

Art & Design Fair
October 23 — 25, 2026



Rachel Malaika
Courtesy OpenArtExchange

Press Kit

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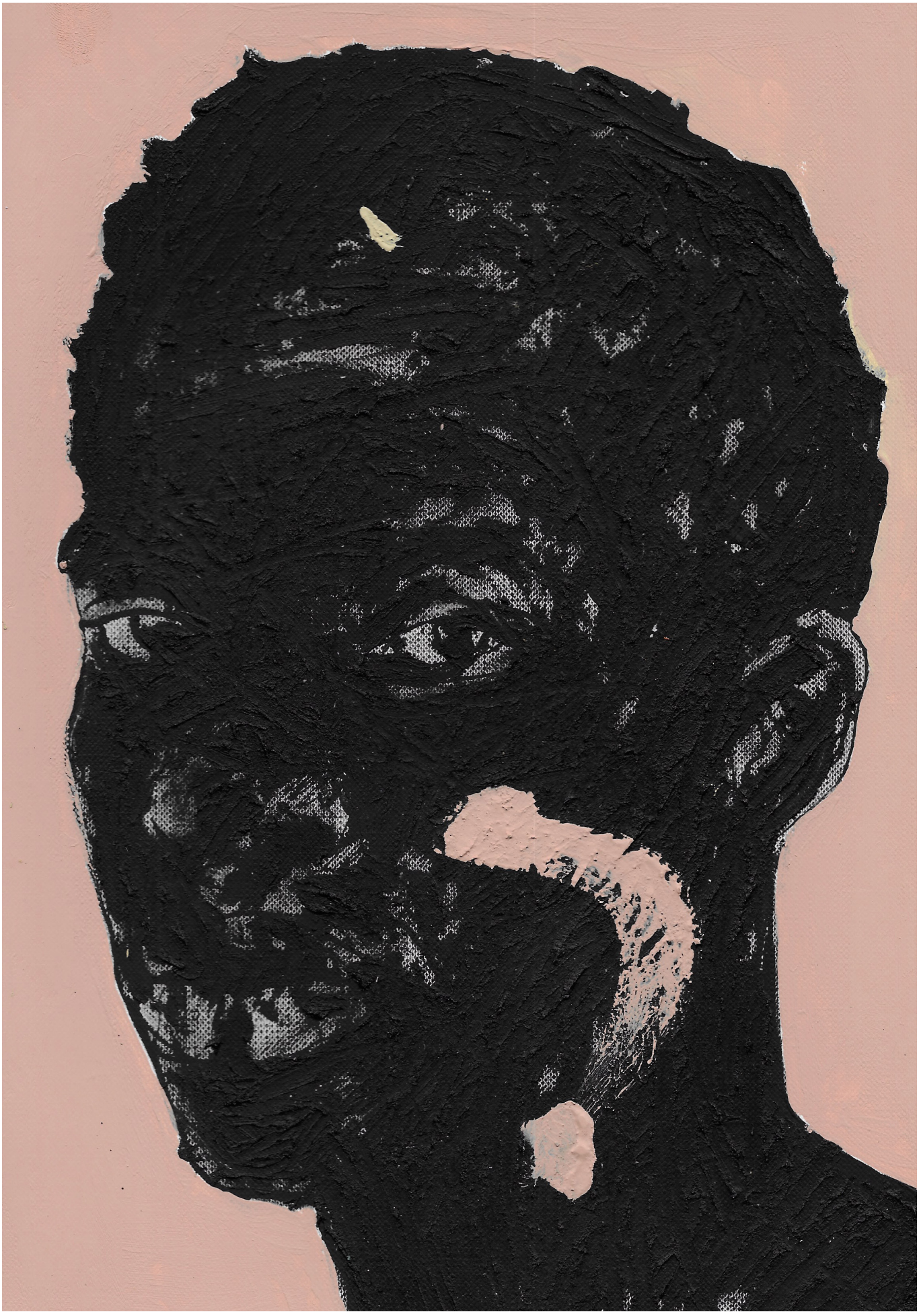


Amadeo Carvalho

Press Release

Also Known As Africa

AKAA, one of the flagship events of the *Paris Art Week*, will return from 23 to 25 October 2026 beneath the iconic glass canopy of the Carreau du Temple, bringing together collectors, art professionals, institutions, and enthusiasts of contemporary art from around the world.

Over the past decade, AKAA has established itself as a leading force in the development and structuring of the contemporary African art market. The fair has played a pivotal role in supporting the emergence of artists who have since become prominent figures both within African artistic landscapes and on the international stage. This evolution reflects the growing maturity of the sector, the continual expansion of its global collector base, and the increasing recognition and visibility of the artists it champions.

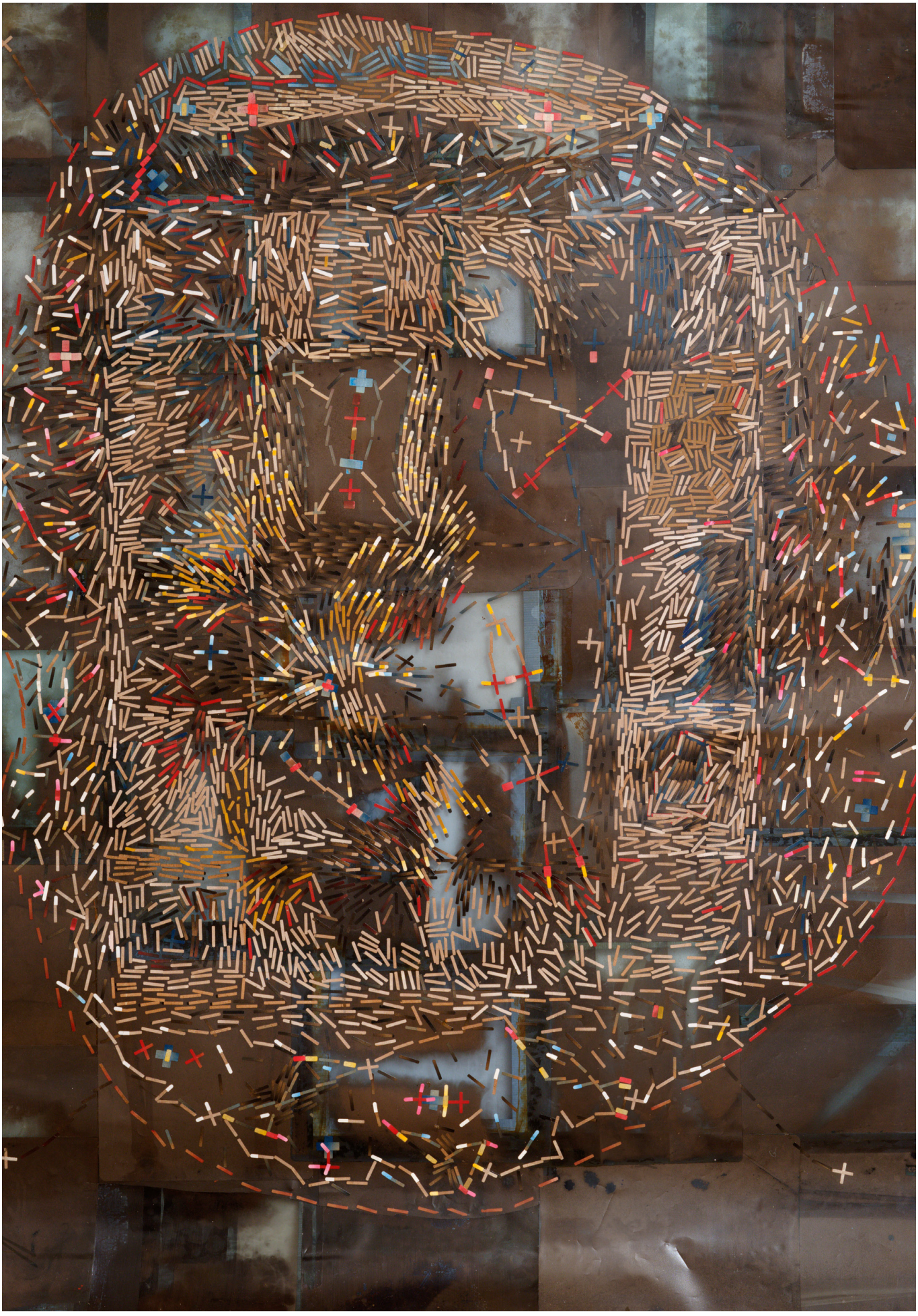
Under Sitor Senghor's artistic direction, AKAA remains committed to fostering a rigorous and dynamic dialogue among artists, galleries, collectors, curators, and institutions. The fair continues to challenge and enrich prevailing perspectives while encouraging the renewal of narratives, approaches, and critical discourses surrounding contemporary African and Afro-descendant artistic practices.

For its 2026 edition, AKAA will place a special focus on photography, marking the bicentenary of the invention of the medium. Through a curated selection of artists, the fair will explore the transformative power of photography as a tool for memory, identity, and representation, while examining emerging forms of visual storytelling that are redefining contemporary creation.

The programme will be further enriched by *Les Rencontres AKAA*, the fair's renowned cultural platform, which will host a vibrant series of talks, performances, screenings, and debates. Artists, curators, thinkers, and art market professionals will come together to engage with the major questions shaping contemporary African creation and its growing influence on the global cultural landscape.

AKAA reaffirms its mission to promote the visibility, circulation, and recognition of African and Afro-descendant artists on an international scale. Drawing on its history, expertise, and extensive network, the fair continues to serve as a privileged space for discovery, exchange, and opportunity, connecting artists, galleries, collectors, and art world professionals across continents.

Following the remarkable success of its anniversary edition, AKAA returns for its 11th edition with renewed ambition and an ever-expanding international outlook. We look forward to welcoming you from 23 to 25 October 2026 at the Carreau du Temple for an edition that promises to further consolidate the fair's position as a leading reference in the field of contemporary African art.



EDITORIAL

Never before have we lived amid such an abundance of images. They cascade endlessly across our screens, capturing our attention, shaping our perceptions, seducing, informing, and at times deceiving us. Real or fabricated, retouched or generated, they contribute to a visual landscape in which the boundary between reality and representation grows increasingly porous. Who could have imagined, two centuries ago, that an invention born from light would also become a vehicle for propaganda, misinformation, and competing versions of truth? In this culture of perpetual visibility, one question remains: have we forgotten how to truly see?

Yet photography is far more than the ceaseless circulation of images. It remains, at its essence, an act of attention—a way of suspending time and revealing what might otherwise go unnoticed. Through the photographer's gaze, the grace of a face emerges, the majesty of a landscape unfolds, the poetry of an ordinary street is revealed, and the silent eloquence of architecture becomes tangible. While countless images pass before our eyes and disappear, others endure. They stay with us. They question us. They look back at us as much as we look at them.

As we commemorate the bicentenary of photography, it felt both natural and necessary to turn our attention towards Africa and its diasporas—not as territories to be interpreted or explained, but as inexhaustible reservoirs of imagination, memory, and vision. For generations, photographers from the continent and across its diasporic communities have forged a remarkable visual archive, documenting the transformations of societies and the complexities of lived experience. Their images bear witness to independence movements and urban transformations, to reinvented traditions and youthful aspirations, to collective memory and cultural resilience.

Through their work, we encounter the pulse of a world that is at once diverse, dynamic, and profoundly interconnected. We glimpse the intimacy of family life, the energy of expanding cities, the traces of history inscribed in landscapes and bodies, the elegance of everyday gestures, the joy of celebration, the reality of struggle, and the persistence of hope. Above all, these photographs offer a multiplicity of perspectives that challenge simplification and resist singular narratives. They remind us that imagination remains one of the most powerful tools through which we understand ourselves and others.

This exhibition does not seek to provide a comprehensive survey. Rather, it offers an invitation: an invitation to encounter a selection of stories, emotions, and fragments of experience capable of awakening curiosity and inspiring further exploration. It is an invitation to slow our gaze, to question inherited assumptions, and to embrace new ways of seeing the world.

Photography continues to possess a rare and precious power: the power to transform our perception.

Behind every image lies a world. Behind every gaze, a story. And within the beauty that traverses these works—whether radiant or discreet—resides the possibility of a deeper understanding: of others, of ourselves, and of the many realities that connect us.

— Sitor Senghor
Artistic Director



THE SELECTION COMMITTEE



Elana BRUNDYN | CAPE TOWN

Elana Brundyn is a leading fine art and cultural consultant based in Cape Town, South Africa, with more than two decades of experience at the highest levels of the international art world. She played a pivotal role in the launch of two of Africa's most significant cultural institutions, Zeitz MOCAA and the Norval Foundation. Recognised for her ability to foster meaningful cultural dialogue, she works at the intersection of corporations, collectors, artists, curators, and institutions worldwide. Elana currently serves on several boards, including the In Residence Foundation, Aspire Art, and the Stellenbosch Outdoor Sculpture Trust, and sits on the Standard Bank Visual Arts Committee. She is also the founder of Art House Collection, an initiative that combines curated luxury accommodation with purpose-driven travel and immersive art experiences. With a career spanning museum building, cultural business strategy, and leadership, Elana brings a unique perspective on how art can shape legacy, purpose, and global dialogue.



Frédérique CHAPUIS | PARIS

Frédérique Chapuis has devoted most of her professional career to photography and to the promotion of image-based artistic practices. A journalist at Télérama for more than three decades, she has consistently championed artists and photographic scenes that have remained underrepresented. She contributed to the conception and production of The Anthology of African Photography with Revue Noire and founded the association Marie-Louise & Fils, dedicated to the promotion of African photographers. A discoverer of overlooked talents such as Oumar Ly and Adama Sylla, she has led masterclasses bringing together photographers and professional journalists from across the African continent. She has also worked extensively to highlight and preserve the photographic archives of African studio photographers. Today, she collaborates with the collective Lost Memory Archive Senegal, which is dedicated to safeguarding and preserving Senegalese photographic studios.

THE SELECTION COMMITTEE



Mamadou-Abou SARR | CHICAGO

Mamadou-Abou Sarr is an international financier, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He is the co-founder and President of V-Square Quantitative Management, a Chicago-based investment firm specializing in quantitative investing. Beyond finance, Mamadou is deeply engaged in philanthropy and civic leadership, serving on the boards of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and the Nature Conservancy Illinois Chapter, among others. He is also the co-founder of the Sarr Prize, established in partnership with Les Beaux-Arts and Villa Albertine to support artistic excellence. In recognition of his contributions to the arts, the French government honored him as a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres) in 2022.



Eve THEROND | NEW YORK

Eve Therond is an independent art advisor, writer, and curator based in New York, with a distinctive expertise in contemporary African art and its diasporas. Over the past 15 years, she has established herself as a trusted voice in the art world, blending her journalistic background with a keen intuition to identify outstanding artists and curate distinguished art collections worldwide. She has played a key role in the development of the Sindika Dokolo Collection, one of the most prominent collections of African art. She previously co-founded and served as Editor-in-Chief of Whitewall, a leading contemporary art magazine, further solidifying a reputation for connecting artists, collectors, and cultural institutions. Her work reflects a deep commitment to championing cultural diversity, and empowering underrepresented voices in the creative industry.



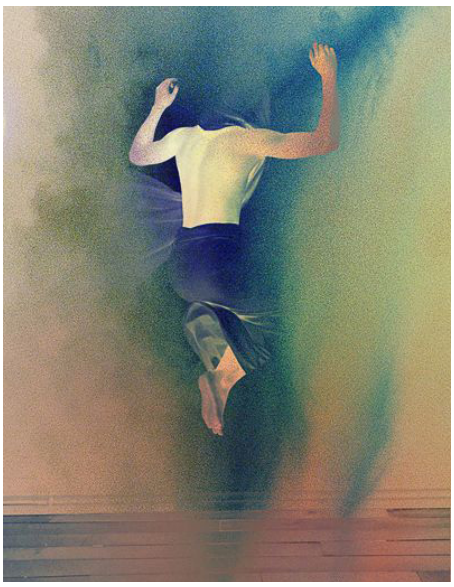
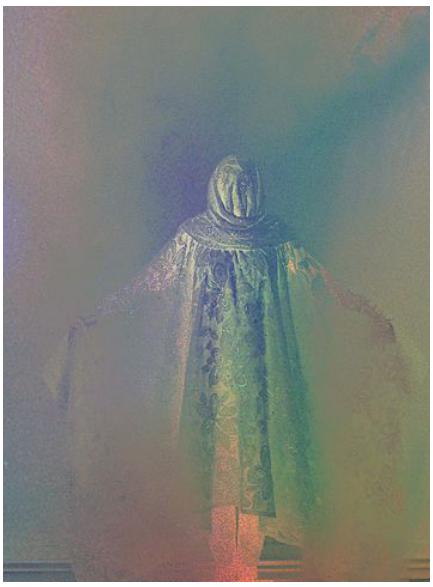
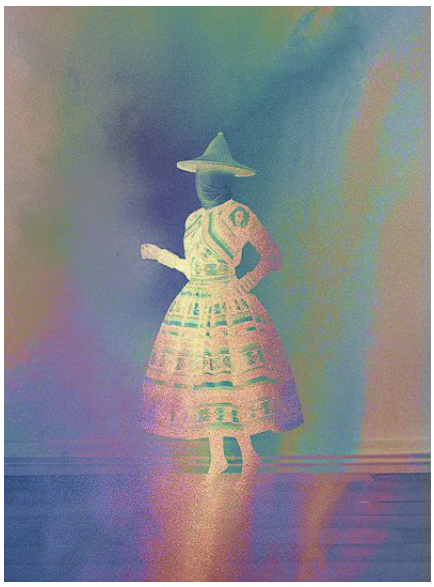
Ousseynou WADE | DAKAR

Ousseynou Wade, advisor to the Director of the Museum of Black Civilisations in Dakar, is a specialist in cultural policy and arts management. A former technical advisor to the Ministry of Culture, he served as Secretary General of the Dakar Biennale for six editions. Through his role in organizing the Biennale, he has followed and supported numerous artists from across the African continent and its diaspora. The event has also fostered major international exchanges, including creative residencies dedicated to design and symposia focused on the development of art criticism in Africa. Committed to nurturing critical reflection on contemporary African art, he founded Afrik'Arts, a journal that has encouraged critical writing on contemporary African art while documenting artistic developments across the continent.



Mother's Heritage by Gabriel Dia

MONUMENTAL INSTALLATION

In resonance with the prominent place given to contemporary photography throughout its 11th edition, AKAA presents a Monumental Installation by Senegalese photographer Gabriel Dia, centred on his series *Mother's Heritage.*

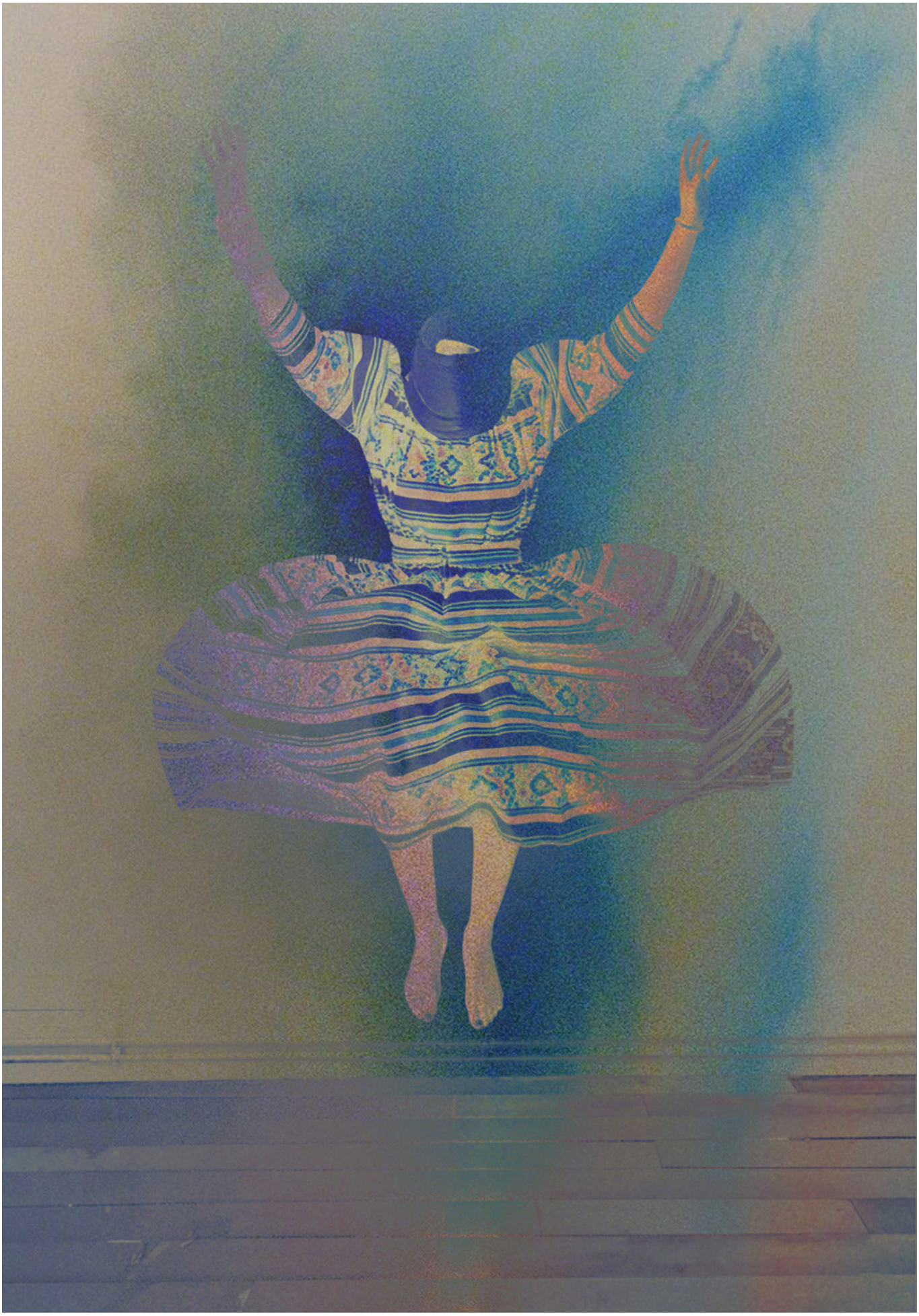
Conceived as an immersive experience, the installation unfolds through a series of large-scale photographs printed on fabric and suspended throughout the space. Inspired by the artist's childhood memories, the scenography evokes garments hanging from clotheslines, transforming each image into a fragment of memory suspended between presence and remembrance.

With *Mother's Heritage,* Gabriel Dia, born in 1985 in Rufisque, Senegal, explores questions of identity, transmission and reconciliation with oneself.

The series originates from an intimate memory: that of the traditional garments made by his mother in her sewing workshop. As a child, the artist was fascinated by these clothes and would secretly try them on, drawn to garments reserved for women. This formative experience, marked by misunderstanding and stigma, now informs a sensitive reflection on the social constructions of gender, self-acceptance and the cultural legacies that shape individual trajectories.

By revisiting these fabrics, patterns and silhouettes several decades later, Gabriel Dia enters into a dialogue with his family history while questioning the norms that continue to shape bodies and identities. Through this deeply personal work, he also celebrates the aesthetic and symbolic richness of African textiles and the craftsmanship associated with them, both of which are increasingly threatened by the growing standardisation of clothing practices.

At the intersection of personal memory and collective narrative, *Mother's Heritage* explores notions of belonging, transmission and emancipation. By wearing these feminine garments, the artist raises questions about his own identity and speaks with subtlety of all those who are compelled to conceal their difference in societies where homosexuality remains condemned.



With this new edition, Sitor Senghor extends an invitation to navigate the fair through a renewed lens, engaging in a journey that is at once sensory, intellectual, and emotional. Conceived as a space of discovery and exchange, the fair offers an immersive experience where artistic practices, narratives, and viewpoints resonate beyond their boundaries and invite deeper reflection.

THE MEMORY OF PAPER

Paper is far more than a support for sketches or preparatory studies. It is often the site of first intuitions, where ideas take shape in their most immediate form and where emotion is captured with remarkable directness. On paper, the artist's gesture remains at its most spontaneous and unfiltered, revealing the strength of a line, the rhythm of a movement, and the intimacy of the creative process. It offers a privileged insight into artistic thinking, tracing the delicate space where imagination first becomes visible.

In keeping with its commitment to spotlighting a different medium each year, and following its focus on ceramics in 2025, AKAA dedicates its 2026 edition to works on paper. Long considered secondary to painting or sculpture, works on paper have today achieved full recognition as autonomous artistic expressions in their own right. Drawing, ink, collage, mixed media, paper cutting, and other experimental practices demonstrate the extraordinary richness and versatility of the medium, which accommodates both instinctive gestures and highly elaborate forms of creation.

Within contemporary African and Afro-descendant artistic practices, paper occupies a particularly significant place. Many artists turn to the medium as a space for exploration and reflection, addressing themes of memory, identity, transmission, language, territory, and belonging. Its flexibility allows archives, personal narratives, symbols, patterns, and contemporary imaginaries to coexist within works where formal experimentation is inseparable from critical engagement with the world.

Paper also possesses a singular quality of proximity. Intimate in scale and often deeply personal in nature, works on paper invite a close and attentive encounter with the artist's vision. They offer collectors a unique opportunity to engage directly with an artist's practice, revealing processes, ideas, and sensibilities that are sometimes less visible in larger-scale works.

Accessible yet profound, modest in material yet limitless in possibility, works on paper embody a field of remarkable creative freedom. Through this focus, AKAA invites visitors and collectors alike to discover the vitality, diversity, and innovation that continue to shape contemporary artistic creation across Africa and its diasporas.

— Sitor Senghor
Artistic Director



Nasreddine Bennacer

MAIN SECTION | INTERNATIONAL **EXHIBITORS & ARTISTS**

Alejandra Topete Gallery | Mexico
- Claribel CALDERIUS (Cuba)
- Badara NDIAYE (Senegal)
- Anji WOODLEY (South Africa)

Annie Kadji Art Gallery | Douala
- Aurelie DJENA (Cameroon)
- Alioum MOUSSA (Cameroon)

ARTBASE | Wiesbaden, Berlin
- Aliou DIACK (Senegal)

Arte de Gema | Maputo
- MULALENE (Mozambique)
- Thandi PINTO (Mozambique)

BACKSLASH | Paris
- Fahamu PECOU (United States)
- Duncan WYLIE (Zimbabwe)

By Lara Sedbon | Paris
- Midegbeyan OJISUA (Nigeria)

Casa Vicência | Paris
- Amadeo CARAVALHO (Cape Verde)

Ceysson & Bénétière | Paris, Saint-Étienne, Luxembourg, Geneva, New York, Lyon, Panéry, Tokyo
- Ernest BRELEUR (Martinique)

Constellations Gallery | Brussels
- Angeline MASUKU (South Africa)
- Jabulile NOLA (South Africa)
- KEISKAMMA ART PROJECT (South Africa)

Galerie AFRIQUE | Paris, Ramatuelle
- *Anonymous artists*

Galerie Carole Kvasnevski | Paris, New York
- Gopal DAGNOGO (Côte d'Ivoire)

Galerie Chauvy | Paris
- Soly CISSÉ (Senegal)
- Paterne DOKOU (Benin)
- Sheila FUSEINI (Ghana)
- Armin KANE (Senegal)

Galerie Frédéric Roulette | Paris
- As M'BENGUE (Sénegal)

Galerie Olivier Waltman | Paris
- Stevens DOSSOU-YOVO (France)
- Dayron GONZALEZ (Cuba)
- Ange Arthur KOUA (Côte d'Ivoire)

Galerie Vallois | Paris
- Youss ATACORA (Benin)
- Epaphras TOÏHEN (Benin)
- Elyse TOKOUDAGBA (Benin)
- Dominique ZINKPÈ (Benin)

Galleria Anna Marra | Rome
- Turiya MAGADLELA (South Africa)
- Dana ZVULUN (Tanzania)

GOWEN Gallery | Geneva
- Ako ATIKOSSIE (Togo)

Intérieurs Particuliers | Paris
- Laurent JASMIN (Martinique)

La Maison Gaston | Petit-Bourg
- Alice-Anne AUGUSTIN (Guadeloupe)
- Izae ETIFIER (Martinique)
- Sylvia EUSTACHE ROOLS (Martinique)

LOFT3 GALLERY | Harare
- Hloniphani Noah DIALO DUBE (Zimbabwe)
- Mukudzei MUZONDO (Zimbabwe)
- Gillian ROSELLI (Zimbabwe)

Loo & Lou Gallery | Paris
- Anele PAMA (South Africa)

OOA GALLERY | Barcelona
- JOMAD (Martinique)
- Médéric TURAY (Côte d'Ivoire)

OpenArtExchange | Schiedam
- Sebastien BOKO (Benin)
- Rachel MALAIKA (DR Congo)

Paris-B | Paris
- Souleimane BARRY (Burkina Faso)

Primo Marella Gallery | Milan, Lugano
- Joël ANDRIANOMEARISOA (Madagascar)
- Amani BODO (DR Congo)
- Godwin CHAMPS (Uganda)
- Tegene KUNBI (Ethiopia)
- Samuel NNOROM (Nigeria)

quand les fleurs nous sauvent | Paris
- Olivié KECK (South Africa)
- Michaela YOUNGE (South Africa)

The Norm | Paris
- Morné VISAGIE (South Africa)

Umoja Art Gallery | Kampala
- Eltayeb DAWELBAIT (Sudan)
- Pamela ENYONU (Uganda)
- Babirye ERINAH (Uganda)



AKAA PHOTO | INTERNATIONAL **EXHIBITORS & ARTISTS**

Arts Design Africa Studio | Paris
- Gabriel DIA (Senegal)

Atelier 9 | Bangkok
- Charlotte BRATHWAITE & Malick WELLI (Senegal)

FILAFRIQUES | Geneva, Abidjan
- Gavin GOODMAN (South Africa)

Fisheye Gallery | Paris, Arles
- Delphine DIALLO (France)

Galerie Carole Kvasnevski | Paris, New York
- Angèle ETOUNDI ESSAMBA (Cameroon)
- Zanele MUHOLI (South Africa)

in camera galerie | Paris
- Paul KODJO (Côte d'Ivoire)

Les Filles du Calvaire | Paris
- Maya Inès TOUAM (Algeria)

Magnin-A | Paris
- Omar Victor DIOP (Senegal)
- Kiripi KATEMBO (France, Benin)
- Fabrice MONTEIRO (DR Congo)

THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE | Lisbon
- Dagmar VAN WEEGHEL (Netherlands)



Malick Welli x Charlotte Brathwaite
Courtesy Atelier 9 Bangkok



ellipse **price**

AKAA RENEWS ITS COMMITMENT TO EMERGING ARTISTS WITH ELLIPSE ART PROJECTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELLIPSE PRIZE



Maria Adjovi, ***Rien ne pousse dans le ciment,*** 2026, 30x30cm, oil on canva

ellipse art projects was established in 2020 at the initiative of Ellipse Projects, a European company specializing in cutting-edge infrastructure in the healthcare and digital sectors, with a particular presence across Africa.

As a genuine driver of sustainable development, fostering both economic growth and social inclusion, culture is nevertheless weakened by the lack of support for artists, initiatives, and organizations dedicated to its promotion, dissemination, and preservation.

Building on the geographical footprint of its founding company, Ellipse Projects, the ellipse art projects endowment fund aims to encourage exchanges across territories through art, promoting the sharing of knowledge and dialogue between cultures.

The ellipse Prize 5th Anniversary Exhibition

The ellipse Prize is a traveling visual arts competition dedicated to emerging artists from a different territory with each edition. The initiative seeks to foster collective awareness through the messages conveyed by artists, in connection with the annual theme.

In 2026, to celebrate the Prize's fifth anniversary, the ellipse art projects endowment fund is organizing a group exhibition bringing together the five Prize winners and eighteen finalists who have shaped each edition. Curated by Sitor Senghor and the EAP team, the exhibition will take place from 15 to 31 October 2026 at 62 Rue Charlot, 75003 Paris, France. The works of the five finalist photographers will also be exhibited at AKAA as part of AKAA PHOTO.

This anniversary project aims to celebrate the artists supported over the past five years while reaffirming the founding values of ellipse art projects: fostering dialogue between artistic scenes, encouraging mobility, and expanding artists' access to professional networks.

Featuring : *Nauld Adjahuime, Maria Adjovi, Théophany Adoh, Assoukrou Aké, Dela Anyah, Parmenas Awudza, Kha Bamba, Reginald Boateng, Sena Burgundy, Cynthia Colney, Clément Gbegno, Khalifa Hussein, Nobel Koty, Marcel Kpoho, Keren Lasme, Ismaël Mahamadou Laouli, Aly Mazeh, Atelier Ndokette, Nana Frimpong Oduro, Ras Sankara, Koffi Seble, Emmanuel Aggrey Tieku, Thierry Tomety.*



Koffi Seble

Micro-Folie | Guadeloupe-Martinique-Guyane Collection

IN SPRING 2026, THE MICRO-FOLIE PROGRAMME LAUNCHED THE 21ST COLLECTION OF ITS DIGITAL MUSEUM, DEDICATED TO GUADELOUPE, MARTINIQUE AND FRENCH GUIANA



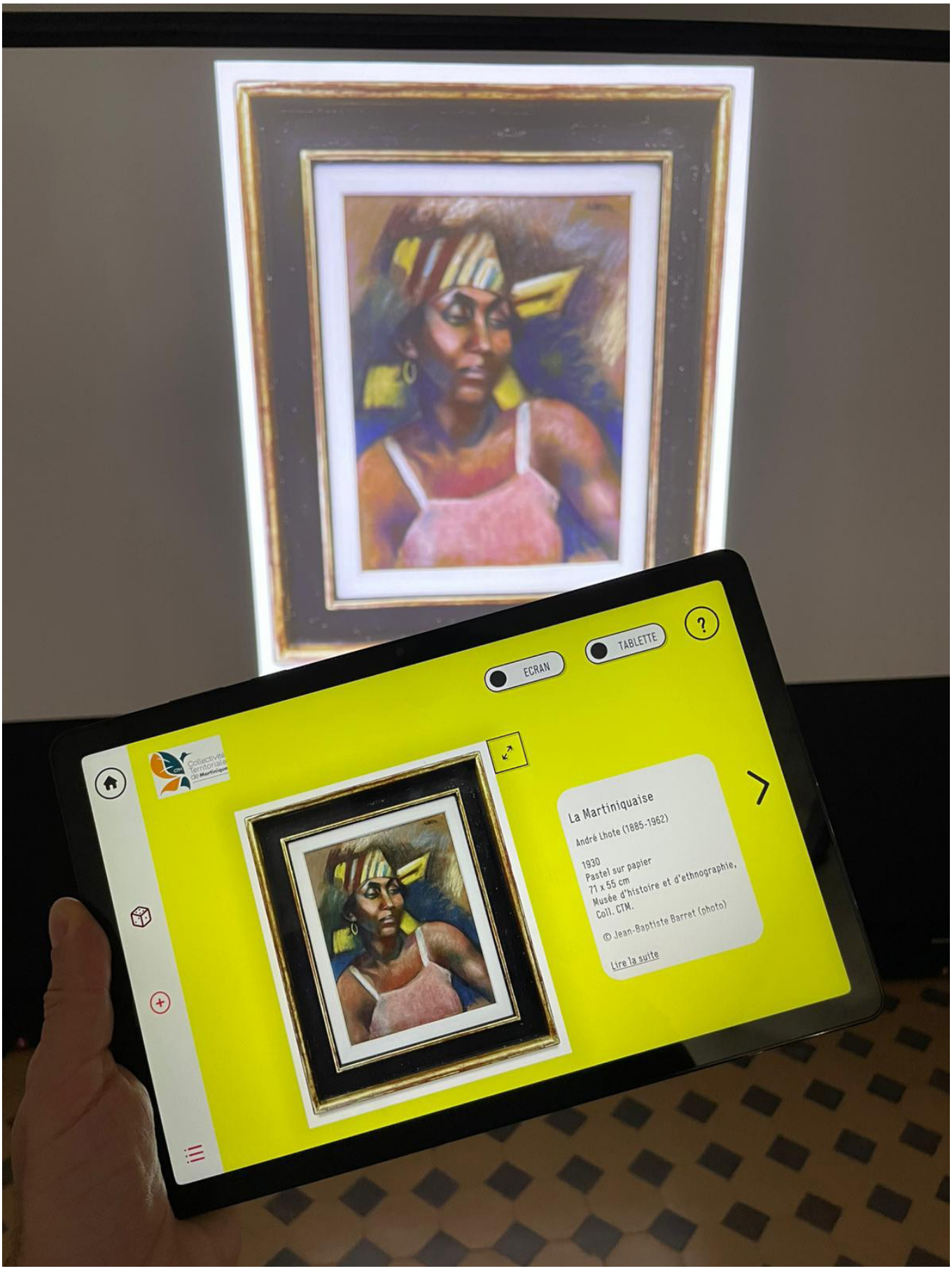
Decorative Paddle, Mr. Awasaï Abollo (donor) © Municipalityde Saint-Laurent du Maroni

Launched nearly ten years ago, the Micro-Folie network will reach its initial target of 700 venues operating across France and around the world this year. Each Micro-Folie is unique: some are housed in media libraries, community hubs, cinemas, or social centres; others travel through rural villages, while some welcome young audiences at the Alliance Française in Nairobi, Kenya.

Coordinated by the teams at La Villette, this cultural platform offers an ever-evolving programme through the Digital Museum's collections and a wide range of special events. From Peru to the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region of France, this professional network is brought to life every day by more than a thousand cultural mediators, who can just as easily lead an engaging thematic tour of the Digital Museum as organize a custom T-shirt printing workshop for residents of a retirement home.

Micro-Folie partners with AKAA to offer visitors the opportunity to discover the Digital Museum, the core of every Micro-Folie. Bringing together several thousand artworks from leading museums and cultural institutions, this digital art gallery offers an innovative cultural experience designed to spark curiosity. Fine arts, architecture, science and technology, performing arts, and contemporary creation come together to open a gateway to the richness and diversity of humanity's cultural heritage.

In Spring 2026, the Micro-Folie programme unveiled the 21st Collection of its Digital Museum, dedicated to Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Guiana. Conceived through a collaborative partnership, this Collection brings together nearly 250 works from the three territories, made possible through the participation of 23 partner institutions. The combined efforts of the three guest curators, the Regional Directorates for Cultural Affairs (DAC) of Guadeloupe and Martinique, the Directorate for Culture, Youth and Sports (DCJS) of French Guiana, and La Villette resulted in the creation of the first overseas territories Collection in the history of the Micro-Folie network. Through contemporary Creole art, the legacies of Indigenous cultures, and works engaging with the history of slavery, the Collection weaves a vibrant dialogue between cultures, narratives, and collective memories. It highlights a diversity of perspectives that intersect and enrich one another.The Guadeloupe–Martinique–French Guiana Collection celebrates the richness and plurality of territories shaped by distinct historical trajectories. It invites audiences to discover cultures that are both unique and interconnected, opening spaces for rediscovery, transmission, and shared understanding. As visitors move through the works, they are encouraged to explore both the singularities and the common threads that unite these three territories.



André Lhote
La Martiniquaise (1930), Museum of History and

USEFUL INFORMATION

Also Known As Africa

Art & Design Fair
October 23 — 25 , 2026

Location :
Carreau du Temple
4 Rue Eugène Spuller, 75003 Paris

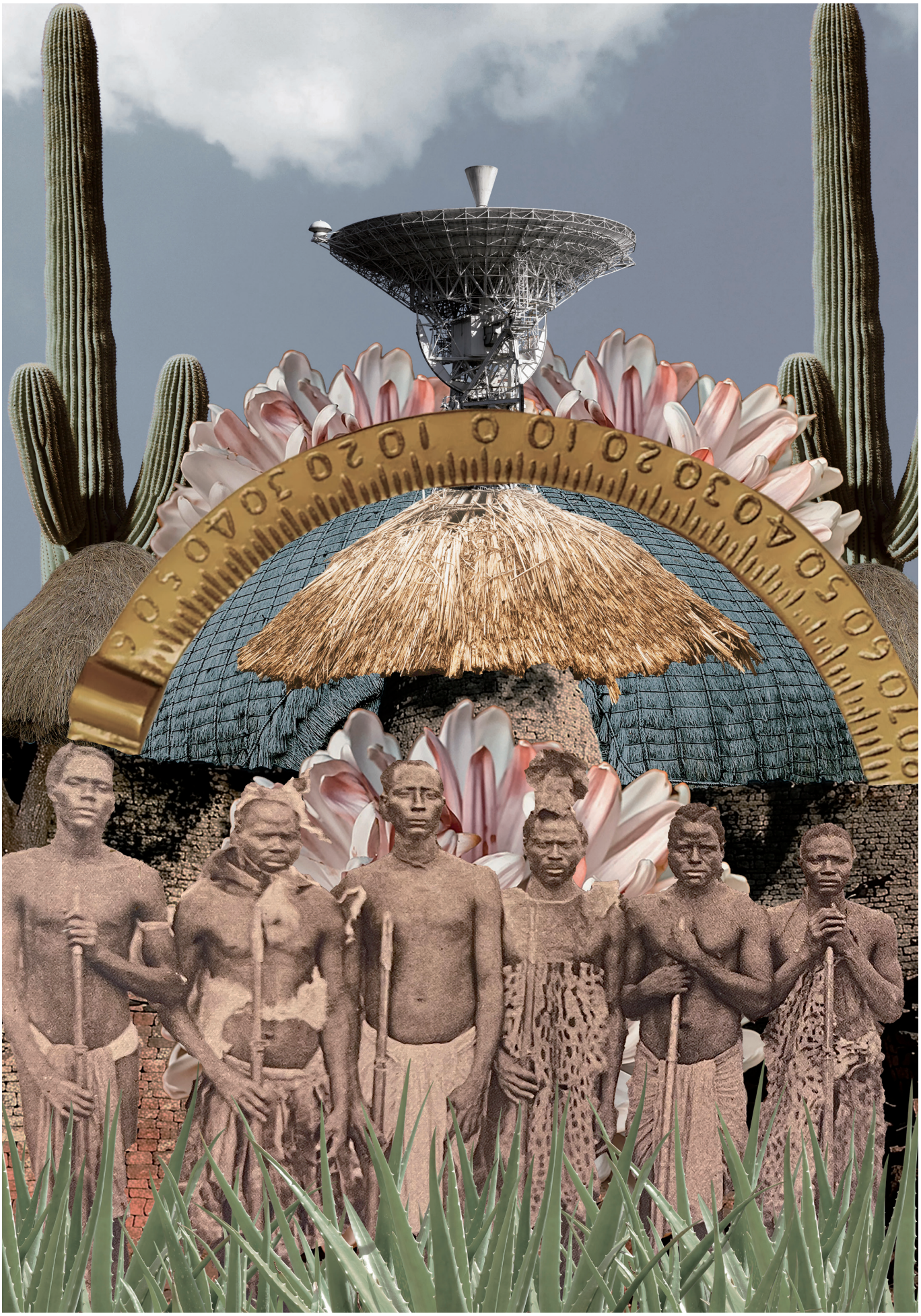
AKAA.COM

@AKAA_FAIR

Hours :
VIP HOURS
October 22, 2026 : 2 : 30 PM – 10 PM
Oct. 23, 24 & 25 : 11 AM – 12 PM
(invitation only)

DATES & OPENING HOURS
October 23, 2026 : 12 PM – 8 PM
October 24, 2026 : 12 PM – 8 PM
October 25, 2026 : 12 PM – 6 PM

Tickets prices :
Full-price ticket : 16 €
Reduced-price ticket : 11 €



TEAM & CONTACTS



Victoria Mann
Director



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Associate Director



Sitor Senghor
Artistic Director



Soline Ferly
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