

Condition Report

symposium on building
art institutions in Africa
Dakar January 18-20 2012



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center for art, knowledge and society

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WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2012

08:45-09:30 Registration & Coffee
09:30-10:00 Welcome & Orientation
Koyo Kouoh

KEYNOTE

FOR A HISTORY OF INDEPENDENT ART SPACES
Abdellah Karroum

10:00-10:45

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The art scene in Africa is growing mainly on impetus of independent initiatives. The project spaces which are resisting the strongest to populist, regionalist and speculative developments are those who work closest to the artists and in relation with the implications of the works – both in search of a vocabulary that links them to the society and on the platforms and networks whose capital is invested more in the content of the works than in their market value. The issue of independent spaces is needed more than ever in the current context. The establishment of independent art organizations is an approach that is nourished by individual or collective initiatives. The revival in artistic practice in general can be read through the efforts of private initiatives on a national and global level, as well as through the transmission of knowledge from a private circle to the public realm. Exhibition/Residency sites as well as discursive and publishing sites respond to a need to produce as many expressions as meeting places for exchange and confrontation.
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CHAPTER 1

ACTORS, AGENTS & MAINSTREAM

Session I
ESTABLISHING ART SPACES AND THE CHALLENGES
OF THE ENVIRONMENT

10:45-12:45

– Artist [Amadou Kane Sy](#), will talk about the concept of the holistic art project Portes et Passages, set up in Mbodiène – 90km south of Dakar. The project aims at working in rural areas and takes into consideration ecological and social issues.

– Video and film based artist [Fatou Kandé Senghor](#) gives an account on establishing Waru Studio, a site for collaborative work among video and film artists.

– [Marion Louisgrand](#), founder and chief curator at Kër Thioossane will address the programmatic orientation of the villa for art and multimedia.

– [Mauro Petroni](#) provides a narrative retrospective of Céramiques Almadies, an international ceramic workshop and alternative exhibition and production space. He will also speak about his role as curatorial advisor to one of the major patrons of the arts in Senegal; the engineering company Eiffage.

Respondent *Artist and social activist Viyé Diba will frame the history or artistic engagement in Senegal and highlight the urgency for art professionals to address political issues.*

Moderator *Writer and Cultural producer Oumar Sall, contextualizes the Senegalese artistic climate and introduces the collaborative platform Adafest*

Lunch break

THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2012

CHAPTER 2

REMAINS OF THE DAYS

09:00-11:30 Site visits (optional)
Institut Français, Dakar Biennale, National Gallery,
Goethe Institut, British Council

IMPULSE SPEECH

12:15-13:00 OLD QUESTIONS, NEW ANSWERS?
NEW CARTOGRAPHIES IN KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION
Françoises Vergès

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Social Scientist Vergès presents a series of notions that were used to conceptualize a museum on Île de la Réunion, a small island in the Indian Ocean, on an African-Asian axis without a precolonial past.

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Lunch break

14:15-15:45 Session V
WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
THE OBJECTIVES OF FOREIGN CULTURAL
REPRESENTATIONS

Uwe Rieken, Director Goethe Institut Dakar, Alban Corbier-Labasse, Director Institut Français, Eric Lawrie, Director British Council, Antonio Perez-Hernandez, Cultural Attaché Spanish Embassy and Coordinator Instituto Cervantes, Christine Stewart, American Center will provide answers to this simple question.

Moderator Specialist of foreign cultural institutions Koyo Kouoh will add a critical reading of national representations

Short break

16:00-18:00 Session VI
OMNIPOTENCE AND OMNIPRESENCE:
THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF SERVING THE NATION
THROUGH THE ARTS

Ousseynou Wade (Dakar Biennale), Fatou Bintou Sarr (National Gallery of Dakar), Samuel Sidibe (Musée National du Mali), Raphael Chikukwa (National Gallery of Zimbabwe), Daouda Diarra (Ecole des Arts, Dakar), Awa Cheikh Diouf Camara (Maison de la Culture Douta Seck)
Each tell us how it is to promote art and educate future artists from a government perspective

Moderator Independent curator N'Goné Fall will bring in her experience with working with these institutions

19:30 Reception at the residence of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany (by invitation only)
dress code: smart casual

FRIDAY 20 JANUARY 2012

IMPULSE SPEECH

09:00-09:45

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In the spring of 2009 Dakar experienced an unprecedented political change at the local government level. For the first time in the city's political history, the government was led by an opposition coalition that sets out to thoroughly change the articulations and operational methods of supporting the arts. Oumar Ndao, Director of Culture and Tourism for the city of Dakar presents the municipal grand plan for public-private partnerships in the arts.
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CHAPTER 3

AREA STUDIES

09:45-11:30
Session VII
NEW-YORK, VISBY, RIO DE JANEIRO, ISTANBUL

- [Anton Vidokle](#) will speak about poetics and politics of distribution of art and ideas through projects such as e-flux journal, United Nation Plaza, Time/Bank and more.
- Taking its cue from the term Third Stream Music – a musical genre that defines the synthesis of classical music and Jazz – Third Streaming makes art, fashion, music, design, food and business collide in the streets of New-York. [Yona Backer](#) tells us all about it.
- [Livia Paldi](#) will speak about the Baltic Art Center (BAC) and how her diverse past involvements and working in different cultural and institutional environments support her future plans.
- [Marcio Botner](#) will present the artist led production site and gallery A Gentil Carioca. As illustrated by its exhibition history, one of the gallery's main aspirations resides in the nurturing and diffusion of artistic practices aware of their social, cultural, and institutional surroundings. A Gentil Carioca is also seen as a social hub, allowing artists and guests from various backgrounds to gather and create a global cultural movement aiming far beyond marketing considerations and local political debates.
- [Vasif Kortun](#) will interpret the case of institutional transformation in Istanbul of the last decade through his engagement with projects such as the Istanbul Biennial, Platform, Proje4L and SALT. The analysis will pivot around institutions' possibility of producing new reality and their shelf-lives.

11:30-12:30
Session VIII
CASE STUDY: NORWAY

Introduced by Marta Kuzma (Office of Contemporary Art) and featuring Linus Elmes (UKS), Mohamed Fadlabi (independent curator), Anne Szefer-Karlsen (Hordaland Art Centre), Jet Pascua (Small Projects) and Steffen Håndlykken and Stian Eide Kluge (1857). This case study will lay out a grass roots impulse that is assuming the scene of contemporary art and how it relates to international exchange.

Lunch break

Session IX
BRUSSELS, SEOUL, RIO DE JANEIRO/ZURICH, BERLIN

14:00-15:30

– Using the structure of the different departments of WIELS and the relations between them as starting point, Dirk Snauwaert addresses the changing functions of a 'Kunsthalle' or institution for temporary exhibitions. All functions of a Kunsthalle are still oriented toward the temporary display of material artworks – as was the case in its historic precursor, the 'Salon' – rather than in immaterial aspects exploring art practice, ideas, esthetic experience and discourse.

– Sunjung Kim tells how her curatorial office, Samuso, provides context for the Korean art scene and gives an account of her pivotal role in linking Korean contemporary art and the international art world.

– On the occasion of the opening of Casa Daros in Rio de Janeiro later this year, Hans-Michael Herzog will outline the diverse range of activities going on at this new art, exhibition and education center and their ideas for international collaborations.

– In her presentation entitled *New Spaces for Negotiating Art (and) History in African Cities*, Kerstin Pinther will briefly introduce the concept of her project/workshop on alternative art spaces, which is going to be held in Bamako, Mali in March 2012. In particular she will explore how methodological and theoretical programmes and discourses that have been developed in these spaces, can be connected to academic disciplines and fields of knowledge and their theoretical approaches (Art History/Visual Culture Studies).

Moderator *Juan Gaitan*

Short break

Session X
CONCLUSION: WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

16:00-17:30

Moderators *Koyo Kouoh
Abdellah Karroum
Oumar Sall
N'Goné Fall
Juan Gaitan*

20:00 Dinner and party at Raw Material Company

SATURDAY 21 JANUARY 2012

OPTION 1

10:00-17:00 Site visits and independent studio visits:

Village des Arts
Céramiques Almadies
Waru Studio
Musée Boribana
Kër Thiossane
Laboratoire Agit'art
Ecole des Arts
Galerie Arte

OPTION 2

09:00-18:00 Out of town day trip to Rufisque and Mbodiène

Studio Visit Ndary Lô, artist in Rufisque
Portes et Passages, holistic art project in Mbodiène

14:30-18:00 Arts Collaboratory Workshop (by invitation only)

20:00 Dinner at Raw Material Company

Radio Appartement 22 will stream conversations from and about the symposium throughout the duration.
www.radioappartement22.com