

## DAK 'ART BATAAXAL

In this second issue, the twice-monthly publication offers an snapshot of the 14<sup>th</sup> Dakar Biennale's programme. The different columns are - Tribute to Artist Abdoulaye Konaté, National Pavilions, «Doxantu» Project.

## DAK'ART 2022, THE BIENNALE FOR ALL



The art of our time is inflexibly addressed to all. Indeed, its transformative energy is at odds with a restrictive audience, be it comprised of learned connoisseurs. That is why we will work at further broadening the Dakar Biennale's audience.

The Dakar Biennale is considered a territory to be travelled, where many paths can be taken and where it becomes possible to choose your itinerary, alone or with others. It promotes art and artistic education through a trans-generational approach and prepares for such future by placing the public at the heart of a new genre of transmission mission. The 2022 Biennale offers visitors of all ages and horizons to embark on original format activities: panoramic type guided tours, secret escapades, beacons around a work or an artist, time travels, amongst others, in addition to all educational activities for school groups, teachers and socio-cultural outreach workers.

# T EXHIBITION TRIBUTE to ABDOULAYE KONATE

## *An Intergenerational Transmission Gateway*

A challenge, a privilege - That is the ambivalent sentiment Malian visual artist Abdoulaye Konaté expresses. Grand Prix Léopold Sédar Senghor 1996 Winner, Grand Maître Konaté is returning to the Biennale of Contemporary African Art in Dakar. As part of the 14th edition, an exhibition-cum-tribute will be dedicated to him on the Cap Manuel-based erstwhile Palais de Justice (Former Court House) site.

During a recent stay in the Senegalese capital, Konaté expressed the wish to share his journey with young people to develop their personality. This draws the contours of intergenerational transmission.

Beyond this gateway, the Dakar Biennale is also a tipping point for Senegal, Africa and the world, the artist observed. It is a platform he said is the place where we set eyes on the new creation of our territories, but also Dak'Art gives young people the opportunity to be present on the international art market.

In a forward-looking impetus, Konaté suggests that the Dakar Biennale project itself with a vision and new directions for the next decade.



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# DOXANTU

*When artistic creation  
improves living environment*

The Doxantu project will be a great attraction on Dakar' Corniche Ouest, along the Western Coastal Highway. It is an open-air project for monumental works of art, sculptures and installations along the Grand Corniche Ouest Promenade des Dakarois. Doxantu, «Stroll» in Wolof language (one of the national languages) was initially inspired by the aggression of the coastline bordering Dakar's Western Highway, in the face of marine erosion and land speculation. At the same time, the project is concerned with strengthening Dakar's strategic

position as Africa's cultural capital. Steered by the Artistic Directorate, the «outside the walls» exhibition aims to both advocate for the protection of the coastline and guarantee improved lives for populations.

The project select artists stayed in Dakar to realize the works on the chosen sites along the Western Highway. The Doxantu spatial development project includes tourist and leisure areas, and fortunately brings artistic creation and its environment together.





# NATIONAL PAVILIONS

*Creation Flag Bearer*

**The guest country exhibitions, a.k.a National Pavilions, bring together Senegal's and two guest countries' exhibitions. This year, those are the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.**

## ***Senegal, the flame of memory rekindled***

A beautiful showcase - The Senegal Pavilion will unveil national plastic creation at the 14th Dakar Biennale. Led by exhibition curator Massamba Mbaye, this year's theme is Loositoo, which means «bundle of wooden» in Mandinka language. The Museum of Black Civilizations will be the Senegal Pavilion exhibition's main site.

The demonstration will also include intra muros articulations notably with the Ouakam Pavillon and the Alioune Diagne Ètu Kër exhibition at the Dakar Grand Theatre. In addition, collaborative works designed and produced on site will be restored in different regions of Senegal. The option is to digitally link the different regions of Senegal to show that with these new tools, it is possible to expand across the four winds from any point of the connected globe. Artists outside Dakar will showcase their works from their locality through the Virtual University of Senegal using digital technology at the exhibition's main site.

## ***Côte d'Ivoire to reinvent humanity***

Under the theme 'Forging the Mediterranean, New writings of Ivorian Arts', Houphouët Boigny's country will be in the spotlight alongside China at the 14th edition of the Dakar Biennale as guest country.

Exhibition Curator Henri N'koumo highlights the urgent conversations of Côte d'Ivoire's artists that tend towards reinventing humanity. According to them, one of the main ways to achieve this is to re-humanize the Mediterranean, that symbol of our society made of barbed wire. The exhibition's purpose, N'koumo believes, is to forge the Mediterranean – not in a dream, but from the strength of creative hands.

## ***China in a globalization and localization drive***

China is a guest country alongside Côte d'Ivoire. For the Dakar Biennale's 14th edition, the Middle Kingdom's Pavilion will highlight a concept around Transitional Energy/Active Energy. Led by Curator Yur Jieqiong, the China Pavilion is implementing this concept to present the Chinese contemporary art perception and opportunity against the backdrop of globalization and localization. This will be made possible through the presence of a dozen Chinese visual artists.

