



# GLOBALISATION AND MULTICULTURALISM

AFRICA(S)

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Centre  
Pompidou

# INTRODUCTION

The Centre Pompidou is engaging on an ambitious and unprecedented policy of expanding its collections and opening up to the art scenes in African countries.

A stepped-up acquisitions policy will be accompanied by a research programme carried out in the countries concerned, in partnership with artists and art professionals in each country.

The Centre Pompidou's collection of modern and contemporary art is one of the world's two most important and the largest in Europe. Comprising in excess of 65,000 works, it covers all fields of visual arts and also includes cinema, architecture and design.

Expanding the Centre Pompidou's collection to include these artists ensures their work benefits from exceptional exposure but also helps to write a multicultural history of art. So the Centre Pompidou's intention is to participate in establishing a new cultural geography of heritage and creativity.

With more than 10,000m<sup>2</sup> devoted to displaying its permanent collection and upwards of 3.5 million people visiting its museum and exhibitions every year, the Centre Pompidou is an extraordinary showcase of our era's culture and an internationally recognised reference. It acts as an interface between contemporary creativity and the most wide-ranging public.

Through its new Virtual Centre Pompidou project, from 2011 it will ensure unique international exposure for the works, resources and content of every type that it is its vocation to conserve, valorise and circulate.

## North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa demonstrate considerable artistic vitality

Through the diversity of their very many contemporary artists and thanks to new generations of exhibition curators and critics, North African and Sub-Saharan African countries are a hotbed of constantly developing artistic activity. Many of these artists have won themselves international audiences: Touhami Ennadre, Adel Abdessemed, Mounir Fatmi and Yto Barrada from North Africa, Frederic Bruly Bouabré, Malik Sidibé, El Anatsui, Barthelemy Toguo and Pascale Marthine Tayou from Sub-Saharan Africa, William Kentridge and Robin Rhode from South Africa. Large numbers of events and institutions have already become widely renowned and others are being developed. Today, this is a whole new art scene emerging, a plural one distinguished as much by the diversity of its practices and art references as by the vital energy driving it.

## A threefold project

Forming part of a globalisation awareness strategy, the Centre Pompidou's Africa(s) programme comprises three interlinked actions: expanding the collections, research on artists in the target countries, and building a new partnership network with the culture players, collectors and artists in the countries concerned.

## A permanent programme with many applications

This new field of activities is intended to be a permanent fixture. A preliminary programme lasting two years will enable the introduction of new tools for a sustainable policy on collections, research and also events and exhibitions.

**The acquisition of works at the hub of this project.**

**The Musée National d'Art Moderne's collection is a reference; its encyclopaedic nature places the Centre Pompidou among the world's leading museographic institutions.**

**Expanding this collection to include African artists will have important repercussions since it will change the internal balances of the collection itself but likewise impact on the world's other great collections.**

**Combining this acquisition policy with a vast research programme will ensure the collection is developed scientifically and independently.**

**By enriching the collections in this way, it should be possible to initiate a rewriting of art history that will profoundly alter the balances of the past and favour a better appreciation of what the countries concerned have contributed and can do in the future.**

## Globalisation and multiculturalism

As part of this programme the Centre Pompidou is facilitating a forum for exploring topics arising from globalisation and multiculturalism.

This work is being carried out in collaboration with partner artists, art history and cultural studies researchers, and culture players in the various countries concerned.

## International repercussions

Communicated and circulated by the new Virtual Centre Pompidou, this work of valorising the art scenes in African countries is therefore guaranteed international exposure. The ongoing discussions on globalisation and the new cultural geography of modern and contemporary art constitute a pole of reference for debating the theory and aesthetics of a cultural rebalancing between North and South.

## Bilateral partnerships

The Centre Pompidou's Africa(s) programme has been conceived as a research platform bringing together the Centre Pompidou and the various partners in the target countries (museums, universities, arts centres). It also involves young researchers from both France and the various countries concerned.

Exchange visits for researchers have begun, enabling the effective circulation of projects and skills. All involved are working collectively to set the project up within the Centre Pompidou and to define strategies for publicising the experiments presently underway in these countries.

# ACTIONS

## An acquisition policy

The hub of this project is a well-defined and exacting acquisition policy that will give new exposure to present-day artistic practices in the countries concerned. An ambitious corpus of works covering modern and contemporary art will be added to the Centre Pompidou's Musée National d'Art Moderne collections.

These acquisitions will be regularly exhibited to the public in the areas displaying the museum's collections. They will also be visible online at Virtual Centre Pompidou.

## Support for university research

Researchers in cultural studies and art history can benefit from sponsoring and tutoring by the Centre Pompidou's curators and scientific staff. This gives them special access to the institution's resources along with the possibility of having their work published. The very wide-ranging corpus of documents and the large number of studies thus generated will then be fed back into those archives.

## Developing in-house skills

Through study trips, exchanges and invitations, the Centre Pompidou is encouraging the Museum's curators and conservators to develop new geographical and cultural skills.

## A new in-house research programme

The Bibliothèque Kandinsky inside the Centre Pompidou possesses one of the most important collections of international archives and documentation on modern and contemporary art. For this project it is setting up a permanent dedicated research programme to work on archives, documentation, networking and exchanges.

# GENERAL ORGANISATION

## A discussion forum

The scientific committee composed of artists, partner researchers, curators and culture producers holds a seminar every two months to launch missions and hear the opinions of prominent people either invited or visiting Paris (artists, arts centre directors, curators, critics, foreign academics).

The forum produces a state-of-play report and proposals for actions. Twice a year a presentation of its work is organised at the Centre Pompidou or the partner venues.

## A guest curator or critic

Every year the Centre Pompidou invites for a residence one or two culture players (conservator, exhibition curator, critic, researcher) particularly active in one of the target areas and whose projects are in synch with the issues being explored through the programme and the discussions on globalisation. During their residences these guests sit on the scientific committee.

## Study visits for Centre Pompidou curators

The curators involved in the Centre Pompidou's Africa(s) programme undertake study visits to the regions concerned, where their work programmes are organised in collaboration with local institutions.

Their activities (interviews, visits to artists' studios) are recorded on video so as to create resources that can then be consulted online.

## Preparatory workshops and a big international symposium

A proactive reciprocal discussion process has been engaged by running workshops to define actions and directions for joint reflection.

These groups' work culminate in an international symposium at the Centre Pompidou.

Delocalised workshops are run jointly by a Centre Pompidou curator and a cultural player in each region concerned.

Each workshop is organised to link up with big international events or in partnership with a local institution.

A Centre Pompidou workshop will work on establishing a state of play as to how diversity is represented in Western collections.

It is envisaged that this will involve the collaboration of other international institutions with globalisation focused development policies, such as the MOMA in New York, the ZKM in Karlsruhe, the Museo Nacional Reina Sofia in Madrid and the Tate Modern in London.

The symposium held at the Centre Pompidou at the end of the two-year programme will make public the work accomplished as a result of the various actions of the Centre Pompidou's Africa(s) programme.

## Sponsoring cultural studies

In recent years cultural studies have developed considerably in France, bringing new theory tools for thinking about contemporary art in its cultural context. These studies now constitute precious resources for apprehending the multicultural identities of contemporary societies.

To help research connected with the programme, scientific sponsoring will be available through the Bibliothèque Kandinsky:

- an annual round table for heads of French university cultural studies departments and professors and lecturers whose fields of research focus on the visual arts. This round table will form the basis for defining joint actions and launching a research programme linked to the Centre Pompidou project for the next academic year.
- at the start of each academic year, selected student researchers will be invited to use the Centre Pompidou's resources to further their research.

## A dedicated section on [centrepompidou.fr](http://centrepompidou.fr)

The Centre Pompidou's Africa(s) programme will be given considerable exposure on Virtual Centre Pompidou.

The entire project and its associated activities will be detailed there, thus constituting a referential international database. Being a platform for exchanges and ongoing research, the website will encourage networking activities and contribute to the development of research both in France and abroad.

Dossiers of artworks, biographical notes on artists, chronological, bibliographical and contextual information plus links to the institutions in every country concerned will enable website visitors to identify the different art scenes. The website will also act as a news platform, publishing the latest updates on the principle artistic activities in the various countries and announcing symposia, biennials, seminars etc.

**Zoulikha Bouabdellah***Dansons*, 2003

Collection du Musée national d'art moderne

All rights reserved

**Mounir Fatmi***Tête dure*, 2005-2008

Courtesy the artist

and de Lombard-Freid Projects,

New York

**Wangechi Mutu***Untitled*, 2003

All rights reserved



**Yazid Oulab**

*Kohol*, 2006

© Courtesy Galerie Eric Dupont



**Robin Rhode**

*The Storyteller*

© Courtesy of the artist and Perry Rubenstein Gallery, New York



**Cheri Samba**

*Vieillir avant l'âge*, 1992

© Chéri Samba. Courtesy Gallery Studio Raffaelli



**Malik Sidibe**

*Nuit de Noël (Happy Club)*, 1963 / 2008

All rights reserved

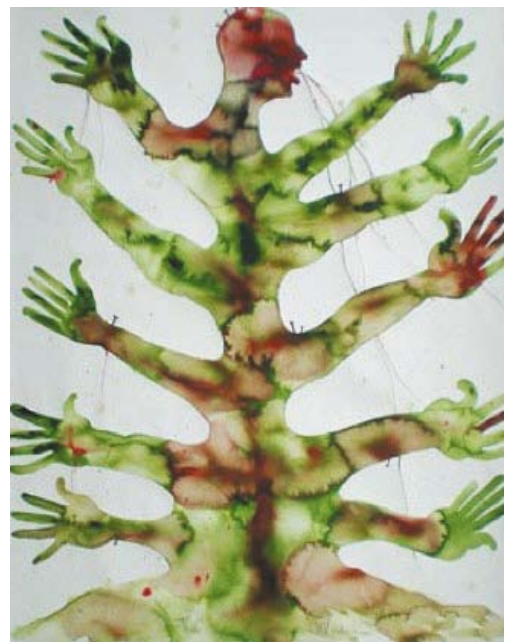
Courtesy of Wolfgang Roth and Partners, Fine Art

**Barthelemy Toguo,**

*Purification XXIII*

All rights reserved

Courtesy Robert Miller Gallery



**PRACTICAL INFORMATION****Centre Pompidou**

75191 Paris cedex 04

**Opening times**

11am to 10pm every day  
except Tuesdays  
Closed on 1 May

**Access**

Metro:  
Rambuteau, Hôtel de Ville,  
Châtelet

RER:  
Châtelet/Les Halles

Bus:  
21, 29, 38, 47, 58, 69, 70, 72,  
74, 75, 76, 81, 85, 96

Car park:  
entry from Rue Beaubourg  
and Les Halles underpass

Coach park:  
entry from Les Halles underpass

**SHOWING NOW AT THE CENTRE****SARKIS**

10 FEBRUARY – 21 JUNE 2010

Press attaché  
Aurélie Hartmann  
01 44 78 46 60

**ERRÓ**

15 FEBRUARY – 24 MAY 2010

Press attaché  
Sébastien Gravier  
01 44 78 48 56

**PATRICK JOUIN**

15 FEBRUARY – 24 MAY 2010

Press attaché  
Aurélie Hartmann  
01 44 78 46 60

**LUCIAN FREUD**

10 MARCH – 19 JULY 2010

Press attaché  
Anne-Marie Pereira  
01 44 78 40 69

**KAWAMATA, CARTON WORKSHOP**

10 APRIL – 23 AUGUST 2010

Press attaché  
Céline Janvier  
01 44 78 49.87

**LES PROMESSES DU PASSÉ  
(THE PAST'S PROMISES)**

14 APRIL – 19 JULY 2010

Press attaché  
Sébastien Gravier  
01 44 78 48.56

**DREAMLANDS**

5 MAY – 9 AUGUST 2010

Press attaché  
Céline Janvier  
01 44 78 49.87

**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR****Catherine Grenier**

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Centre de Création Industrielle

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