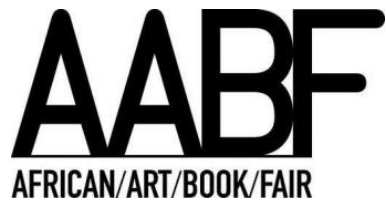


AFRICANA  
ARTBOOK  
FAIR

DAKAR 2024



5TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN ART BOOK FAIR  
AS PART OF DAKAR BIENNIAL  
16 – 19 MAY 2024

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**Supporting AABF means encouraging new publishing practices and innovative independent publishers on the African continent.**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

AFRIKADAA Journal is proud to announce the fifth edition of the African Art Book Fair (AABF) during the Dakar Biennale. The event will be held from 16 to 19 May 2024 as part of the 15th Dakar International Contemporary Art Biennale. It is important for the Dakar Biennale to encourage the presence of a publishing space dedicated to critical production and art publications.

### **L'AABF : an innovative artistic proposition**

The African Art Book Fair is an art project conceived as an independent publishing fair, exhibition and discussion forum that focuses on specific publishing themes related to art, photography, design, experimental music, open culture and activism.

Recognising and supporting qualitative and unique publishing practices, the intersection of disciplines is an integral part of this process, which aims to highlight new and innovative publishing practices and the 'physicality' of the book as a medium. The African Art Book Fair (AABF) is a publishing space that aims to offer a panorama of the most committed contemporary editorial practices in art publishing.

This 5th edition will focus on the exchange of new publishing practices between North and the Global South - and will offer independent publishers and partners a platform for meetings between professionals from the art world and the public - in order to encourage exchanges and the circulation of knowledge with a view to contextualising African works and artists. **We will also be looking at publication as a curatorial and artistic practice, and at the current state of art criticism.**

AABF as an event showcases the figure of the publisher, the most independent yet versatile player in the art world. Many international publishers selected for the quality of their proposals in an original scenography will be highlighted in this 5th edition. Thus, AABF makes the work of international artists available to the public through affordable editions, while offering an alternative art space alongside biennials, galleries and museums. The AABF platform aims to be itinerant and polymorphous, inviting itself to fairs, exhibitions and biennials.

The lack of critical content, analysis and aesthetics fuelled by an in-depth knowledge of the continent's artistic, social and political scene is currently threatening the transmission of contemporary art from Africa and its diasporas. This project is part of this urgent need, but also of a more global political commitment to defending quality criticism and publications produced from Africa, defined in a utopian and metaphorical way.

**AABF crosses borders in order to confirm the inescapable necessity of being part of the written word and the verb, and of memorising and archiving new and contemporary forms.**

## **The AABF and the space it offers are structured around 3 axes**

- A space dedicated to independent publishers, a showcase in which to discover and defend their diverse and singular approaches.
- A space for discussion, inviting artists, publishers, printers, collectors, graphic designers and international researchers to address contemporary issues in the publishing sector on the fringes of the major markets.
- An exhibition space featuring artists who are revisiting the art book in the form of an installation, highlighting both the physical medium and the ideas that emanate from the book, seen as an object of material and immaterial expression placed in the space of the viewer and reader.

## **From 16 to 19 May 2024 in Dakar, the AABF will welcome participants from different countries, guaranteeing a diversity of current publishing practices.**

The programme is based on a selection of publications by artists and independent publishers whose offerings are relevant to the current state of the world.

This cultural and convivial event is a time for discovery and exchange, bringing together independent publishers, artists, collectors and the general public. By bringing together these different players in the art world, AABF is helping to promote and reflect on African art publishing by questioning independent intellectual production as a tool for emancipating artistic creation itself.

### **What ?**

AFRICAN ART BOOK FAIR. The first international African art book fair. A space within the biennial, dedicated to theoretical and critical publications on contemporary African and diaspora art. A meeting platform for the public and artists, curators, researchers and independent publishers - 30 publishers and artists from 4 continents. An exhibition. Conferences. The creation of a sound review. Daily meetings. A workshop with 200 children.

### **When ?**

16 – 19 May, 2024 — 10 am - 7 pm

Opening Ceremony : Friday, May 17 - 5.30 pm. Opening Cocktail and Live event.

Closing : Sunday, May 19 - 5.30 pm. Performance.

### **Daily Meetings :**

- Exhibitions tour
- Workshops "make your own art book"
- Performative reading cocktail
- Conferences / Panels
- Open Talks

## Where ?

Centre de ressource Ousmane Sembene

Place du Souvenir Africain, Dakar Corniche Ouest x Fann Résidence, Dakar

The centre is a rich documentary fund of 1545 books and a new space named after Ousmane Sembène (1923-2007), a prominent senegalese filmmaker. This cultural space has a documentation room with encyclopaedias, dictionaries, textbooks and titles of African literature. It also has a collection of comics, children's books and a multimedia library with an Internet connection to diversify the research offers.



## 2. PROGRAMME

### - Exhibition

**Each edition of the African Art Book Fair features an exhibition entrusted to different curators.**

The previous edition, the exhibition «Dakarchives», curated by Carole Kvasnevski and Abdou Diouf Ndaye, revisited the history of the Dakar Biennale through the Biennale's catalogues and publications. Éditer pour ne pas rester dans le silence exhibition, curated by Pascale Obolo, presented the works of the artists Miguel Marajo, Willys Kezi, Rafiy Okefolahan and Macina Camara.

### - Educational Project

**The workshop on making artists' books with young people is a key educational project within the African Art Book Fair. One of the aims of this event is to enable artists who work with books as a medium to pass on their passion and savoir-faire to a new generation whose access to books is becoming increasingly difficult.**

Following the success of 2018 and 2022, we want to replicate the same format for this 5th edition. Artists are running workshops with pupils from partner schools in Dakar.

Several hundred children aged 5 to 14 were able to take home books they created at the workshops. Some of them had never owned books in their homes.

The dissemination of knowledge is also achieved through mediation actions around the AABF exhibitions, which raise awareness of artistic expression, culture and history. In this way, young people can learn how an exhibition works, seeing and thinking about books as a real medium for creating works of art and opening up new possibilities.

### - Special Project - Lumbung Radio Sound Journal

AABF welcomes the collective Lumbung Radio, a radio platform launched by Station of Commons.

Station of Commons is a platform for digital artistic practices, knowledge and savoir-faire to rethink the means of production, communication and dissemination through Open Source. Its fields of application include the broadcasting of sound art, the creation of radios, the publication of visual content, and research into new forms of collaborative and social networks.

Station of Commons operates as a decentralised network where data is migrated from a large-scale private server to community platforms. The intention is producing an audiophonic common space built on the multiplication of the existing practices of its contributors.

AABF and Lumbung Radio will be setting up radiophonic forms that will enable the experience of the African Art Book Fair to be reproduced beyond the time and space of the Biennial, through the creation of a Sound Journal: with interviews with publishers and artists, testimonials and feedback from children taking part in the workshops and their teachers, and the broadcasting of live DJ mixes. Thus creating archived content that can be reactivated after the Biennial.

### - Open Talks

AABF provides partaking publishers with a space where they can present their publications. Each independent editor can register and decide how best they wish to promote their work and vision, their formal and editorial choices, their masterpieces, everything that tells their particular story. Carte Blanche for unexpected self portraits.

### - Conferences / Panels

AABF will be hosting daily conversations between the public and professionals of the art scene: teachers, journalists, artists, publishers, curators, etc. These are moments of common reflection and questioning, analysis of artistic activity, sharing of diverse experiences and creative steps by which the publishing and curating proposals of tomorrow come to life.

### **- Performative Reading Aperitif**

They take place every evening with a new selection of artists by the AABF who will engage in a moment of sharing with the public through reading in common. Who said reading has to be a solitary experience? Whatever you were taught about books, AABF knows how to seriously make you reconsider.

### **- Partner Country**

Each year, AABF invites and honours a country that benefits from a special space and programme. For the 2022 edition, Benin was the beneficiary of the programme. It was an opportunity to present a special edition of the double catalogue «Trésors Royaux» and «Art contemporain du Bénin» from the diptych exhibition «Art du Bénin d'hier et d'aujourd'hui, de la Restitution à la Révélation». With great success, we presented an immersive experience of the exhibition route via a virtual tour with VR headsets.

## Exhibiting Publishers AABF 2022 :

Abdou Diouf Ndiaye / CMK Icon Edition (Senegal)  
AFRIKADAA (France)  
Archive Book (Germany)  
Asai (South Africa)  
AWU Dakar (Senegal)  
Aziimut (France)  
Balani's (Mali)  
Bandjoun Station Édition(Cameroon)  
Baobab Édition (Senegal)  
Blackmass Publishing (États-Unis)  
Brook Édition (France)  
Chimurenga (South Africa)  
DOM publisher (Germany)  
Edition Balani's (Mali)  
Focal Point (UAE)  
Gloria glitzer (Germany)  
Hangar Artistic Research Center (Portugal)  
Hermann Édition (France/ Bénin)  
iwalewabooks (South Africa)  
La Box (France)  
La Galerie Carole Kvasnevski (France)  
La Galerie Cécile Fakhoury Editions (Senegal)  
La Galerie Clémentine de la Ferronnière (France)  
Le LARC (Laboratoire Africain de Recherches en Cyberstratégie) (France)  
Les Chichas de la pensée (France)  
Michalis Pichler (Germany)  
Missread (Germany)  
Moleskine Foundation cultural publication (Italy)  
Mosaiques (Cameroon)  
Nathi Sihlophe No Justice, No Peace (Finland)  
Paraguay (France)  
Savvy Éditions (Germany)  
Spector Books OHG (Germany)  
Sugarcane (États-Unis)  
Suture Press (France/ Senegal)  
Vertébrale (France)  
Zaman Édition (France)  
Zeitz MOCAA (South Africa)



### 3. AABF 4th EDITION OVERVIEW 2022

The 2022 edition of AABF allowed us to achieve every part of our program, fulfilling our mission in promotion, critical production and giving the largest possible exposure to artbook as a form, within the Dakar Biennial as well as reaching the growing local audience.

Overall, the African Art Book Fair welcomed more than 3,000 visitors, helping to bring independent publishers' publications to a wider audience. In 2018 already, AABF had enabled the library of the French Institute to be enriched by a collection of art books and critical essays from the territories of the Global South.

Our aim to create new connections, new synergies and bridges, meets its purpose in unique and unprecedented collaborations. It offers great opportunities for the African arts scene to interact with other scenes from the South and the West with common objectives. The many conferences given at the AABF also contribute to enriching common reflections through the sharing of all participant experiences. Our conference programme has also contributed to these shared reflections through the critical output of each of the speakers. A memorable 2022 edition, rich in encounters and the sharing of knowledge between independent publishers, professionals from the art world and the local public.

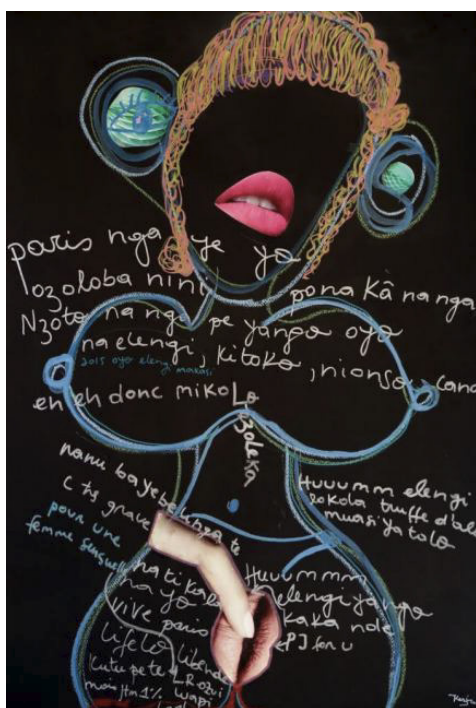
The exhibition put on by Carole Kvasnevski (2022) and again in 2018 by curators Bisi Silva (who died on 12 February 2019) Pascale Obolo and Yves Chatap were a great success with professionals and school classes. These visits with school classes were carried out with local mediators that we trained.

The AABF platform offers new ways of distributing and circulating publications within and outside the African continent.

During the Dakar Biennale, the African Art Book Fair is the only platform where artists, art critics and independent publishers can come to showcase and defend their publications, critical essays, artists' books and monographs. This space is necessary and brings dynamism not only to the Dakar Biennale but also to the international art world.

**By supporting the African Art Book Fair you make a choice to shed light on those who very rarely shine on Biennials, fairs and festivals in Africa and around the world. It means giving a voice to those who are rarely heard.**

# Exhibition AABF 2022



Willys Kezi



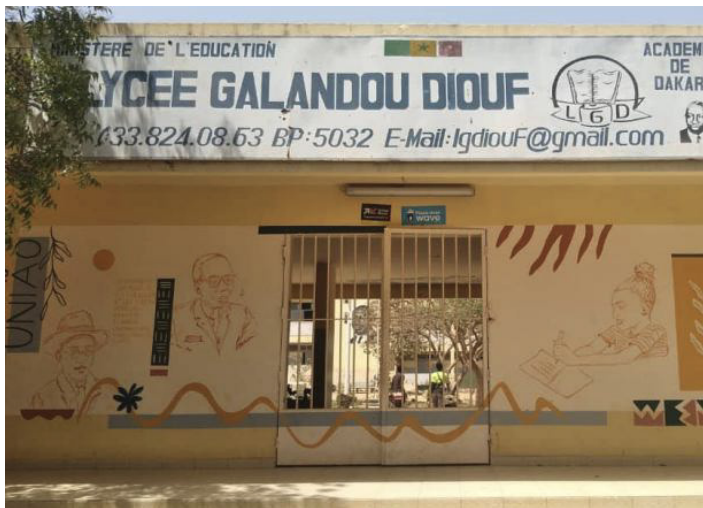
Miguel Marajo

## Conferences | Panels

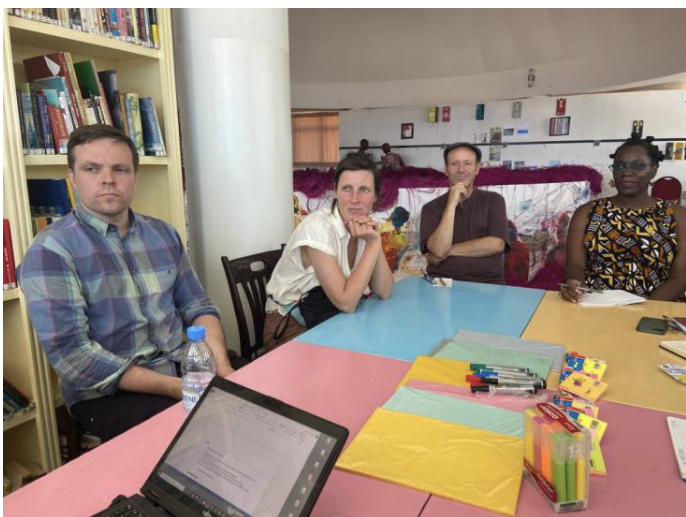


## Workshops

### Art Book Creation Workshop with Macina Camara & Carole Kvasnevski



Programme "We Make Books" by Goethe Institut & African Art Book Fair



"Scripto Sensa", programme of literary adaptations & cinema with cineaste Jean-Pierre Bekolo



## Partner Country's event : Art of Benin



Rafyi's performance

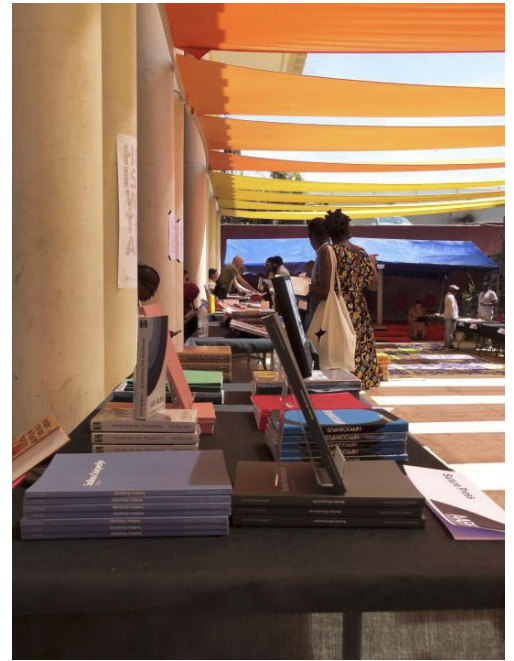


Benjamin Deguenon's performance



## Publishers' Stands







## 4. INFOS

### AFRICAN ART BOOK FAIR / AABF

5th edition in partnership with Dakar Biennial

16 – 19 may 2024

10 am – 7pm

Free Entrance

#### AABF TEAM :

**Director** Pascale Obolo

**Creative Director** Jay Ramier

**Editors & Artists' Manager** Carole Kvasnevski, Romane Madede-Galan

**Partners & Sponsors Managers** Ghislaine Choupas-Loobuyck, Flavien Louh

**Workshop & Conference Manager** Pascale Obolo

**Coordination** Marguerite Yang

**Production Manager** Ghislaine Choupas-Loobuyck, Dominique Pouzol

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# AFRIKADAA



*AFRICAN ART BOOK FAIR is a production of the Afrikaada association. AFRIKAADA, engaged alongside artists and invested in the production of innovative cultural projects, is proud to produce the African Art Book Fair and is also committed to the promotion of independent publishers in all fields of contemporary creation.*

## 5. AFRIKADAA ART JOURNAL

AFRIKADAA is an Art Collective as well as an interactive contemporary Art Journal. The voices expressing themselves in the pages of AFRIKADAA are filling a gap between the colonial continuum of local narratives and practices of resistance. They tell how speaking about “us” without “us” reveals deep miscomprehension of post-colonial issues.

**AFRIKADAA offers a space for resistance to domination and power-legitimising practices — which encapsulates territories, ideas and art movements —** where they can come up with new perspectives for the contemporary art scene, telling stories and journeys of artist communities across borders.

**The AFRIKADAA Art Collective presents the African Art Book Fair, AFRIKADAA Art Journal, panels, exhibitions, performances, and workshops linked to “contemporary African art”.**





AABF in Dakar 2022