

CONNECT HISTORIES

FROM INDEPENDENCE TO THE PRESENT DAY

1922

Independence of Egypt (28 February)

1951

Independence of Libya (24 December)

1955

First Biennale of Alexandria and Mediterranean countries, inaugurated by Gamal Abdel Nasser (Egypt).

1956

- **Independence of Sudan (1 January), of Morocco (2 March), of Tunisia (20 March)**
- **1st International Congress of Black Writers and Artists** held at Université de La Sorbonne, Paris, organised by the *Présence africaine* review, with nearly sixty delegates of African, Caribbean, and North American origin, including Aimé Césaire, Franz Fanon, and Édouard Glissant representing Martinique.
- **Frédéric Bruly Bouabré (Côte d'Ivoire)** begins his work of linguistic hybridisation between the Bété language and French language, etc. He thus created 449 pictograms to build *Un Nouvel alphabet africain: le bété* (*A New African Alphabet: Bété*, published by scientist Théodore Monod in 1957), imagining a popular and peace-making language that Bruly Bouabré would continue to teach throughout his life.

1957

Independence of Ghana (6 March): the École Saint-Luc, originally created in 1943, is renamed the Académie des Beaux-Arts (ABA), eight years after its transfer in the heart of Léopoldville, now Kinshasa.

1958

- **Independence of Guinea (2 October)**
- **The artist Afi Ekong** presents her work at the exhibition centre of Lagos, the first exhibition by a woman artist in Nigeria.
- **Moroccan artists Farid Belkahia and Mohammed Chabâa** participate in the "Arab Painting" exhibition in Washington D.C. (USA).
- **Malick Sidibé, the future heavyweight of African photography** (with Seydou Keïta), whose work will be discovered by Europe only much later, opened the Malick Photo Studio in Bamako (Mali), which remained active until his death in 2016.

1959

Publication of *Faïza*, the first Tunisian feminist magazine, founded by the artist Safia Farhat.

1960

- **Independences of Cameroon (1 January), Togo (27 April), Madagascar (26 June), DR Congo (30 June), Somalia (1 July), Benin (1 August), Niger (3 August), Burkina Faso (5 August), Côte**

d'Ivoire (7 August), Tchad (11 August), Central African Republic (13 August), Congo (15 August), Gabon (17 August), Senegal (20 August), Mali (22 September), Nigeria (1 October), Mauritania (28 November)

- **Establishment of the École des Beaux-Arts d'Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** renamed École Supérieure d'Arts Plastiques, d'Architecture et de Design (ESAPAD).
- **Establishment of the École de Dakar**, a movement of artistic renewal encouraged by the new president of Senegal, Léopold Sédar-Senghor (the movement included Iba N'Diaye, Ousmane Faye, Souleyman Keita...) The **Musée Théodore Monod**—originally named Le Musée d'Art africain de l'Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar—was founded in 1938 under the name "Institut français d'Afrique Noir"—or after independence, IFAN. It is one of the most prestigious institutions in the world for research into African cultures.

1961

- **Independence of Sierra Leone (27 April), of South Africa (31 May)**
- **Mohamed Ataallah, Farid Belkahia and Mohamed Melehi**, among others, exhibit their work in dialogue with Picasso, Braque, Chagall etc. in *Peintres contemporains de l'École de Paris - peintres marocains*, École des Beaux-Arts de Casablanca (Morocco).
- **Publication of *Les Damnés de la Terre (The Wretched of the Earth)*** by Franz Fanon, with a preface by Jean-Paul Sartre, Éditions Maspéro, Paris.

1962

- **Independence of Rwanda (1 July), Burundi (1 July), Algeria (3 July), Uganda (9 October)**
- **Publication of the cultural revue *Abbia***, founded by Bernard Fonlon and Marcien Towa in Yaoundé (Cameroon). In his introduction for the first issue, William Eteki Mboumoua, National Education Minister, expressed hope that the review would contribute to the “Renaissance of Cameroonian and African culture”.
- **Farid Belkahia becomes director of the École des Beaux-Arts de Casablanca (Morocco)**, where he undertakes a significant pedagogical reform, accompanied by Toni Maraini, Mohamed Melehi, Mohammed Chabâa and Bert Flint. The School offered classes in painting, sculpture, graphic design, photography, and interior design, based upon experimental interaction between Afro-Berber popular art forms and international abstraction.
- **Bachir Yellès becomes director of the École d'Architecture et des Beaux-Arts d'Alger (Algeria)**, where he names artists of note including Choukri Mesli. Both are involved in the Union Nationale des Arts Plastiques (UNAP).

1963

- **Independence of KENYA (12 December), Zanzibar (10 December)**
- **Mohamed Melehi (Morocco)** participates in the *Hard-Edge and Geometric Painting and Sculpture* at the penthouse restaurant of MoMA, New York (USA).

1964

- **Independence of Tanzania (24 April), Malawi (6 July), Zambia (24 October)**
- The “**Atelier d'Art Africain**”, created by Frenchman Pierre Lods, an amateur painter and former military officer, becomes the **École de Peinture de Poto Poto**, a high-level training academy in Congo-Brazzaville.
- **Inauguration of London's Africa Centre**, which becomes the sounding board for artists, poets, writers, and pan-Africanist activists, welcoming personalities such as Desmond Tutu, Sally Hayfron Mugabe, Lubaina Himid...

- ***L'Art et la révolution algérienne*** (Art and the Algerian Revolution) UNAP (Union Nationale des Artistes Plasticiens) Gallery and the Ibn Khaldoun Room, Alger (Algeria): one hundred international artists (27 nations) celebrate Algerian Independence with works offered to the Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Alger. Curator: Pierre Gaudibert.

1965

- **Independence of Gambia** (18 February)
- **Opening of the National Museum of African Art (NMAfA)**, the African art museum of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, USA. Initially dedicated to the heritage of Black culture, begins to show contemporary art in 1987, and in a specially dedicated gallery from 1996, under the guidance of two successive directors: Sylvia Williams and Roslyn Walker.
- **Publication of *Neocolonialism. The Last Stage of Imperialism*** by Kwamé Nkrumah, first president of the Republic of Ghana and leading thinker of pan-Africanism.

1966

- **Independences of Botswana** (30 September) and **Lesotho** (4 October)
- **1st Festival of Black Art in Dakar** (theatre, music, visual arts ...) inaugurated by Léopold Sédar Senghor (Senegal). ***Tendances et Confrontations***, at the Palais de Justice, the first exhibition dedicated to contemporary African creation, is organised by Iba N'Diaye: Morocco is represented by Ahmed Cherkaoui, Farid Belkahia, Mohamed Melehi... Egypt and Syria present themselves under the banner of the United Arab Republic.
- **Safia Farhat** is named director of the École des Beaux-Arts de Tunis (Tunisia).
- **Publication of *Qissas*** ("Stories") review, the vehicle of the novelists' club of Tunis (Tunisia), by Mohamed Laroussi Métoui, president of the Arab Writers' Union.
- **Publication of *Black & White***, a magazine edited at University College of what is now Zimbabwe, originally created to be distributed on campus, as criticism of university and political matters.
- **Publication of *Souffles***, the review founded by Abdelatif Laâbi in Rabat (Morocco). With graphic design by Mohammed Chabâa and Mohamed Melehi, leading figures of the École de Casablanca.
- **Publication of the cultural, economic, and social review *Lamalif***, founded by Zakya Daoud in Casablanca (Morocco).

1967

- **Formation of Aouchem** ("tattoo") group in Alger (Algeria). A group of artists, poets, and thinkers, brought together by Choukri Mesli and Denis Martinez (later joined by Fatma Haddad-Mahieddine, or Baya), which incarnates an avant-garde of prehistoric, Amazigh and African symbols, with an antimilitaristic ambition to be "more powerful than bombs".
- ***Contemporary Art From Africa***, Institute of Contemporary Art, London, presents artists primarily from Nigeria, and from Osogbo Studio.
- **Publication of the French-Algerian literary review *Présence du Maghreb***, founded by M. Abdelmalek with a cover tattoo design by Ahmed Cherkaoui.

1968

- **Independence of Mauritius** (12 March), **Swaziland** (6 September), **Equatorial Guinea** (12 October)
- **Mohammed Chabâa** leaves the École de Casablanca (Morocco) and founds **Studio 400, Architecture, Mobilier et Design d'Intérieur**.

- **The African Commune of Bad Relevant Artists (AfriCOBRA)** is a collective of Black artists based in Chicago (USA) and founded in 1968 by Jeff Donaldson, Barbara Jones-Hogu, Wadsworth Jarrell and Gerald Williams, who focused on the mixing of continental African and Afro-American cultures.

1969

- **Festival Panafricain d'Alger** (theatre, music, visual arts ...), inaugurated under the auspices of President Houari Boumédiène. The exhibition at the Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Alger is entrusted to artist Choukri Mesli, under the direction of Jean de Maisonseul. 300 works by one hundred contemporary African artists are also shown at the Galerie des Quatre Colonnes at the town hall.
- **Manifesto Exhibition "Présence plastique"** of École de Casablanca artists (Ataallah, Belkahia, Chabâa, Hafid, Hamidi, Melehi), on Jemaa el-Fna Square in Marrakech (May), then at Place du 16 novembre in Casablanca (June). By exhibiting their works in the street, they launched the greatest socio-cultural reform in post-Independence Morocco.
- **Contemporary African Art**, Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles, presents Nigerian artists through the Osogbo Atelier, positioning the city as a gathering spot for contemporary African art in the United States. Curator: Jean Kennedy.
- **Contemporary African Art**, Camden Arts Centre, London. Curators: Jacqueline Delange, Philip Fry.
- **1st Festival panafricain du cinéma et de la télévision de Ouagadougou** (Burkina Faso), or FESPACO, which promotes exchange between filmmaking and audiovisual professionals from across the continent with a focus on education.

1970

Œuvres africaines nouvelles, Musée de l'Homme, Paris, the first contemporary African art exhibition held in a French institution. Curators: Jacqueline Delange, Philip Fry, Iba N'Diaye.

1971

- **Publication of the visual arts and literary review *Integral***, founded by Mohamed Melehi, Toni Maraini, and Mustapha Nissaboury in Casablanca. Launch of the publishing house and graphic design studio Shoof, founded by Melehi.
- **Contemporary Black Artists in America**, Whitney Museum, New York (USA). Curator: Robert M. Doty.

1972

Africa Creates'72, Union Carbide Gallery, New York (USA), presents Nigerian artists from the Osogbo Atelier, including Rufus Ogundele, Muraina Oyelami, and Adebisi Fabunmi.

1973

First installations by artist Georges Adéagbo (Benin), constructed of found objects and cultural archives. The beginning of an international career.

1974

- **Independence of Guinea-Bissau** (20 September).
- **Inauguration of Agit'art**, a laboratory of artistic experimentation in Dakar (Senegal), by a group of activist artists, writers, and philosophers, including Youssouf John, Issa Samb AKA Joe Ouakam, Elsy, Djibril Diop Mambéty, Mamadou Diop Traoré, etc.

- **1st Pan-Arab Biennale in Bagdad (Iraq).** Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt are among the represented countries. The Moroccan delegation, led by Farid Belkahia, is essentially composed of artists affiliated with the Casablanca School, Algeria presents the artist Fatma Haddad-Mahieddine AKA Baya.

1975

- **Independence of Mozambique (25 June), Cape Verde (5 July), The Comoros (6 July), Sao Tomé-et-Principe (12 July), Angola (11 November).**
- **Publication of *Éthiopiennes. Revue socialiste de culture négro-africaine* in Dakar (Senegal) by Léopold Sédar-Senghor.**
- **The “popular” painter who became an icon, Chéri Samba,** produces his first self-portrait, inaugurating a vast work in which he uses humour and ironic criticism of Congolese society (war, sexuality, art world, social inequalities, corruption...). His whimsical style, somewhere between realism and surrealism, sets a new standard.

1976

- **Independence of Seychelles (29 June)**
- **Creation of the Kamiriithu Community Education and Cultural Centre,** founded by Ngũgĩ wa Mirii in Kamiriithu (Kenya) with the assistance of researchers from the University of Nairobi, to encourage the participation of local populations, notably the peasant class, as well as theatre groups.
- **Farid Belkahia, Mohammed Chabâa and Mohamed Melehi participate in the second Pan-Arab Biennial, Musée ethnographique des Oudayas, Rabat (Morocco).**
- **Senegalese filmmaker Ousmane Sembène releases his landmark film *Ceddo*,** which manages to bring colonialism, history, and religion into a form of cultural nomadism.

1977

- **Independence of Djibouti (27 June)**
- **Second edition of the Global Festival of Black Arts, FESTAC’77,** at the National Theatre Lagos (Nigeria), with an exhibition organised by the African Unity (OAU) and diaspora in the - USA, UK, and Caribbean.
- **Inauguration of Community Arts Project (CAP),** an arts centre and teaching establishment based in Cape Town (South Africa), which will remain active until 2008, playing a central role for artists standing in resistance to the Apartheid system, like Willies Bester.

1978

- **Publication of the South African *Staffrider* literary magazine (1978-1996),** founded by Mike Kirkwood. The magazine takes its title from a slang term referring to people who ride on the roof of overcrowded trains, to avoid racial segregation.
- **Publication of *Peuples noirs, peuples africains*,** a militant review founded by Cameroonian
- **Mongo Beti,** exiled to Paris for over thirty years.
- **1st Moussem-Festival culturel d’Asilah,** cofounded by Mohamed Benaïssa and Mohamed Melehi, with the contribution of Toni Maraini. Artists from countries around the world (Iraq, Italy, Palestine, Sudan, United States...) are invited to participate in print workshops, wall painting programmes, conferences, concerts, etc.
- **First courses on African art** are offered in the Department of Art History at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg (South Africa), in tandem with the creation of a collection of African art at the same university’s art gallery.

1980

Independence of Zimbabwe (18 April)

1981

Festival *Afrique noire* organised by Pierre Gaudibert in Grenoble (France), a pluridisciplinary event.

1982

- **Organisation of the first National Black Art Convention** at Wolverhampton Polytechnic University (United Kingdom), led by artists of African or Asian origin, such as Keith Piper or Marlene Smith.
- **Creation of the Black Audio Film Collective**, including multimedia artists John Akomfrah, Reece Auguiste, Edward George, Lina Gopaul, Claire Joseph, Avril Johnson, Trevor Mathison, all former students of Portsmouth Polytechnic University (United Kingdom).

1984

- ***"Primitivism" in 20th Century Art: Affinity of the Tribal and the Modern***, MoMA. New York (USA) Curator William Rubin proposes a vast panorama of possible connections between African, Oceanic, Amerindian, and modern European art. The exhibition gives rise to lively theoretical debates, which continue to the current day.
- ***Mohamed Melehi: Recent Paintings***, Bronx Museum of Arts, New York (USA), the first retrospective exhibition by a Moroccan artist in the United States.

1985

- ***Tributaries: Quellen und Stromungen Zeitgenössischer, Südafrikanischer Kunst***, Africana Museum, now the Museum Africa, Johannesburg (South Africa). The exhibition presents the South African artistic scene, from artists like William Kentridge to popular street art by women painters in Ndebele.
- **El Hadj Sy, painter, performer, curator and activist**—who is highly influential on the Senegalese art scene—is tasked by Franz Josef Thiel, Director of the Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt (Germany), to build a collection of works by Senegalese artists.
- **The birth of the Vohou-Vohou movement**, bringing together young painters from Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), including Koudougnon Théodore, Youssouf Bath, N'guessan Kra, Yacouba Touré... Oliko Dégnan is also one of the project's initiators, alongside Dogo Yao, who is named Director of the École des Beaux-Arts d'Abidjan in 1967.

1987

- **Publication of the *Third Text* review**, founded by the Pakistani conceptual artist and activist Rasheed Araeen, who accompanied the postcolonial shifts with cultural studies, Black and feminist studies, and their activation in global artistic exchanges.
- **F. Belkahia, F. Bellamine, M. Kacimi, M. Melehi, and A. Rabi** represent Morocco at the Sao Paulo Biennial (Brazil).

1988

- **Ivorian-American painter Ouattara Watts** meets Jean-Michel Basquiat and decides to move to New York to develop her work.
- **Closing of the Musée Dynamique de Dakar** (Senegal), one of the major sites of Festival Mondial des Arts Nègres in 1966.

- ***The Neglected Tradition: Towards a New History of South African Art***, Johannesburg Art Gallery (South Africa). As an extension of the 1985 exhibition *Tributaries*, Steven Sacks proposes a geneology of South African contemporary art, with no distinction between Black and White artists.

1989

- ***Les Magiciens de la Terre***, Centre Georges Pompidou and La Vilette, Paris. This exhibition reveals to the European public works by Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Seyni Camara, and Chéri Samba as well as the women-painters of Ndebele in South Africa, including Esther Malangu who becomes their leader. Curators: Jean-Hubert Martin, Mark Francis Aline Luque, André Magnin.
- ***The Other Story. Afro-Asian Artists in Postwar Britain***, Hayward Gallery, London (United Kingdom), exhibition organised by artist and theorist Rasheed Araeen, who explores the history of British visual artists whose origins are African, Caribbean, or Asian.
- ***Présence africaine***, the pan-Africanist review and scholarly reference based in Paris since 1947, halts publication for six years.
- **Emblematic South African artist William Kentridge** presents his first animated films that combine drawings, archives, symphonic music, etc.

1990

- **Independence of Namibia** (21 March)
- **Creation of the Kuru Art Project**, in D'kar (Botswana), the first community artistic project (a group of fifteen artists) toward the San Naro populations in the Kalahari Desert. This project will spawn an artistic movement with international reach, known as "San Contemporary Art".
- **Emergence of a significant generation of documentary photographers** between Dakar (Senegal) and Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) who confronted the violence of social reality with empathy and commitment, notably **Bouna Medouna Seye** and **Doris Haron Kasco** with her series *Les Fous d'Abidjan* (1990-1993).

1991

- **Malian artist Abdoulaye Konate** exhibits his work at the **Musée National de Bamako (Mali)** during the onset of a bloody coup d'état which overthrows the government of Traoré. He showed an installation with a burnt automobile covered in tracts as well as videos of protests.
- **Afro-American artist Lorna Simpson** presents her first conceptual installations that explore references to the history of Black slavery, including *Five Rooms*, Spoleto Festival, South Carolina (USA). This American state inspired extensive research undertaken by other artists, such as Fred Wilson.
- **Publication of the *Revue noire***, in Paris, founded by Jean-Loup Pivin, Pascal Martin Saint Léon, Simon Njami, and Bruno Tilliette. The review quickly becomes an essential tool for research about contemporary African art, its local and national art scenes.
- **1st Festival de Doual'art à Douala** (Cameroon), founded by Didier Schaub and Marilyn Douala Manga Bell, specialising in the field of contemporary art beginning in 1999, and promotes art in the public space as well as citizen participation.
- ***Africa Explores: 20th Century African Art***, African Art Center (now the Museum for African Art) and New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York (USA). The exhibition blends ritual and contemporary art, and is criticised for cultivating an outdated dialectic opposing Africa and Europe. Curators: Susan Vogel and Ima Ebong.

1992

- **1st Biennale de Dakar (Senegal)** entirely dedicated to contemporary art, after launching in 1990 as a literary event.
- **Artist Fauzia Laatiris (Morocco) inaugurates the Volumes et Installations atelier** at the Institut National des Beaux-Arts de Tétouan, an impressive factory for artists with international careers from the 2000s onwards (Younes Rahmoun, Batoul S'Himi, Mounir Fatmi, Safaa Erruas, Hicham Benohoud...)

1993

- **Independence of Eritrea (24 May)**
- **South Africa returns to the Venice Biennale (Italy)** after years of ostracization due to apartheid, with 26 artistes representing their country (Willies Bester, Jackson Hlungwani, Sandra Kriel, Bonnie Ntshalintshali...)

1994

- **Exhibition of Clément-Marie Biazin**, the emblematic figure of Central African Republic, Musée National des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris (France).
- **Publication of the review *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art***, founded by Nigerian curator Okwui Enwezor in Brooklyn (USA), under the aegis of Cornell University's Africana Studies and Research Center, with Salah M. Hassan and Chika Okeke-Agulu.
- **Moroccan photographer Hicham Benohoud begins his series *Salle de classe* (Classroom, 1994-2002)**, a photographic work-in-progress in which young students from his arts classes participate in burlesque or incongruous stagings. The series integrates collections such as Tate Modern, London (United Kingdom).

1995

- **1st Johannesburg Biennial (South Africa)**. After years of isolation due to apartheid, this biennale aims to reconnect the local artistic scene with the international scene. Artistic Director: Lorna Ferguson.
- **Isa Kabine, the female painter of Ndebele (South Africa)** paints the façade of the colonial structure of the South African National Gallery du Cap. Black cultures—oppressed and marginalised since the onset of apartheid in 1948—now have the right to be at the National Gallery.
- ***An inside Story, African Art of our Times*, Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo (Japan)**, presents artists from studios in Lubumbashi (DRC), the Poto-Poto School (DRC), the Osogbo School (Nigeria), the École de Dakar (Senegal); avant-garde artists like Pascal Marthine-Tayou (Cameroon), Olu Oguibe (Nigerian-American), Ouattara Watts (Ivorian-American). Curator: Yukiya Kawaguchi.
- ***Seven Stories About Modern Art in Africa*, Whitechapel Gallery, London (United Kingdom)**. 61 artists from 7 countries are presented by theme: the Nigerian section with the Zaira Art Society and the Nsukka School; spiritual works from Sudan and Ethiopia; the Senegalese section with the Laboratoire Agit'Art collective in the form of a multimedia installation by artist-curator El Hadji Sy... Artistic Director: Clémentine Deliss.

1996

- **Inauguration of Musée Tiskiwin (located in the Marrakech medina, Morocco) by Afro-Berber popular arts specialist Bert Flint**. After having taught at the École de Casablanca during the 1960s, he spent the rest of his life gathering a vast collection of objects from the Maghreb as well as Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, Tchad...

1997

- ***Lumière noire***, the art centre in Tanlay (France), presentation at the Château de Tanlay of sculptures by Calixte Dakpogan (Benin), paintings by Romuald Hazoumè (Benin), Mallow Snow (Senegal), Cheik Ledy (Zaire), Gédéon Makonnen (Ethiopia), and papier mâché creations by Mikael Bethe Selassie (Ethiopia)...
- **2nd and final edition of the Johannesburg Biennial. *Trade Routes: History and Geography***. 160 artists from 63 countries are presented between Cape Town and Johannesburg, as well as alternative sites (restaurants, bars, billboards, television, radio, internet, postcards...). Artistic Director: Okwui Enwezor. Curators: Hou Hanru, Kellie Jones, Yu Yeon Kim, Gerardo Mosquera, Colin Richards, Octavio Zaya. A foundational biennial for the concept of the Global South and for the emergence of a star-curator who represents an entire generation: Okwui Enwezor.
- **The Mozambican painter, sculptor and poet Malantagana Ngwenya is named artist for peace by UNESCO**. He is one of the founding members of the Peace Movement in Mozambique and is a representative to Parliament from 1990 to 1994.

1998

- **Inauguration of the Townhouse Gallery in Cairo (Egypt)**, founded by William Wells, the first independent not-for-profit art centre created for the promotion of contemporary Egyptian art.
- **Inauguration of the Thapong Visual Arts Centre in Gaborone (Botswana)**, which assured the promotion of art at the local and international level thank to a network of actors, exhibition gallery, artist studios and educational seminars.

1999

- **Artist Georges Adéagbo (Benin) creates “The Story of the Lion” installation on Arsenal Square during the Venice Biennial (Italy)**.
- ***L’objet désorienté au Maroc (The Disoriented Object in Morocco)*** In the nave of the Museum of Decorative Arts, Paris (France), installations of objects blurring the line between ethnographic display and speculative ready-mades, with Faouzi Laatiris, Younes Rahmoun, Batoul S’Himi, Mounir Fatmi, Safaa Erruas, Hicham Benohoud... Curators: Jean-Louis Froment and Faouzi Laatiris.

2002

- ***The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945–1994***, MOMA PS1, New York (USA), the landmark exhibition exploring African culture through art, film, photography, graphic design, architecture, music, etc. With works by Georges Adéagbo, Ghada Amer, Zarina Bhimji, Skunder Boghossian, Ahmed Cherkaoui, Gebre Kristos Desta, Samuel Fosso, Kendell Geers, Isaac Julien, Seydou Keïta, Bodys Isek Kingelez, Rachid Koraichi, Christian Lattier, Ernest Mancoba, Iba Ndiaye, Amir Nour, Gerard Sekoto... Curator: Okwui Enwezor

2003

Creation of ArtBakery, a platform founded and initiated by artist Goddy Leye in Douala (Cameroon), aims to encourage the development of contemporary art on a local and global level, notably through multimedia formats.

2004

Inauguration of Galerie God in Djibouti, in tribute to the great national artist, Djama Elmi God.

2005

- **Inauguration of the Fondation Zinsou in Cotonou (Benin)**, oriented toward social and cultural actions as well as contemporary art. Exhibition of the works of Romuald Hazoumè (Benin).
- **1st Festival of Marrakech (visual arts, literature, and cinema)** under the auspices of Vanessa Branson and Abel Damoussi, which would become known as the Marrakech Biennale in 2009.
- ***Africa Remix, l'art contemporain d'un continent***, Centre Pompidou, Paris (France), through painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, photography, video, design, and music, this exhibition of over 200 works takes stock of the post-colonial situation and the trajectories that reflect the effects of globalisation. Curator: Simon Njami

2006

- **Creation of the Fondation Nubuke in Accra (Ghana)**, founded and run by artist Kofi Setordji. Dedicated to the transmission of West African art history, the foundation offers seminars, exhibitions, lectures, poetry readings, theatre, residences, etc.
- **Inauguration of Cinémathèque de Tanger**, the renewal of a vintage urban cinema, thanks to a new festival and film programme, as well as collective art projects, as imagined by artist Yto Barrada (Morocco).

2007

- ***Check List-Luanda Pop*, African Pavilion of the 52nd Venice Biennale (Italy)**, presents a collection of works from the Fondation Sindika Dokolo. Curators: Fernando Alvim, Simon Njami.
- **Artist Romuald Hazoumè (Benin)**, known for his masks and installations using recycled jerrycans, receives the Arnold Bold Prize at documenta 12 in Kassel (Germany).

2008

- **Inauguration of NetSa Art Village in Addis Abeba (Ethiopia)**, created by the initiative of fifteen young graduates of the University School of Fine Arts and Design, notably Helen Zerú Araya and Mihret Kebede, for the development of contemporary art.
- **Painter and sculptor Kofi Setordji (Ghana)** is the first African artist to receive the Rockefeller Foundation Creative Arts Fellowship (USA), alongside Mona Hatoum and Shahzia Sikander.
- **1st Biennale de Lubumbashi (RDC)**, founded under the title of “Rencontres Picha”, which has become one of the most dynamic artistic platforms on the continent, on a local and global scale.

2010

- **Inauguration of the Center for Historical Reenactments (CHR)**, created by Gabi Ngcobo, co-initiator of the project, in Johannesburg (South Africa), for cutting-edge research and innovation in the field of performance.
- ***When I last Wrote to You about Africa (2010-2012)***, a travelling exhibition of the works of artist El Anatsui (Ghana), received at several American museums.

2012

- **Creation of the Àsikò Art School**, part of the Centre for Contemporary Art in Lagos (Nigeria), which aims to develop collaborations between artists and curators on the continent. The current Director of the School is Oyindamola Fakeye.
- ***Chasing Shadows: Thirty Years of Photographic Essays***, Wits Arts Museum, Johannesburg (South Africa), an exhibition of emblematic documentary photographer Santu Mofokeng. Curator: Corinne Diserens.

2013

- ***A Visionary Modernist***, retrospective exhibition of Sudanese artist Ibrahim El-Salahi, a leading figure of the Khartoum School, Tate Modern, London (United Kingdom).
- ***Issa Samb and the Undecipherable Form: Word! Word? Word!***, Office for Contemporary Art, Oslo (Norway).
- **Exhibition of the works of painter/poet Touareg Hawad**, inventor of the concept of “furigraphy”, a retrospective of his graphic and pictorial work. Musée national Boubou-Hama, Niamey (Niger) et Centre Culturel Franco-Nigérien (CCFN).
- **First participation of Angola at the Venice Biennale (Italy)**. Angola wins the Lion d'or, in recognition of photographer Edson Chagas for his work *Luanda, Encyclopedic City*.
- **Inauguration of Badjoun Station**, an artist-run space created by Barthélémy Toguo, studio and residency, (Cameroun).

2016

- **Inauguration of MACAAL, Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakech (Morocco)**. Exhibition entitled *Essentiel Paysage. Artistes contemporains africains face à l'environnement*, with works by Sammy Baloji (DRC), Hicham Berrada (Morocco), Chéri Chérin (DRC), Chéri Samba (DRC), Gera Mawi Mazgabou (Ethiopia), Abu Bakarr Mansaray (Sierra Leone), Billie Zangewa (South Africa)... Curator: Brahim Alaoui
- **6th and final edition of the Marrakech Biennial**. Curator: Reem Fadda
- **Creation of Think Tanger, in Tangier (Morocco)**, a not-for-profit platform for the development of cultural projects in a broad sense, with a focus on urban, territorial, and educational issues.

2017

Inauguration of Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA), a non-profit institution, in Cape Town (South Africa).

2018

- **First edition of BISO, the sculpture biennale in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)** by photographer Nyaba Ouedraogo and gallerist Christophe Person.
- **Creation of the École des Mutants à Dakar collective (Senegal)**, a collaborative, cross-border platform for arts research, involving artists, artisans, activists, theorists, and curators; initiated by Hamedine Kane and Stéphane Verlet Botero.

2020

Death of George Floyd by the abuse of American police officers, the height of the Black Lives Matter movement in the US and its echoes throughout the world.

2021

Restitution by France of the treasures of the Dahomey Kingdom, after two years of negotiations between Paris and Cotonou, they are presented for the first time in Benin (129 years after their theft) in the presidential exhibition in Cotonou, in 2022. The exhibition offers a dialog with contemporary Beninese artists (Yves Appollinaire Pèdè, Dimitri Fagbohoun, Emo de Medeiros, Moufouli Bello...)

2022

- **At the 58th Venice Biennale**, Zineb Sedira, an artist of Algerian origin, represents France and the artist Sonia Boyce, of Afro-Caribbean origin, represents the United Kingdom.
- **Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, World Unbound**, MOMA, New York (USA)

2023

- ***Our Land Just Like a Dream***, an exhibition by Joël Andrianomearisoa (Madagascar) at MACAAL, Marrakech (Morocco), in collaboration with local artists and artisans.
- **Inauguration of the Fondation H à Antananarivo (Madagascar)**, a private structure dedicated to the development of contemporary art.
- ***Vestiges of Colonialism***, an exhibition by Moffat Takadiwa, known for large-scale installations of recycled waste, at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe (created in 1953, and renamed after Independence in 1980).
- ***Chéri Samba, dans la collection Jean Pigozzi***, a retrospective exhibition of the leading painter of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Musée Maillol, Paris (France).

2024

- **Among the African Pavilions at the 60th Venice Biennale (Italy)**, several participations are well received, including the Ethiopian Pavilion with painter Tesfaye Urgesse, the Beninese Pavilion with Romuald Hazoumè, Ishola Akpo, Chloé Quenum and Moufouli Bello as well as the Nigerian Pavilion, where artist Yinka Shonibare reimagined the method of presentation for objects looted during the colonial expedition of
- **Inauguration of the permanent collection of MACAAL, Marrakech (Morocco).**