



BIENNALE  
DE DAKAR

LA BIENNALE DE L'ART AFRICAIN CONTEMPORAIN

# ~ Ì NDAFFA #

FORGER / OUT OF THE FIRE

14<sup>ÈME</sup> ÉDITION

DE LA BIENNALE DE L'ART AFRICAIN CONTEMPORAIN



# SYMPOSIUM

2022 MAY 23-24-25

# CONCEPT NOTE

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I N D A F F F A #

FORGER / OUT OF THE FIRE

The exchange-meetings are part of the general topic of Dak'art 2022 "Ĩ NDAFFA# /FORGE /OUT OF THE FIRE ". ĩ NDAFFA is inspired by I NDAFFAX which - in Serere language - is an invitation to forge. The term expresses the freedom to transform as well as the multiple possibilities of creating. This suggests the alchemy of the forging and the transformative action that leads to a new stage. In addition, the 2022 edition of the Biennale of Dakar calls to the transmutation of concepts and the foundation of new meanings. To forge refers to the act of transforming a material, most often metal, and in several languages, it has now lost the meaning of creating, imagining and inventing. It is therefore a question of creating new artistic expressions, new knowledge and know-how, which integrate African perspectives, in order to forge views and tools likely to help us overcome contemporary challenges and thus lead to the constantly renewed creation of a meaning that enables us to better understand the complexity of the world. To this end, the following questions will be explored during the exchange-meetings of the 2022 Biennale of Dakar.

## **1 - Grammars of creation, knowledge repositories and disconnections in contemporary African art**

Forging new approaches to art history in the twenty-first century means revisiting the contexts of emergence of the knowledge that underpins it. African cultural histories have not sufficiently informed the appreciation of aesthetic artifacts in contemporary art. Drawing on the sources of African aesthetic knowledge and integrating its representations of the world, would pave the way to new methodologies and enrich the doctrinal collection of art history. It is also a question of rethinking and thus reorganizing the traditional temporalities linked to the history of Art, by integrating the composite and non-linear times of African historiography. In short, it is a question of analyzing the contribution of contemporary African art to the history of art.

## **2 - The creation of an African archive**

Why creating an African archive? How to create it, for what specific purpose? Generally, the role of the archive is to preserve the past and the memory of societies by keeping a trace of it. The question of the archive will be considered here in the perspective of the creation of an archive for the future. More than preserving a trace of the past and preserving it from the ravages of time, it is also a question of considering the archive as an artifact whose power of germination affects present times and contributes to building the future. Moreover, it will question through its artistic productions, the relationship of African societies to memory and oblivion, and to question the way in which the archive is made alive by an art conscious of oblivion. The latter, by consenting to the obsolescence of a part of the cultural matrix, frees space for creativity and inventiveness.

### **3 - Heritage and human rights**

The debate on the restitution of African heritage has been concurrent with several events that have marked the news in recent years, particularly a debate on the place of statues and monuments in the public space that has emerged in South Africa (Rhodes must fall), in the United States, and in Europe, where symbols of colonialism are still strongly represented in the public space. The specters of racism and police brutality in the US (death of George Floyd & Black Lives Matter movement) have again spread and this is linked to the necessary deconstruction of the matrix of discourses and imaginaries of racism. All this questions the status and the role of heritage, its constitution as well as its selection with regard to history. There is a growing proximity between heritage, social justice and human rights. The debate on the restitution of African cultural property, beyond the question of freedom to own freely the artifacts made by one's culture and forefathers, asserts the right to decide on the signs and symbols represented in places of memory, as well as the meanings and significance one wishes to promote, for example by avoiding those whose discourses glorify racism. To what extent are these debates a sign of an evolution of the notion of heritage whose meaning is increasingly linked to social issues and human rights, as well as to the will to change the world by working on symbols, discourses and representations and their psychic effects, as well as the plurality of meanings of historical events?

# PROGRAM

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**DAY 1 - 2022 MAY 23**

**MUSEE DES CIVILISATIONS NOIRES / AUDITORIUM (GROUND FLOOR)**

**9H15 - 9H20 am**

Opening by the General Secretary of the Ministry of Culture in Senegal

**9H20 - 9H25 am**

Introduction by Felwine Sarr

**9H25 - 9H35 am**

Presentation of Gayatri Spivak by Mamadou Diouf

**9H35 - 10H35 am**

Opening conference by Gayatri Spivak.

**10H35 - 11H00 am : Coffee break**

**11H00 am - 12H30**

**Panel 1 : The grammars of contemporary African creation**

**Speakers :**

Henri Nkoumo

El Hadji Malick Ndiaye

Mamadou Diouf

Nana Oforiatta Ayim

**12H30 - 2H00 pm**

**Panel 2 : New plastic writings**

**Speakers :**

Syham Weigant

Greer Odile Valley

Lou Mo

Massamba Mbaye

# DAY 2 - 2022 MAY 24

## MUSEE DE CIVILISATIONS NOIRES / AUDITORIUM (GROUND FLOOR)

**9H30 - 9H50 am**

Introductory reading of Benedicte Savoy (20 mn)

**9H50 - 11H20 am**

**Panel 3 : Heritage and human rights**

**Speakers :**

Yaovi Akakpo

Souleymane Bachir Diagne

Ciraaj Rassool

Benedicte Savoy

**11H20 - 11H50 : Coffee break**

**11H50 am - 1H20 pm**

**Panel 4 : Building an African archive for the future**

**Speakers :**

Jihan el Tahri

Oulimata Gueye

Gil Z Hochberg

Romeo Mivekannin

# DAY 3 - 2022 MAY 25

## MUSEE DES CIVILISATIONS NOIRES / AUDITORIUM (GROUND FLOOR)

**9H30 - 10H00 am : Welcome coffee**

**10H - 11H30 am**

**Panel 5 : Reinventing heritage : what heritage for the future?**

**Speakers :**

Gayatri Spivak

Ibrahima Wane

Lotte Arndt

El Hadji Malick Ndiaye



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