

BISO

International Biennial of Sculpture of Ouagadougou

8 – 15 October 2019

PRESENTATION FILE

CONTEXT

Dynamic and with a growing population, Africa is the **essential continent of the 21st century**. As the French President Emmanuel Macron announced in his Ouagadougou speech in November 2017, Africa's cultural and artistic heritage is at the center of new political and economic issues that are leading to rethink the relations with the African countries.

Contemporary African art is currently enjoying **visible international success** through the proliferation of biennials, museum exhibitions, art fairs, galleries and auctions that contribute to the interest of a growing number of collectors in Africa and in the rest of the world.

If this enthusiasm has been sparked by many events in Europe for years (exhibition *Magicians of the Earth* in 1989, 1:54 Art Fair in 2013, the Venice Biennale curated by the Nigerian Okwi Enwezor in 2015), it seems obvious that the next development steps will be held **on the African continent**. Based on this observation, the International Biennial of Sculpture of Ouagadougou (BISO) was born out of the will of its two founders, Nyaba Léon Ouédraogo and Christophe Person, to promote **contemporary African sculpture on its territory**.

AMBITION

Today there is no platform dedicated to the promotion of **African contemporary sculptors**. The ambition of BISO is to present to the art lovers and the art market actors (curators, galleries, collectors, journalists, etc.) **the quality and variety of African contemporary sculpture** and to **consolidate its place on the art market**.

BISO aims to become a key event for Africa and its diaspora, dedicated to sculpture in all its forms and combining ancient African art with contemporary artworks. The Biennial wants to reveal **the dynamism of young African sculptors**, whether they are part of tradition or they apart from ethnic or political considerations.

A COMMITTED BIENNIAL

The choice of BISO focused on Burkina Faso for its rich cultural heritage and its tradition of bronze sculpture. Choosing a country that has been a victim of terrorism and a member of the GS5 Sahel group is a committed act by:

- the desire to talk about **art** and **creation** in a troubled area
- the importance of valuing and promoting a **rich heritage**
- the interest of highlighting the artists whose role contributes to changing perceptions about **culture and difference**.

BISO wants Burkina Faso to shine in the world in an original way.

A LONG TERM PERSPECTIVE

The founders of BISO have the desire to make contemporary African sculpture part of the international artistic landscape and the **long-term** art market. To this end, financial contributors and sponsors wishing to take part in an **economically balanced** project will be sought. BISO will seek to anchor itself **in the economic market with local private or public partners**.

A UNIQUE EVENT

- pan-African
- open to the world and to countries whose cultural vocation is known
- adapted to the reality of the art market and aware of its importance for the development of artists

FOUNDERS OF THE PROJECT



CHRISTOPHE PERSON – President

Christophe Person was born in 1978 in France. A graduate of HEC Paris and Christie's Education in London, Christophe worked for ten years for finance in Paris and London, at Amundi and the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation where he was in charge of fundraising for various projects in developing countries. Christophe joined the auction house PIASA in 2016, where he is in charge of sales of contemporary African art.

"Africa is full of talent, especially young sculptors who stand out for the quality and uniqueness of their creation and we want to promote them with the first edition of BISO. "



NYABA LÉON OUÉDRAOGO – Vice-President

Nyaba Léon Ouédraogo is a photographer born in Burkina Faso in 1978. He now lives between Paris and Ouagadougou. He received several awards, including the European Union prize at the 9th African Photography Meetings in Bamako (2011). He was a finalist of the Pictet 2010 prize and winner of the Résidences Photoquai in 2013. He regularly collaborates with Jeune Afrique Magazine. His works have been published in numerous magazines (*The Guardian, Connaissance des Arts*) and are present in many museums and private collections.

« The first edition of BISO is for me a way to invite Africans to appropriate their own cultural and artistic values because I do not believe in a social, political and economic development of a civilization without the contribution of the artists. »



SIRIKI KY – Honorary President

Burkinabe sculptor born in 1953, Siriki Ky studied at the School of Fine Arts in Abidjan. Combining wood, metal and bronze, he creates hybrid figures inspired by African tales and legends. In 1988, he initiated the International Granite Sculpture Symposium in Laongo, Burkina Faso. In December 2018, he was named Knight of the Order of the Lion in Senegal.

FOUNDERS OF THE PROJECT

ESTELLE ONEMA – Project Coordinator



Born in France in 1970, Estelle Onema spent her early childhood in Zaire (now DRC). A professional in cultural mediation, she graduated from the Ecole du Louvre. Her passion for the arts and cultures of Africa and the diasporas has flourished in museums and art foundations (musée du quai Branly, Musée Dapper and Fondation Clément). Responsible for mediation tools and the coordination of multidisciplinary projects, also provides tailor-made training.

FLORENCE CONAN – Project Coordinator



An art professional and artist, Florence Conan was born in 1991 in France. She graduated from the Ecole du Louvre with a specialty in modern art and African arts. After a curatorial fellowship at the Davis Museum (Wellesley College, Mass.), she specialized in managing collections and exhibitions and was responsible for the collections of the Art Center of Port-au-Prince (Haiti) from 2016 to 2017. Research, exhibition design and the valorization of works and artists are at the heart of her work.

FRANÇOIS DENEULIN – OFF Coordination



Born in 1972, François Deneulin is an art historian and runs since the early 90s various activities in visual arts. After an experience at the DRAC Rhône-Alpes in the arts department (Ministry of Culture), he founded in 2009 in Barraux-France, the Deneulin Gallery, becoming in 2017 the Deneulin Agency. He opened an art gallery in Bryggen-Bergen in April 2019 with Chloé Krzywinski : the KD-Galleri in Norway.

PROGRAM OF THE BIENNIAL

The first edition of the Biennial BISO will be held from October 8th to 15th 2019 in Ouagadougou. The Biennial will be divided into four events:

- an **EXHIBITION OF SCULPTURES** presenting the works of both young and more established artists. After a selection by the committee, including the artist Siriki Ky, the sculptures of about fifteen artists will be exhibited from October 8th to November 15th 2019 in the French Institute of Ouagadougou. A jury will give a price to the artist who responded the best to the theme of the biennial: «DARE TO INVENT THE FUTURE» (Thomas Sankara). The members of the jury are: Barthélémy Toguo (artist), Abdoulaye Konaté (artist), Soly Cissé (artist), Felix Frachon (art gallery) and Gervanne Colboc (collector).

- **CONFERENCES** in collaboration with IESA, open to the public, for artists and art professionals about the following subjects:
 - artistic training in Africa
 - promotion of artists
 - legal context
 - design in Africa
 - restitution of African art

- an **OFF PROGRAM** organized by François Deneulin. Exhibitions, visits of workshops and meetings with artists and designers will take place in different locations in Ouagadougou, showing the dynamism of the art centers in the city.

- an **EDUCATIVE PROGRAM** for the local population and students. Organized by art mediation professionals, this program aims to raise awareness about classical and contemporary African art with:
 - a discovery tour of the bronze sculptors in Ouagadougou
 - an introduction to classical African sculpture
 - an introduction to contemporary African sculpture with a tour of the exhibition with some of the artists exhibited
 - educational activities : sculpture creation and writing

JURY OF THE PRICE OF THE BIENNIAL



Soly CISSÉ

A multidisciplinary visual artist, Soly Cissé was born in Dakar in 1969 and joined the National School of Fine Arts in the same city. In his sculptures and paintings, the artist shows a rich bestiary of hybrid and mythological beings. He was selected at the biennials of Dakar and São Paulo in 1998, and in 2000 at the Havana Biennial. His works are presented in major international museums. In 2005, he participated in the *Africa Remix* exhibition at the Center Pompidou.

Abdoulaye KONATÉ

Born in 1953 in Diré, Mali, Abdoulaye Konaté studied at the National Institute of Arts in Bamako and at the Higher Institute of Arts in Havana, Cuba. Working with tapestry, painting and sculpture, fabric is his main creative material. The artist is inspired by African spiritualities and globalization. Nowadays world-renowned, he has exhibited his works in numerous fairs, biennales and exhibitions including *Africa Remix* (2004-2007).



Barthélémy TOGUO

Born in Cameroon in 1967, Barthélémy Togu studied at the School of Fine Arts in Abidjan, at the Beaux-Arts in Grenoble and at the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf. Paintings, sculptures, engravings, photographs, installations, performances: the works of this multidisciplinary artist are exhibited all over the world, unveiling his vision of identity, social issues and Africa today. A committed artist, Barthélémy Togu created in 2008 the Bandjoun Station artistic center in Cameroon.

Gervanne COLBOC

Collector, journalist and writer, Gervanne Colboc lived in Africa and was auctioneer for about ten years. In 2009, she created with Matthias Leridon AAD: African Art for Development, an organization of general interest which supports community development projects associated with creations of contemporary African artists.



Felix FRACHON

After university studies in Belgium, Felix Frachon began a practical research on contemporary art as a medium of diplomacy by focusing in intercultural relations. In 2016, he created an art gallery based in Brussels: the Felix Frachon Gallery. This place presents a reflection on the so-called “emerging” artistic scenes. In 2018, Felix Frachon opened LE 26BY, a cultural platform, extending his research project to conferences, screenings, debates, concerts, exhibitions, masterclasses and artistic residencies.

SELECTED ARTISTS



Achille ADONON

Beninese artist Achille Adonon has been passionate about art since childhood. Through his installations and sculptures, mixing abandoned shoes and carved wood, the artist shows the animal aspect of humanity and questions the theme of abandoned children, equal opportunities and environment.



Mamadou BALLO

Born in Abidjan, Mamadou Ballo creates monumental works carved or modeled from wet cardboard, clay, glue, thread and burlap. His main subject of inspiration is the woman, a symbol of motherhood, nourishing earth and abundance.



Thiemoko DIARRA

Originally from Mali, Thiemoko Diarra works between Bamako, Brussels and Dakar. His project "Anatopia" reinterprets classical African sculpture in an organic and living form. Inspired by the work of his father, a Bamana sculptor, and his nurse mother, Thiemoko Diarra dissects classical art, as an echo to the looting and slavery of the population. He questions our vision of African classical art.

SELECTED ARTISTS



Issouf DIERO

Born in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, Issouf Diero created in the late 1990s his first sculptures from tires, tubes and materials recovered from the street. In 2007, he created the Rencontres Gnanamaya, an annual meeting in Bobo-Dioulasso gathering visual artists from Africa and Europe, working mainly with recycled materials.



Beau DISUNDI

Beau Disundi is a young interior designer and visual artist living in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He creates fine and astonishing bronze works whose elegant lines move and play with empty spaces.



Dimitri FAGBOHOUN

Born in Benin, Dimitri Fagbohoun grew up in Cameroon before settling in France where he lives and works. The artist uses different media (video, photography, installation) to question our relationship to identities, history, memory and politics.

SELECTED ARTISTS



Beya GILLE

Born in Paris from a Cameroonian mother and a French father, Beya Gille uses pearls to cover her sculpted figures. Inspired by the Bamileke tradition, beading highlights individuals, revealing their richness as human beings. With her series of Orants, Beya tackles the themes of education, social injustice and confinement related to the world of childhood.



Tickson MBUYI

The costume "Man Capotes" by the Congolese artist Tickson Mbuyi Mpyoi, was produced in 2016 to make a performance in the city of Kinshasa. This performance is called "Batela lobi na yo", which means "to prevent your future" in Lingala. The artist trained at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kinshasa aspires to "raise awareness of the Congolese population" in order to learn how to protect themselves.



Precy NUMBI

Born in Kisangani, the Congolese artist Precy Numbi studied at the Fine Art School of Kinshasa. Sculptor and performer, his robot KIMBALAMBALA transforms used materials in a futuristic robot. The artist highlights the ecological, technological and political issues common to African countries.

SELECTED ARTISTS



Ghizlane SAHLI

After studying architecture in Paris, Ghizlane moved to Marrakech and opened a textile workshop, before devoting herself to artistic creation. In particular, she developed "Les Alvéoles", a three-dimensional embroidery made from bottoms of plastic bottles from waste, covered with silk threads.



Issiaka SAVADOGO

Working as a welder, Issiaka Savadogo is a self-taught Burkinabe artist. He participated in several residences in France where he experimented the assemblage of metallic objects. His sculptures express his attachment to African culture while being grounded in modernity.



Adejoke TUGBIYELE

Born in Brooklyn (NYC), Adejoke Tugbiyele studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art and received the 2016 Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors Scholarship. Working with many materials such as iron, metal, natural fibers and wood, Tugbiyele creates complex sculptures questioning the notions of race, religion, gender and sexuality.

SELECTED ARTISTS



Donald WASSWA

Wasswa Donald Augustine grew up in downtown Kampala. Mainly made of wood and leather, his work encourages conversations about the future of mankind looking at the influence of science and technology. Wasswa uses actual events to influence his research which rely on spontaneous encounters with natural or found objects.



XENSON

A multi media artist, Xenson explores contemporary issues as identity and global circulation of culture through a synergy of installations, videos, performance, poetry, fashion and paintings. He also works with used cans and recycled materials in an attempt to clean up his environment and avoid the dystopian futures he portrays through his works.



Férielle ZOUARI

Graduate of the National School of Applied Arts and Crafts in Paris, the artist of Tunisian origin assembles textile and plastic materials, adapting to the volumes of spaces. Used for its color, shape and flexibility, the plastic of industrial origin is embellished and becomes an aesthetic object. A way for the artist to raise awareness of the current excesses of industrialization and overproduction.

SELECTED ARTISTS



Amina ZOUBIR

Visual artist, director and curator of video art, Amina Zoubir lives and works between Paris and Algiers. Her inscribed minimalist wax sculptures question the notions of identity, body language in contemporary society.



Vincent de Paul ZOUNGRANA

Born in Koudougou, Burkina Faso, Vincent de Paul Zoungrana mixes genres with composite productions of bronze, recycled materials and iron. He exhibited at the French Cultural Center of Ouagadougou, the museum of Bobo Dioulasso and abroad: Dakar, Bonn, Quebec, Switzerland, Paris and Besançon where he made for the city a monumental sculpture in 2000 .

THE PARTNERS OF THE BIENNIAL BISO



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