



Seminar for the emerging spaces for art and culture on the african continent
Artfactories / Kër Thiossane
From 11 to 13 may 2004

Introduction



On the occasion of the 6th Biennale of Contemporary Art in Dakar, "Dak'ART", in May 2004, **Kër Thiossane** in collaboration with the **Artfactories** international resource office, is organising a seminar for the emerging autonomous creative places on the African Continent from 11 to 13 May 2004.

Artfactories is a platform of international resources dedicated to autonomous art and cultural centres. Since September 2003, Kër Thiossane, centre for art and multimedia set up in Dakar, has worked as the Artfactories African antenna.

On the website – <http://www.artfactories.net> - the database today presents and promotes more than 180 cultural centres, deriving from citizens' artistic projects throughout the world. Far from being exhaustive, this repertoire is enriched after each meeting, exchange, contact, and link. At present, about fifteen experiences in Africa and in its Mediterranean basin are listed on the Artfactories' website. Nevertheless. The antenna in Dakar is currently in contact with about 30 cultural operators in the African continent.

In a difficult social, economic and political context, citizens' artistic projects never cease developing almost everywhere on the African continent (North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Africa, South Africa, Mediterranean).

Strengthened by their beliefs, artists and artists' co-operatives occupy spaces and build centres so that their works can take on life.

These new spaces of creation, experimentation, dialogue, discussion, meetings and diffusion are dedicated to new artistic, cultural or social practices. They operate as real research and creation's laboratories on the African continent for contemporary artists, facilitate and encourage the emergence of new artistic propositions and a new African creative movement, close to its public, more free and independent. These multidisciplinary centres offer indispensable aid to emerging contemporary creation.

Centres of life, these initiatives are close to local artists, and develop active relationships with communities and participation in the process of artistic creation, in training workshops, in debates. These new artistic approaches also come up against a multitude of questions, linked to urban development, education and co-operation, and participate in sustainable cultural development. Their specific local environments make these cultural and artistic spaces, emerging from all corners of Africa, very special places.

These centres are often isolated and far from each other. Project bearers in Africa therefore know very little or nothing of the existence of similar experiences beyond their frontiers. They encounter the same difficulties, even if they are in different environments.

This new cultural set-up further encourages meetings between independent art centres springing up everywhere in the world, so that all project initiators can get to know each other and help each other.

This seminar would like to offer to the most of african projects located to date a time of meeting, of exchange of know-how and experiments to help them to perennialize their projects, so that each one can nourish experiments of the ones and others, so that can circulate the artists and their projects...

Provisional Programme

All sessions (besides Thursday afternoon) are accessible only to the participants invited by Kër Thioossane and Artfactories.

Tuesday 11 may

12.30 A.M : Welcome in Kër Thioossane

Presentation of Kër Thioossane centre, its staff and its facilities.

From 1.00 to 9.00 P.M : **Guided tour of cultural centres in Dakar and its surroundings**

Wednesday 12 may

From 9.30 to 10.30 A.M : **Foreword**: Chantal Lamarre and Fazette Bordage (Artfactories)

10.30 A.M - 1.30 P.M : **presentation of each spaces/projects participants**

Each space/project participant introduces itself (in 10 minutes) by answering both questions below :

- Why did you create this space/project ?
- which are the major issues for your space today?

.....*Lunch at Kër Thioossane*.....

From 3.00 to 6.00 P.M : **«Identities of the spaces/projects: to know each other, to dialogue, to exchange »**

Some working groups will be proposed on the different issues that will have emerged in the morning session. Different themes linked to the centres will be approached such as : politics, environment, urban context, architecture, techniques, economy, functioning, organisation, networking, artistic and cultural projects...

Thursday 13 may

From 9.30 A.M to 1.30 P.M : **« How to build together? »**

After identifying each space/project and its operational modes, we will look into the possibilities of "building together" in order to define eventual common perspectives: how to be a political force but also a force of reflexion, a potential of development, as to strengthen their legitimacy. The missions of the Artfactories' African antenna (Kër Thioossane) will be exposed to the participants ; it is meant to act as a resource and information desk offering a basis for further development and structuration of these dynamics. Together participants will be invited to explore the possible actions on the African territory.

.....*Lunch at Kër Thioossane*.....

From 3.00 to 6.00 P.M : **Public open discussion at Kër Thioossane**

Presentation of spaces/projects as medium of artistic, cultural, professional, economic and sustainable development.

Dialogue with several representatives of cultural public institutions in Senegal, and with diverse foundations and partners who have supported the seminar (Ford Foundation, Africalia, Prins Claus Fund....)

From 9.00 P.M to 2.00 A.M : Closure dedicated to digital arts at Kër Thioossane

- presentation of the interactive installations of Philippe Monvaillier : "Cyberfétiche" and "Sanzationnel"
- interactive dance performance
- digital sculptures

During the working groups, Artfactories, platform of international resources dedicated to creative autonomous spaces, will provide examples of similar practices in others continents.

During the seminar Kër Thioossane will be the resource place in Dakar on independent art and cultural centres in Africa and throughout the world. A documentation space will be accessible to the public from the 11 to 13 may.

Spaces/projects participants and speakers

SENEGAL (confirmed to date)

Cacao – Rufisque
Village des arts – Dakar
L'Empire – Dakar
L'Ecole des sables – Toubab Dialao
Kaay Fecc – Dakar
Africa Fête – Dakar
Just 4 you – Dakar
Centre culturel français – Dakar
Espace Vema – Dakar
Huit facettes – Joal Fadiout
Musée Boribana – Ngor
Espace Fagueye – Ngor
Deffart – Front de terre
Kadjinol Station – Dakar
Villa Gottfried – N'Gaparou
Espace Michel Ka – Dakar
Collège éphémère – Kër Massar
Cité CAP 38B – Rufisque
Complexe socio culturel de Sicap sacré cœur – Dakar
Complexe socio culturel du Point E – Dakar
Complexe socio culturel Derclat - Dakar
Espace Blaise Senghor – Dakar

CENTRAL AFRICA

Doual'art – Douala – Cameroun
L'Office – Pointe Noire – Congo-Brazzaville
The Go Down – Kenya

AUSTRAL AFRICA

Arts and Media Access Centre – Cape Town – South Africa

NORTH AFRICA / MEDITERRANEAN

Sante Sidi El Houari – Oran – Algeria
El Hamra – Tunis – Tunisia
Le Garage – Alexandrie – Egypt

EUROPA

Mains d'Œuvres – Saint-Ouen – France
Culture Commune – Loos en Gohelle – France
La Friche la Belle de Mai – Marseille – France
AMI – Marseille – France
[K@2](#) - Karosta – Latvia



SPEAKERS

Francisco d'Almeida – Culture and Development

Oumar Sall – Groupe Trente, resources and cultural informations centre in Africa

Jean-Charles Tall – Alternativ / Representant of architects order in Senegal

Financial Partners

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- Africalia
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- Ford Foundation in Caire
- Ford Foundation in Kenya
- Prince Claus Fund
- Air Senegal

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