



République du Sénégal

Un Peuple - Un But – Une Foi

MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE, DE
L'ARTISANAT ET DU TOURISME



MCAT

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

International Exhibition — 16th edition of the Dakar Biennale

19 November – 19 December 2026 · Dakar, Senegal

Application files submission: 15 April to 15 June 2026



**BIENNALE
DE DAKAR**

LA BIENNALE DE L'ART AFRICAIN CONTEMPORAIN

(Anti)fragility: *Arts of* Repair *and* Counter-Shock *Strategies*

Presentation of the General Concept

The 16th Dakar Biennale is devoted to the theme of “(Anti)fragility.” It brings together artists from across the African continent and its diasporas worldwide, including island and archipelagic contexts. All seek to rethink our modes of living together, mutual aid, coexistence, and cohabitation—not only among humans but also with the living world.

To be (anti)fragile is to adopt an attitude that transforms fragility into a strength (both expressive and artistic) by valuing social and communal bonds (co-creation).

This concept originates with the thinker Nassim Nicholas Taleb, who explains how one can learn to live in an uncertain and chaotic world, and even benefit from difficult situations and shocks in order to emerge from them strengthened and transformed.

In the artistic field, this idea becomes both a source of inspiration and a site of experimentation. Artists use error, accident, or lack as points of departure within a (co)creative process. In an unstable and conflict-ridden world, they devise alternative systems often inspired by local knowledge and practices, develop strategies of survival and gift/counter-gift exchange, construct shelters, and adopt (post-)therapeutic approaches to art. Within this reparative dynamic, new communities of artists, artisans, researchers, and citizens emerge. Practices rooted in urban and popular cultures, as well as design disciplines, are called upon to play a central role.

To be antifragile therefore means:

- transforming fragility into strength, valuing simplicity, and elevating the everyday
- repairing what is damaged, healing wounds, and reinventing function
- learning from shocks, studying risks, and anticipating disruptions

(Anti)fragility is thus also a philosophy of the fertilization of worlds and of tremor.

1. See the book by Nassim Nicholas Taleb, *Antifragile: Things That Gain From Disorder*, Random House-Penguin, 2012.

The Three Main ideas/chapters of the (Anti)fragility Dakar Biennale

1. The Powers of the Fragile

Fragility is not a weakness; it can be both beautiful and powerful. Artists engage with the small details of everyday life, with organic and minimalist forms, as well as with nature. They use cracks and fissures as spaces of possibility; they celebrate the principle of “less is more” and our presence in the world.

2. The Arts of Care and Repair

Repairing, healing, and preserving are fundamental gestures—whether specialized forms of knowledge or practices of the common good. Such acts of repair may concern communities or individual bodies, and may also consist in rehabilitating signs or languages that have been rendered invisible. Artists transform wounds into fabric for a new skin, and scars into bodily drawings or tattoos.

3. Counter-Shock Strategies

Artists act as forerunners in their responses to crises and instability. Through various strategies of recycling, collective solidarity, and short supply chains, they inspire new ways of living together. They teach us to better anticipate shocks and, in the face of uncertainty, to invent new possibilities.

Morad Montazami

Artistic Director of the 16th edition
of the Biennale of Contemporary African Art

Call overview

The General Secretariat of the Biennale of Contemporary African Art is launching a call for applications for the official international exhibition of its sixteenth edition, scheduled from 19 November to 19 December 2026 in Dakar.

This call is addressed to African visual artists and/or artists from the diaspora in one of the following disciplines:

Architecture	Digital Arts	Design
Installation	Mixed media	Painting
Performance	Photography	Sculpture
Sound	Street-art / Graffiti	Video art & animation

CHECKLIST — Required documents

The application is complete only if the 10 items below are provided. The absence of a single item will result in automatic rejection of the application.

- Duly completed application form (this document)**
- Statement of intent relating to the proposed works or project
- Detailed curriculum vitae
- Biography of 20 to 25 lines maximum, in French AND in English
- Two recent passport photos on a white background — high resolution
- Scanned copy of the passport, valid at least until June 30, 2027
- 5 HD reproductions of the works (300 dpi / 30×50 cm, dated January 2025 at the earliest) — with photographer's name and year of creation
- Detailed technical data sheet for each proposed artwork (title, dimensions, weight, volumes, year, techniques, materials, value, insured value, departure and delivery addresses)
- Portfolio and/or art magazine articles, critical texts, expert testimonials
- Artist's letter of commitment (packing, air freight templates, preparation timelines)

The proposed works must be new, unpublished and belong to the artist. No work that has already been sold may be selected.

Submit the complete file by email to: opencall2026@biennaledakar.org and by postal mail no later than June 15, 2026 to the General Secretariat of the Dakar Biennale, 19 Avenue Hassan II, 1st Floor — BP 3865, Dakar, Senegal.

PART A — Artist Identity

Last name *

First name *

Artist name (pseudonym)

Gender (M / F / Other) *

Phone 1 (international format) *

Phone 2 (international format)

Email address *

Postal address * (No., building, street, neighborhood)

City *

Postal code

Country of residence *

Nationality *

Date of birth *

City and country of birth *

Website / Portfolio link

(URL or professional social network)

Previous participation in the Dakar Biennale

(If yes, indicate the edition(s))

PART B — Discipline and declaration

Main discipline * (Select from the list above)

Possible secondary disciplines

I certify that the proposed works are original and belong to me *

Yes No

I accept the Dakar Biennale's internal regulations and the laws in force in Senegal *

Yes No

PART C — Technical sheets for the proposed works

Fill one sheet per work (up to 5 works). The field "Mounting plan / Installation sheet" is mandatory for any complex installation, digital artwork, video art, sound or performance.

WORK NO. 1

Title of the work *

Discipline / Technique *

Year of creation *

Name of the photographer *

Main medium

Dimensions H × W × D (cm) *

e.g.: 120 × 80 × 40 cm

Dimensions with packaging (cm) *

Height × Length × Depth

Weight with packaging (kg) *

Insurance value (FCFA) *

May differ from the commercial value — required for transport

Origin address of artwork no.1 *

No., building, street, neighborhood, city, country, nearest airport

Delivery address of artwork no.1 *

Return address after the Biennale

Technical requirements for installation

Electricity, connection, hanging, base, darkness, etc.

Assembly plan / Installation sheet

Mandatory for complex installations, video art, digital, sound, and performance. Attach a schematic diagram if necessary.

WORK NO. 2

Title of the work *

Discipline / Technique *

Year of creation *

Name of the photographer *

Main medium

Dimensions H × W × D (cm) *

e.g.: 120 × 80 × 40 cm

Dimensions with packaging (cm) *

Height × Length × Depth

Weight with packaging (kg) *

Insurance value (FCFA) *

May differ from the commercial value — required for transport

Origin address of artwork no.2 *

No., building, street, neighborhood, city, country, nearest airport

Delivery address of artwork no.2 *

Return address after the Biennale

Technical requirements for installation

Electricity, connection, hanging, base, darkness, etc.

Assembly plan / Installation sheet

Mandatory for complex installations, video art, digital, sound, and performance. Attach a schematic diagram if necessary.

WORK NO. 3

Title of the work *

Discipline / Technique *

Year of creation *

Name of the photographer *

Main medium

Dimensions H × W × D (cm) *

e.g.: 120 × 80 × 40 cm

Dimensions with packaging (cm) *

Height × Length × Depth

Weight with packaging (kg) *

Insurance value (FCFA) *

May differ from the commercial value — required for transport

Origin address of artwork no.3 *

No., building, street, neighborhood, city, country, nearest airport

Delivery address of artwork no.3 *

Return address after the Biennale

Technical requirements for installation

Electricity, connection, hanging, base, darkness, etc.

Assembly plan / Installation sheet

Mandatory for complex installations, video art, digital, sound, and performance. Attach a schematic diagram if necessary.

WORK NO. 4

Title of the work *

Discipline / Technique *

Year of creation *

Name of the photographer *

Main medium

Dimensions H × W × D (cm) *

e.g.: 120 × 80 × 40 cm

Dimensions with packaging (cm) *

Height × Length × Depth

Weight with packaging (kg) *

Insurance value (FCFA) *

May differ from the commercial value — required for transport

Origin address of artwork no.4 *

No., building, street, neighborhood, city, country, nearest airport

Delivery address of artwork no.4 *

Return address after the Biennale

Technical requirements for installation

Electricity, connection, hanging, base, darkness, etc.

Assembly plan / Installation sheet

Mandatory for complex installations, video art, digital, sound, and performance. Attach a schematic diagram if necessary.

WORK NO. 5

Title of the work *

Discipline / Technique *

Year of creation *

Name of the photographer *

Main medium

Dimensions H × W × D (cm) *

e.g.: 120 × 80 × 40 cm

Dimensions with packaging (cm) *

Height × Length × Depth

Weight with packaging (kg) *

Insurance value (FCFA) *

May differ from the commercial value — required for transport

Origin address of artwork no.5 *

No., building, street, neighborhood, city, country, nearest airport

Delivery address of artwork no.5 *

Return address after the Biennale

Technical requirements for installation

Electricity, connection, hanging, base, darkness, etc.

Assembly plan / Installation sheet

Mandatory for complex installations, video art, digital, sound, and performance. Attach a schematic diagram if necessary.

Signature and commitment

I, the undersigned, _____, certify the accuracy of the information provided and undertake to comply with all participation terms for the sixteenth edition of the Dakar Biennale.

Place and date :

Artist's signature :

Note: the submitted documents will not be returned after deliberation.

They become part of the Dakar Biennale Secretariat's documentary archive.

Ministry of Culture, Handicrafts and Tourism, Ministerial Complex of Diamniadio
West Habib THIAM, Building A, 6th floor, Wing B (right)

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