



République du Sénégal

Un Peuple - Un But – Une Foi

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



MCAT

**Sixteenth edition of the Biennale of Contemporary African Art
scheduled from 19 November to 19 December 2026**

INTERNAL REGULATIONS



**BIENNALE
DE DAKAR**

LA BIENNALE DE L'ART AFRICAIN CONTEMPORAIN

I. THE BIENNALE OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART

STATUTE

Article 1: The Dakar Biennale of Contemporary African Art, placed under the aegis of the Ministry in charge of Culture of the Republic of Senegal, is an international artistic event dedicated to contemporary visual arts, bringing together African artists and/or from the diaspora, as well as professionals of contemporary art from all continents.

MISSIONS

Article 2: The Dakar Biennale has the following objectives:

- ✧ to support and foster creativity, promotion and dissemination of visual arts;
- ✧ to promote African visual artists and/or those from the diaspora on the international stage;
- ✧ to strengthen the presence of contemporary African art on the international art market;
- ✧ to contribute to a better understanding of African artistic thought, to the development of craft professions and publications on art and contemporary African artists.

Article 3: The Biennale of Contemporary African Art is organized by the General Secretariat, which is responsible for the practical implementation of the general framework defined by the Steering Committee and approved by the Minister in charge of Culture.

The General Secretariat has at its disposal resources provided by the Government of Senegal and its various partners. It is the technical body for managing human, material and financial resources, as well as the event's stakeholders, equipment and sites. As the administrator of funds, the Biennale's Secretary General is responsible for the event's financial management.

The Biennale's Secretary General, appointed by ministerial decree, relies on an Organizing Committee and an Artistic Direction under his authority, whose activities he coordinates.

II. THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE SIXTEENTH EDITION

STATUTE, ORGANIZATION AND MISSIONS

Article 4: The Steering Committee, whose members are appointed by the Minister in charge of Culture, has the mission to design the general framework, the modalities for implementation and the evaluation of the sixteenth edition of the Biennale of Contemporary African Art.

It guarantees the artistic content and ensures conformity control and evaluation of the event. It is the center of legitimization of the directions with respect to the various partners: artists, academics, intellectuals, cultural figures, business operators, patrons and various professionals in the world of Art.

The Steering Committee is chaired by a President and is composed of members chosen on the basis of their credibility and competence. The Biennale's Secretary General provides the permanent secretariat of the said Committee.

The term of office of the members of the Steering Committee ends upon submission of the evaluation report for the sixteenth edition of the Biennale.

III. THE SIXTEENTH EDITION OF THE CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART BIENNALE

DATES AND CONTENTS

Article 5: the sixteenth edition of the Biennale of Contemporary African Art will take place from November 19 to December 19, 2026 in Dakar. It will include the following activities:

- the official international exhibition of African artists and/or those from the diaspora;
- the exhibitions of national pavilions;
- the thematic exhibitions;
- exhibitions in tribute;
- special projects;
- scientific and professional meetings;
- educational and initiation programs;
- the publications;
- the animations at the Biennale village and in the cities;
- the film screenings on African contemporary art;
- the officially labeled collateral events;
- the environmental events on private initiatives commonly referred to as “Off Exhibitions”;

ARTISTIC PARTICIPATION MODALITIES

Article 6: Artists, individually or grouped in collectives, gallery managers and other stakeholders may organize large-scale events and so-called special projects in partnership with the General Secretariat of the Dakar Biennale. These events organized within the Biennale framework by third parties (artists, gallery owners, managers, museums and other institutions) are entirely the responsibility of their promoters. Depending on the interest of their content, they may be labeled and included in the general program of the Dakar 2026 Biennale, published by the General Secretariat of the Biennale.

Article 7: The official international exhibition of the sixteenth edition of the Dakar Biennale of Contemporary African Art is open only to African artists and/or those from the diaspora. They must submit a complete application file, consisting of the duly completed form and the required documents described below, to be sent by email to: opencall2026@biennale-dakar.org and by postal mail no later than June 15, 2026 to the General Secretariat of the Dakar Biennale, located at 19 Avenue Hassan II, 1st Floor. BP: 3865. Dakar, Senegal.

This file must include the following mandatory:

1. **Application form attached duly completed**
2. Statement of intent regarding the proposed works or project
3. Detailed curriculum vitae
4. Biography of a maximum of 20 to 25 lines, in French AND English

5. Two recent passport photos on a white background — high resolution
6. Scanned copy of passport, valid at least until June 30, 2027
7. 5 HD reproductions of the works (300 dpi / 30×50 cm, dated January 2025 at the latest) — with photographer's name and year of creation
8. Detailed technical sheet for each proposed work (title, dimensions, weight, volumes, year, techniques, materials, value, insurance value, origin and delivery addresses)
9. Portfolio and/or art magazine articles, critical texts, expert testimonials
10. Artist's letter of commitment (packaging, air freight templates, preparation timelines)

The **NON-RESPECT** of the ten (10) points mentioned above constitutes grounds for rejection of the submitted file. The absence of one of the nine constitutive points automatically excludes the candidate from the selection.

These documents are not returned to the artist after the deliberations of the International Selection Committee. They are deposited in the documentary fund of the Secretariat General of the Dakar Biennale.

The works proposed for selection are unpublished. They must not have been previously exhibited. No work that has already been sold will be considered for selection.

Any work selected and carried out on site with the financial support of the Dakar Biennale shall remain the property of the State of Senegal. If the artist covers all on-site creation costs, they are obliged to insure at their own expense the transport costs of the created work to its destination.

Applications must reach the Secretariat General of the Biennale of Contemporary African Art, located at 19 Hassan II Avenue, 1st Floor. P.O. Box: 3865, Dakar, Senegal, by email at opencall2026@biennaledakar.org and by postal mail no later than June 15, 2026.

MODALITIES FOR THE SELECTION OF WORKS AND THE AWARDING OF PRIZES

Article 8: The selection of works intended for the International Exhibition is carried out by the International Selection Committee composed of the Artistic Director, members of his/her curatorial team, and members of the Steering Committee. The Secretary General of the Biennale of Contemporary African Art participates in the selection proceedings.

The results of the final selection of the works are communicated as soon as possible.

The international jury for awarding the various prizes of the Dakar Biennale is composed of five members. The Secretary General of the Biennale of Contemporary African Art participates in the prize allocation proceedings as an observer.

The international jury is independent and different from the International Selection Committee. The Artistic Director and the invited curators are not members of the International Prize Allocation Jury.

The decisions of the International Prize Allocation Jury are final and binding.

Article 9: The selection of the works by artists to be the subject of a homage exhibition is entrusted to Senegalese curators under the supervision of the Secretary General, who may enlist any competencies (Artistic Director or others). The curators have the mission:

- the selection of works to be exhibited;
- drafting texts presenting the artists and their works to be published in the Biennale catalog;
- presenting their oral and written contributions within the framework of scientific and professional meetings;
- creation and installation of the artists' works exhibition in a space arranged for this purpose.

PRACTICAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO WORKS

Article 10: The works intended for the international exhibition and for individual exhibitions must be adequately packaged (see Article 7 of these internal regulations) and shipped in boxes with screwed lids to facilitate repackaging. They must be ready no later than one month after the artist is notified by the Secretariat General of the Dakar Biennale of the decision of the International Selection Committee.

Article 11: The Secretariat General of the Dakar Biennale reserves the right to not assume any responsibility regarding transport and insurance charges for packaging containing objects other than the selected works.

Article 12: The works are shipped to Dakar according to arrangements fixed by the Secretariat General of the Dakar Biennale, which covers the round-trip transport costs and insurance costs within Senegal.

Article 13: Any selected work may not be changed or withdrawn by the artist or any other person before the official closing of the Biennale edition.

Article 14: The Secretariat General of the Dakar Biennale reserves the right not to display a damaged work or one containing inscriptions, symbols or elements having a manifest, advertising, insulting character or that could offend the sensitivity or beliefs of a community.

Article 15: The hanging of the works is carried out by the technical team designated for this purpose by the Secretariat General of the Biennale. It will be carried out under the supervision of the Artistic Director and the Secretary General, for all exhibitions. The selected artists may be involved in this operation if needed.

PROVISIONS RELATING TO INVITEES

Article 16: official guests of the Biennale of contemporary African art are chosen at the sole discretion of the organizers. They receive an official invitation signed by the Minister in charge of Culture or by the Secretary General of the Biennale, which specifies the terms of this invitation.

The General Secretariat of the Dakar Biennale takes charge of guests' accommodation, their meals, and their internal transport between the different sites.

Note: No per diem or other allowances for guests are the responsibility of the Dakar Biennale General Secretariat.

Article 17: any person wishing to participate in the Dakar Biennale and not on the list of official guests is requested to submit the accreditation form or, once on site, to fill it with the technical commission set up for this purpose. This accreditation form is available on the Biennale's website.

AWARDS

Article 18: the prizes for the sixteenth edition of the Dakar Biennale are:

1. the Grand Prix "Léopold Sédar SENGHOR", sponsored by the President of the Republic of Senegal: it is awarded to the laureate of the Official International Exhibition.
2. the Revelation Prize, awarded by the Minister in charge of Culture: it recognizes the best young talent (not more than 35 years old) participating in the Official International Exhibition;
3. the prize awarded to the best artist-Designer of the Official International Exhibition;
4. the Prize of the Economic Community of West African States;
5. the Prize of the West African Economic and Monetary Union;

Many other prizes are awarded to participating artists by partners of the Biennale.

The Grand Prize "Léopold Sédar SENGHOR" and the "Revelation" Prize become the exclusive property of the Republic of Senegal.

Article 19: The awarding ceremony for the winners of the official international exhibition and the prize presentation take place on the occasion of the official opening ceremony of the sixteenth edition of the Biennale of Contemporary African Art.

FINAL PROVISION

Article 20: Participation in the sixteenth edition of the Dakar Biennale implies full and complete acceptance of these regulations. Every participant commits to respecting the laws and regulations in force on Senegalese territory.

Issued in Dakar on 15 April 2026

**The Secretary General of the Biennale
of Contemporary African Art**

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