' collective which develops exhibitions such as *Synchronicity I & II* at Galerie Baudoin-Lebon, Paris, France (2011) and *Tiwani Contemporary* in London, UK (2012) and *Cyclical cities* at Galerie Le Manège, Dakar, Senegal (2013).

Currently, Elise Atangana also collaborates with the art publisher *REVUE NOIRE* and with Elvira Dyangani Ose on *Rencontres Picha, Biennale de Lubumbashi 2012 / 2013* in DR Congo.

She studied business and administration with a specialization in developing countries as well as communication.

See on line: www.ontheroofproject.com , www.revuenoire.com , www.rencontrespicha.org .

▪ Abdelkader DAMANI

(Algeria): responsible of selection of North African artists.



Abdelkader Damani develops curatorial practice around the interaction of four 'players' he considers structuring its projects: the work, the space, the viewer and the discourse.

Trained in architecture at Oran (Algeria), he studied, on his arrival in France in 1993, art history and philosophy at the University Lyon 2 and Lyon 3. After being in charge of art and architecture projects in Cultural meeting Centre of la Tourette, Le Corbusier's architecture, he led since 2007, the "VEDUTA" platform at the Biennale of Contemporary Art of Lyon. He is also an independent curator and works at the School of Art and Design Grenoble - Valence.

His recent publications include: Thierry Raspail, Hou Hanru & Abdelkader Damani, *Le spectacle et le quotidien*, Dijon, Presses du Réel, 2011; *Recyclage et Urbanité*, Paris, Editions de la Villette, 2010; *Intuitions*, in *Biennale de Lyon 2011*, Volume 2, Dijon, Presses du Réel, 2012, *Une équation à quatre variables*, in *Gestes Nomades*, HEAD - Geneva, Geneva (forthcoming in late 2013).

▪ Smooth Ugochukwu C. NZEWI



(Nigeria, lives in USA): responsible of selection of artists from African countries south of Sahara.

Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi is the Curator of African Art at the Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, Hanover, USA.

Born in Nigeria, Nzewi trained as a sculptor under the supervision of El Anatsui at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where he earned a B.A. in Fine and Applied Art. He received a postgraduate diploma in the African Program in Museum and Heritage Studies from the University of Western Cape, South Africa, and a PhD in Art History from Emory University, Atlanta, USA.

In addition to his parallel practices as visual artist, critic, and art historian, Nzewi has curated exhibitions in Nigeria, South Africa, United States, and Senegal, including most recently: *Transitions: Contemporary South African Works on Paper*

at the High Museum Atlanta, USA in 2009 and *Windows Part 1: New Works by Ndary Lo* as part of the fringe exhibitions of the Dak'Art Biennale in 2012.

Nzewi has published book chapters and catalogue essays, as well as articles and exhibition reviews in reputable art journals and magazines, including *African Arts*, *Studio*, *World Art* and *SAVVY*.

▪ Orientation Committee for Dak'Art 2014

Chairwoman: Thérèse Diatta,

Manager of Kemboury gallery, Dakar.

Recorder : Babacar Mbaye Diop,

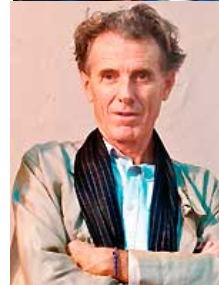
General Secretary of the Biennale of Arts of Dakar since February 2013. PhD in Philosophy (Specialty Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art), he is a teacher & researcher in the Department of Philosophy at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar since 2009. He published in 2012 "Critique of the concept of African art." He has written numerous articles on the arts of Black Africa, the plurality of African cultures, the concept of negritude and the aesthetics of black African art.

Members :

- Alioune **Badiane** :

Artist, former Director of Arts in the Culture Department, teacher of visual arts and art criticism, it is up to networks of experts and participates in workshops on culture and is part of technical, scientific and multidisciplinary work teams. He is teaching in Alexandria University (Egypt) and Cheikh Anta Diop Dakar's University.

- Hamady **Bocoum** :
He holds a PhD in Humanities and Literature, it is the current director of National Heritage Dept. In Senegal.
- Alioune **Diop** :
Journalist specialized in culture at Radio Television of Senegal.
- Rokhaya **Gueye** :
Professor of Art Education.
- Annie **Jouga** :
Architect Designer
- Zoulou **Mbaye** :
Art painter, working between Europe and Senegal, former president of the Association of Visual Artists of Senegal, he was awarded in the National Order of Merit of the Republic of Senegal.
- Aliou **Ndiaye** :
Art critic, member of AICA, degree in journalism and Communication (ISIC of Dakar), he is currently studying "Intercultural Communication" at the University of Lugano (Switzerland).
- Daouda **Ndiaye** :
Artist and professor of art education, he has a specialization in Art Therapy. While active member of the Village des Arts of Dakar, he continued his many artistic projects particularly in France around the environment and the use of waste as a resource. For two years, he began a collaboration with two theater companies in the south of France to use his art at a crossing point of expression.
- Coumba **Ndoffène** :
Conservator at IFAN, Dakar.
- Mauro **Petroni**:
Born in Italy, he lived in Senegal since 1983 and heads the Almadies' Ceramics Workshop, a place of production of ceramic ornaments where he exhibited different visual artists since 1991. Curator for OFF events since 2002, he is member of the Orientation Committee of The *Manège* Gallery of the French Institute and is artistic advisor of the company Eiffage.
- Mélanie **Sadio Goudiaby**:
Holds a Master 2 in Management of Cultural Industries from the University of Alexandria, Egypt, she is head of the Division of Performing Arts in the Senegalese Ministry of Culture.
- Rassoul **Seydi** :
Advisor to the Dept. of the *Francophonie* in the Ministry of Culture of Senegal, he graduated in Master 2 for the management of cultural projects of the University Pierre Mendès France in Grenoble, France. He is a PhD candidate in Political Sciences.
- Abdou **Sylla** :
Art critic and Ph.D. in Philosophy of Art, he is a researcher at the Fundamental Institute of Black Africa in Dakar. In the context of aesthetic, art history and art criticism teachings at the Faculty of Letters of Dakar and at the National School of Arts in Senegal, he performed exercises and tutorials with students in the art Museum of IFAN. He has written numerous books and articles on African arts.



■ Meetings and Exchanges



This will be an important moment of **reflection on the art professions**. If in the past, artists were dealing directly with their client, the art market as it exists today introduced intermediaries in the transaction of art works: dealers, agents, art galleries, curators, critics, conservators, collectors, sponsors, etc. ...

Ahead of the 2014' meetings and exchanges, the Biennale held from 11 to 13 June 2013 in the House of Culture Doua Seck in Dakar a **seminar on art professions** entitled "Being an artist today" in partnership with Liz Lydiate (Creative Arts Education and Training, United Kingdom) and Salimata Diop (Fine Art, London) welcoming 35 artists and arts professionals.

Read more on our page Séminaire :
<http://biennaledakar.org/2012/spip.php?article192>

■ Applications for the International Exhibition

The call for applications of Dak'Art 2014 for African and Diaspora artists is on the Biennale web site.

- Deadline : **September 15, 2013.**

Read more on our page Application:
<http://biennaledakar.org/2012/spip.php?article191>



Announced in the press release of the 25/03/13, the call for application was launched on May 17, 2013. The deadline is September 15; artists have four months to send their applications. But it is recommended to submit as soon as possible so that the organizing committee may help candidates to complete their portfolios.

- This call has been sent by email to more than 6000 contacts of art professionals and to press contacts all over the world.

- Within 6 weeks, over 80 artists candidates have emailed us.

Origin of the artists :

- **Africans** : South Africa, Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canary Islands, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, DR Congo, Senegal, Tunisia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

- **Diaspora** : Guadeloupe, La Réunion, Martinique, Dominican Republic.

- **Other countries** : Germany, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Spain, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Kuwait, United Kingdom, Thailand, Venezuela.

- **14 portfolios including 8 completed** has been received, the artists often wait until the last moment to submit their applications with their latest works created.

For each edition, the Biennale receives about 400 applications of artists.

The selection made by the jury will be announced end of 2013 on our website.

OFF Exhibitions



Registrations for the OFF will begin end of November 2013. They will be available on www.biennaledakar.org.

For this edition, the focus will be on exhibitions welcoming artists from other African countries and on cultural diversity with more numerous exhibitions in the regions of Senegal.

Dak'Art OFF, it is nearly 200 exhibitions featuring 500 artists in Dakar, Saint-Louis and throughout Senegal with many opening events with performances and shows in a festive atmosphere that will bring you to the discovery of unusual venues in the heart of the city.

Exhibition venues

- IFAN Museum
- Biscuiterie of Médina
- Galerie Nationale
- Place du Souvenir
- Maison de la Culture Doua Seck
- Campus de l'Université Cheikh Anta Diop



Press review: Dak'Art, the place to be!

In six weeks, our call for applications is already relayed on **more than 50 webzines**, newspapers and magazines in English, French, Arabic (Sudan), Brazilian, etc.

Important papers as **Art Forum magazine**, **Art in America**, **Harper's Bazaar**, **Canvas Magazine** (Dubai) have contacted us to publish on Dak'Art 2014.

Specialists in culture and art also: universes-in-universe.org, africultures.com, biennialfoundation.org, afrifestnet.org, myartguides.com, ocpanet.org, contemporaryand.com, artquest.org.uk, etc.

As a reminder, Dak'Art 2012 is present online with more than **200 articles on the web**, including the prestigious **New York Times** (travel.nytimes.com) and also mouvement.net, anotherafrica.net, RFI.fr, FranceTV.fr, the Africa Report, arte.tv, kunstbeeld.nl, Artpress.com, artscape.jp in Japan, etc..) and many videos on Youtube.

Finally, Dak'Art has the honor of being listed **among the top 10 cultural events in Africa**:

<http://theculturetrip.com/africa/articles/ten-of-the-best-african-cultural-events>



See our press review on:

<http://biennaledakar.org/2012/spip.php?article172>

■ A highly visited website, visitors from around the world

In June 2013, biennaledakar.org, it is in 1 month:

- 6000 unique visitors,
- More than 10 000 visits,
- 91,000 page views.
- Since May 17, 1800 persons have downloaded the application form in French (and 500 in English).

- For the record, in May 2012 during the Biennale, our web site has received **during one month 15,000 unique visitors**, a challenge for a contemporary art site.

- With **7 web sites on line of its previous editions since 2000, biennaledakar.org website is** recognized as a rich information and data base on African artists



■ Origin of visitors of the web site

In June 2013:

- Visitors are from 160 different countries.
- 25% visitors from Senegal, 16% from France, 15% from other European countries, 12% of USA.
- African countries who visit more the site, in order: Morocco, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Tunisia, Algeria, South Africa, Cameroon, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Benin, Congo, Togo.

- As a surprise, unexpected visitors from Papua (in the Pacific), Aruba (Caribbean island), Myanmar (Burma) and Honduras (Central America)...



The goal for the future promotion of Dak'Art might be to increase our outreach in English and Portuguese speaking Africa and in countries where the market for contemporary art is booming: the United Arab Emirates, Asia South East, China and India.

■ Dak'Art: distinguished visitors, high visibility

■ Some figures on visitors at Dak'Art 2012:

- **Place of meetings of international experts: 300 professionals from the art world** (curators, art fairs, academics, gallery owners, collectors, museums, cultural institutions, etc..).
- **Visibility on medias: 150 journalists, including 58% from abroad.**



- **An area of visibility and promotion for artists :**
 - 58 artists featured in the four official exhibitions.
 - 500 in the OFF shows in 186 venues in Dakar, Saint-Louis and throughout Senegal with 20% of the works exhibited in the OFF sold by artists.
 - 60 foreign artists visitors.
- **Dak'Art internationally:**
30,000 visitors from 53 countries from Senegal, Europe, Africa, North America especially, but also from Brazil, Argentina, Caribbean, Dubai, Japan, Thailand, the islands of the Indian Ocean, Australia.

▪ VIP

They came to Dak'Art 2012 :

- Biennale of Venezia, Dubai Art Fair, Biennale of Lyon, Biennale Videobrazil of Sao Paolo.
- **More than 20 art center and galleries managers including:** Art Bakery (Cameroon), Deveron Arts (UK), Fondation Blachère (France), Galerie Cécile Fakhoury (Ivory Coast), Galerie Péron (Paris), Galerie Stevenson (Cape Town), etc.
- **20 museums from around the world** such as: Pompidou Centre (Paris), Museum of Malmö (Sweden), Museum of Quai Branly (Paris), National Museum of Monaco, Newark Museum (USA), National Gallery of Nigeria, Tate Gallery (London), Royal Ontario Museum (Canada), etc.
- Achille Mbembe and Mamadou Diouf (Columbia Univ. USA), Mario Pissarra (Cape Town Univ.), Cedric Vincent (EHESS, Paris), Mantia Diawara (New York Univ.), Malick Ndiaye, Gabriele Genge (Univ. Duisburg Allemagne), Nana Adusei Poku (Univ. des Arts de Zürich), Kinsey Katchka (Univ. North Carolina, USA), Iolanda Pensa (Lettera27), Simon Njami, Tessa Jackson (INIVA, Londres), Brahim Alaoui (Marrakech Art Fair), Gabriela Salgado (Curator, Argentine), Yacouba Konaté, Ngoné Fall, Pauline Burman (African Mnyele, Amsterdam), Ousmane Sow, Chantal Béret (Centre Pompidou), etc.
- **Specialists from 33 universities and art schools** in Europe and the USA but also from Japan, South Africa or Nigeria.



▪ The press and media at Dak'Art 2012 :

The Biennale thanks the following medias for covering Dak'Art .

PRESS & MEDIAS IN SENEGAL :

2S TV, Afric Horizon, Africa 7, Africable TV, Agendakar, APS, Ausenegal.com, D Media, Direct Infos, EnQuête, Ici Dakar !, La Gazette, La Tribune, Le Pays, Le Sénégalais, Le Soleil, Ndarinfo, Saint-Louis Info, Pica Magazine, RSI radio, RTS, TSL, SenTV, Sud Quotidien, Walfadjri, Zik Fm.

PRESS & MEDIAS ABROAD :

Africa : Africa24 TV, algerianradio.dz, Apsath Photo Bénin, Bammako culture, Côte d'Ivoire Economie, Diptyk Maroc, Fraternité Matin Côte d'Ivoire, Intelligences magazine, **Jeune Afrique**, La Marche Républicaine Bénin, Le Messenger Cameroun, Le Patriote Côte d'Ivoire, OBS Paalga Burkina, **Panapress**, Radio Bamakan Mali, The New Times Rwanda, Tunis-Hebdo, United Fashion For Peace, Wape-Art Côte d'Ivoire.

USA : Afrikanspot, Artinfo.com, Another Africa, **Art Forum**, **Associated Press**, **La Voix de L'Amérique**

Canada : Graffici

Japan : Assistant Co., Defrag

Middle East: Canvas Dubai, **Harper's Bazaar Art Dubai**

Indian Ocean : Ile Maurice Tourisme



Brasil : Videobrasil

EUROPE :

Germany : ARD (Deutschland Radio), **F.A.Z** (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung), Radio Multicult, List Medien.

Austria : Springerin magazine.

France : A+mag, **AFP**, Africanlinks, **Africultures**, Afrique magazine, Afrikadaa revue, **Art Press**, Artshebdomedias, fabulafricana.com, **Le Monde**, **Le Monde diplomatique**, **Le Point**, **L'express**, La Croix, La Tribune, **Madame Figaro**, **Revue Mouvement**, Revue More, revue Stradda, **RFI**, **Ouest France**, **Rue89**, The Africa Report, **TV5 Monde**, Wostok Press.

Italy : Juliet Art Magazine, Kaleidoscope.

Netherlands : **Kunstbeeld**, Trendbeheer.

United Kingdom : African Daydreams, **Art Review magazine**, **BBC Afrique**, **Reuters**, Tank Magazine.

Sweden : Afrikultur.

Switzerland : Vox Africa, APA TV.

And numerous reporters freelancers, press photographs and news correspondent.

■ Contacts for Press & VIP

- Contact press: comdakart@biennaledakar.org (accreditations, requests of photos, of interviews)

- **Accreditations for press and VIP** will be available on our web site in December 2013. They will be mandatory for all access to openings and ceremonies and to take pictures, interview or filming.



- You want to set forth your article, your report on Dak'Art? **Send us the link or a pdf file** and we will be happy to insert it into our Press review which is much read.

[See our press review on:](http://biennaledakar.org/2012/spip.php?article172) <http://biennaledakar.org/2012/spip.php?article172>

- **Follow us** : You can follow our news about Dak'Art subscribing to our RSS file:

<http://biennaledakar.org/2012/spip.php?page=backend> and soon on
<http://biennaledakar.org/2014/spip.php?page=backend>

■ History

The Biennale is born from the will power of the State of Senegal and of artists of the country, whom since the 70s, regularly organize exhibitions of art that update the different phases of the evolution of contemporary art.

The Dakar Biennale is relatively young. Established since 1989 with the first edition dedicated to Literature in 1990, it has been dedicated to contemporary art in the second edition in 1992 before finally being devoted to contemporary African art since 1996.

The Biennale 1992 is the first edition of Dak'Art. It did not initially prioritized African artists but was rather concerned to facilitate the meeting of experiences, approaches and discourse between artists and professionals from diverse backgrounds and thus make a contribution to the debate on contemporary art and the promotion of African artists.



It is the only major event on the continent devoted exclusively its selection to artists living on the continent and abroad. Dak'Art permitted to:

- Promote the creation of new models in the arts.

- Confirm or reveal talents both in the visual art field as in the design and digital arts.
- Encourage new approaches to the definition and conceptualization of contemporary African art.
- Reveal to a wider audience coming from all over the world, an Africa that creates and innovates.
- Encourage, new collaborations first, between African creators and second, between African artists and those from other continents.

