



Press release
Paris, 13 October 2020

[Institut français / Africa2020 Season](#)

THE AFRICA2020 SEASON INTRODUCES ITS “WOMEN FOCUS” (2/4)

With over 200 events organised all over mainland France and in the overseas departments and territories, the Africa2020 Season will unfold from December 2020 until July 2021. As the launch date draws closer, the Institut français unveils the major themes of this outstanding Season built on four pillars. This week showcases 22 projects as part of the “Women Focus” wished for by N’Goné Fall, General Commissioner of the Africa2020 Season.

[> The Africa2020 Season press conference will take place on 4 November 2020.](#)

PROJECTS SHOWCASING WOMEN’S CENTRAL ROLE IN AFRICA

How do African women perceive the great challenges of the 21st century? What are the views and the initiatives supported by more than half of the population of the African continent? From the dissemination of knowledge to systems of disobedience, from history, memory, and archives, to economic issues, territory and citizenship, the Africa2020 Season will showcase the role of women in African societies.

A large number of French institutions answered the General Commissioner’s call and mobilised by codesigning, together with African women professionals, a specific project that gives a voice to women from the African continent and its recent diaspora. This spontaneous show of solidarity gave rise to a series of “Women Focus” in the arts, sciences and entrepreneurship.

THE “WOMEN FOCUS” PROJECTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL OPENING ORDER)

- **Poitiers Film Festival – 1st to 4 December 2020**
 - The Poitiers Film Festival will hold a Focus on Africa centered around women directors from Africa and its recent diaspora
 - **Curated with:** Angèle Diabang (Senegal), programmer with the festival, sponsor of the Focus on Africa and member of the professional jury of the International selection
 - **Participants:** Wanuri Kahiu (Kenya), director of *Rafiki* ; Meryem Benm’Barek (Morocco), director of *Sofia* ; Leyla Bouzid (Tunisia), director of *À peine j’ouvre les yeux* ; Farah Clémentine Dramani-Issifou (Benin/France), artist and critic, programmer at the International Critics’ Week and curator of the exhibition *Les Cowboys sont noirs (Cowboys are Black)*
- **Musée d’Art Moderne, Paris – 4 December 2020 to 2 May 2021**
 - *The Power of My Hands* is an exhibition featuring artists who use the “power of their hands” to address themes such as the body, sexuality, emotions, motherhood and self-representation
 - **Curated by:** Suzana Sousa (Angola), curator, writer and PhD candidate at the ISCTE - University Institute of Lisbon’s Anthropology Department and Odile Burlureau (France), heritage curator at the Musée d’Art Moderne de Paris
 - **Artists:** Stacey Gillian Abe (Uganda), Njideka Akunyili Crosby (Nigeria), Gabrielle Goliath (South Africa), Kudzanai Violet Hwami (Zimbabwe), Keyezua (Angola), Lebohang Kganye (South Africa), Kapwani Kiwanga (Canada/Tanzania), Senzeni Marasela (South Africa), Grace Ndiritu (Kenya/UK), Wura Natascha Ogunji (USA/Nigeria), Reinata Sadimba (Mozambique), Lerato Shadi



(South Africa), Ana Silva (Angola), Buhlebezwe Siwani (South Africa), Billie Zangewa (Malawi), Portia Zvavahera (Zimbabwe)

- **Les Abattoirs museum, Toulouse – 9 December 2020 to 30 May 2021**
 - The exhibition *Beyond appearances...* raises a series of questions. How can we convey ideas, pass on knowledge and advance understanding? What was, is, and will be the role of orality in the past, present, and future? What is the power of imaginative literature in storytelling?
 - **Curated by:** Missla Libsekal (Ethiopia/Eritrea), writer, curator and independent cultural producer
 - **Artists:** Jihan El Tahri (Egypt/France), Meriem Bennani (Morocco), Dineo Seshe Bopape (South Africa), Betelhem Makonnen (Ethiopia/United States), Fatimah Tuggar (Nigeria/United States)
- **FRAC Nouvelle Aquitaine MECA, Bordeaux – 5 February to 29 May 2021**
 - The exhibition *Memoria : récits d'une autre histoire*, addresses the idea of a collective memory made up of a myriad of narratives, stories, questions and experiences scattered in our individual, personal and intimate memories
 - **Curated by:** Nadine Hounkpatin (Benin/France) and Céline Seror (France), founders of the Artness agency and curators specialised in contemporary art from Africa and its diasporas
 - **Artists:** Dalila Dalléas Bouzar (Algeria/France), Ndidi Dike (Nigeria), Enam Gbewonyo (Ghana/United Kingdom), Bouchra Khalili (Morocco/France), Gosette Lubondo (DRC), Myriam Mihindou (Gabon/France), Wangechi Mutu (Kenya/United States), Otobong Nkanga (Nigeria/Belgium), Josêfa Ntjam (Cameroon/France), Selly Raby Kane (Senegal), Na Chaikua Reindorf (Ghana/ United States), Mary Sibande (South Africa)
- **FRAC Poitou-Charentes, Angoulême – 6 February to 15 May 2021**
 - The exhibition *How to Make a Country* deciphers the fundamental aspects of nationhood: language, territory, legislation and population
 - **Curated by:** Lerato Bereng (Lesotho), curator and director at the Stevenson gallery in Johannesburg (South Africa)
 - **Artists:** Ba Re e Ne Re Literary Arts (Lesotho), Zineb Benjelloun (Morocco), Dineo Seshe Bopape (South Africa), Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi (South Africa) and Frida Orupabo (Norway)
- **Arc en Rêve, Bordeaux –16 to 17 June 2021**
 - The project *her(e) otherwise* is a series of multifaceted exchanges (digital platforms, conferences and workshops) bringing together the practices of women working in, from, and for, the African world: the continent, the islands, the diaspora and the imaginary worlds
 - **Curated by:** Patricia Anahory (Cape-Verde), architect and designer
 - **Architects:** Anna Nnenna Abengowe (Nigeria/ United Kingdom), Tuliza Sindi (South Africa/DRC/Burundi), Nzinga Bi (Senegal), Stella Mutegi (Kenya), Tatu Gatere (Kenya), Kgaugelo Lekalakala (South Africa)
- **Nova Villa / Le Cellier, Reims – 9 February 2021**
 - A day of discussions between middle and high school students from Reims and women working on the African continent on issues such as economic empowerment, technological innovations and social media use, and the territory using creation in the urban environment
 - **Speakers:** Salématou Sako (Guinea), Secretary General of the Council of Guinean Employers, founder and managing director of Sakom; Patricia Gomis (Senegal), founder and director of the Djarama association; Ténin Samaké (Mali), blogger, photographer and founder/editor of Womanager ; Balkissou Hayatou (Cameroon), PhD candidate in political science at the University of Poitiers, associated with the Centre Thucydide of Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas University; Fatimata Wane-Sagna (Senegal), France 24 journalist; Géraldine Tobé (DRC), plastician; N'Fanteh Minteh (Gambia/France), TV5Monde journalist
- **Universcience / Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie –11 February 2021**



- As part of the *Week of African Scientific Young Talents* project, a specific program will be dedicated to women on 11 February to mark the International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- **Designed with: the Next Einstein Forum (NEF)**, pan-African platform bringing together science, society and politics
- **FRAC PACA, Marseille – 12 February to 16 May 2021**
 - *Elle a allumé le vif du passé* is a monographic exhibition of Katia Kameli, an artist and director whose approach is research-based, using historical and cultural facts
 - **Curated by:** Éva Barois de Caemel (France), curator, art critic, editor and art history professor at the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Lyon
 - **Artist:** Katia Kameli (France/Algeria)
- **Bibliocité, Paris / City Hall, Paris – 8 March 2021**
 - As part of the *September Summit* – the Africa2020 highlight dedicated to public debates – and to mark International Women’s Day, six leading African figures will analyse five themes of the Season
 - **Discussion facilitated by:** Nontobeko Ntombela (South Africa), curator, PhD candidate in art history and culture, professor at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, committed activist for the visibility of women
- **Bibliocité, Paris / Médiathèque Marguerite Duras, Paris – 13 March 2021**
 - Using music to convey the struggle for women’s rights and for a unified desire for equality, Mamani Keïta (Mali), Oumou Sangaré (Mali) and Mariam Doumbia (Mali) created the group “Les Amazones d’Afrique” in the 1990s. The group gracefully blends generations and energies, finding strength in the vibrancy of African megalopolises
 - **Artists:** Fafa Ruffino (Benin), Mamani Keïta (Mali), Niariu (Guinea) and Kandy Guira (Côte d’Ivoire)
- **Cabaret circus - 100% women**
 - > **Le Prato, Lille – 12 to 13 March 2021**
 - > **Cirque-Théâtre d’Elbeuf – 21 March 2021**
 - > **Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (PPCM), Bagneux – 26 March 2021**
 - An outstanding flying cabaret for the Africa2020 Season, co-produced by three French partners together with five women circus artists from Africa and two stage managers
 - **Curated by: Cie Basinga (France)** / Tatiana-Mosio Bongonga, Anna Rodriguez, Solenne Capmas. **Artists:** Mariekou Thiam (Senegal), Adji Mbene Lam (Senegal), Inathi Zungule (South Africa), Judith Olivia (Madagascar), and a contortionist from Guinea
- **Cirque-Théâtre d’Elbeuf – 20 March 2021**
 - Public encounter with writer Scholastique Mukasonga (Rwanda/France)
- **Maison Européenne de la Photographie (MEP), Paris – 16 March to 6 June 2021**
 - The works of South African photographer Zanele Muholi will stop over in Paris as part of a European tour. This mid-career retrospective will showcase one of the most important photographers of her generation
 - **Curated by:** Kerry Greenberg (South Africa), curator of International Art at the Tate Modern, London (United Kingdom)
 - **Artist:** Zanele Muholi (South Africa)
- **Nova Villa, Reims – 2 to 9 April 2021**
 - A series of meetings with readings and talks in schools and with families from Reims
 - **Curated by:** Karin Serres (France), authoress, and Sédjro Giovanni Houansou (Benin), playwright and director
 - **Participants:** Carmen Fifamè Toudonou (Benin), Jeanne Diama (Mali), Sandrine Bengono (Cameroon), Gbegbi Afi Woetomenyul (Togo) and Jeannette Mogoun (Cameroon)
- **AWARE : Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions, Paris / École du Louvre, Paris – 15 to 16 April 2021**
 - The association AWARE (Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions) will serve as the platform for the visibility of the “Women Focus” for the Visual Arts segment of the Africa2020 Season
 - **Scientific Committee:** N’Goné Fall (Senegal), General Commissioner of the Africa2020 Season; Nadira Laggoune (Algeria), director of the Museum of Modern Art of Algiers; Peju Layiwola



(Nigeria), artist, founder of the Women and Youth Art Foundation and Vice-President of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association; Nkule Mabaso (South Africa), curator; Karen Milbourne (USA), senior curator, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution; Camille Morineau (France), co-founder and director of AWARE; Nontobeko Ntombela (South Africa), curator and professor at the Wits School of Arts in Johannesburg; Chika Okeke-Agulu (Nigeria), professor of art history, Department of Art and Archaeology / Department of African American Studies, Princeton University; Senam Okudzeto (Ghana/United States/United Kingdom), artist and educator, founder of the Ghanaian NGO Art in Social Structures; Anaïs Roesch (France), international development supervisor at AWARE ; Fatou Sarr Sow (Senegal), sociologist, director of the Gender and Family Institute of the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar; Matylda Taszycka (Poland), scientific programs supervisor at AWARE; Rachida Triki (Tunisia), professor of art history and aesthetics, Tunis University

- **FRAC Corte, Corsica – 27 April to 1 June 2021**
 - The exhibition *Thanaya : entre plis et chemins* is an imaginary journey exploring insularity, environmental concerns, and the human existence conditioned by politics, the economy and nature.
 - **Curated by:** Sirine Abdelhedi (Tunisia), curator
 - **Artist:** Najah Zarbout (Tunisia)
- **Déravage Productions**
 - > **Opéra de Lyon – 22 May 2021**
 - > **Le Plancher du Monde, Langonnet – 23 May 2021**
 - > **Théâtre de Faches-Thumesnil – 26 May 2021**
 - > **Cabaret Sauvage, Paris – 28 and 29 May 2021**
 - *Sahariennes* is a musical creation which moves past clichés and attempts to go beyond the conflicts which too often define the relationships between countries sharing the Sahara Desert
 - **Artists:** Noura Mint Seymali (Mauritania), Dighya Mohammed Salem (Western Sahara), Souad Asla (Algeria), Malika Zarra (Morocco)
- **Le Blog l’Afro – May 2021**
 - This series of podcasts, “9 femmes from Africa”, seeks to give voice - in multiple languages - to nine women who embody modern-day Africa on the theme of “systems of disobedience”
 - **Curated by:** Dolores Bakela (France) and Adiaratou Diarassouba (France), founders of the blog *LAfro*
- **Festival Rio Loco, Toulouse – 10 to 17 June 2021**
 - As part of the Rio Loco festival, la Résidence 1+2 in Toulouse offers a selection of the 2019 Edition of the African Photography Encounters of Bamako, showcasing the works of women photographers
 - **Curated by:** Fatima Bocoum (Mali), curator associated with the 2019 Edition of the African Photography Encounters of Bamako and Philippe Guionie (France), director of the Résidence 1+2 in Toulouse
 - **Artists:** Fatoumata Diabaté (Mali), Amsatou Diallo (Mali), Adama Delphine Fawundu (Sierra Leone), Rahima Gambo (Nigeria), Kasangati Godelive Kabena (DRC), Adeola Olagunjuwa (Nigeria)
- **MOCA, Paris / City Hall, Paris – 18 June 2021**
 - The MOCA is an annual forum on the cultures of Africa and its diasporas. As part of its 6th edition, the MOCA will organise a roundtable on women’s entrepreneurship in culture, and will give the floor to such women who are agents of change
 - **Curated with:** The k-Lab (Rwanda), innovation incubator based in Kigali
- **Musée d’art et d’histoire Paul Éluard (Saint-Denis HQ) – 25 June to 15 November 2021**
 - Starting point of the Saint-Denis HQ, the *Un.e Air.e de famille* exhibition will create a dialogue between the works of women artists from Africa and its recent diaspora and works drawn from collections of the Seine-Saint-Denis department
 - **Curated by:** Farah Clémentine Dramani-Issifou (Benin/France), researcher, curator and film programmer and Anne Yanover (France), director of the Musée d’art et d’histoire Paul Éluard de Saint-Denis
 - **Artists:** Laeïla Adjovi (Benin/Senegal), Eliane Aisso (Benin), Malala Andrialavidrazana (Madagascar/France), Yto Barrada (Morocco /France), Euridice Zaitu Kala (Mozambique), Kapwani Kiwanga (Canada/Tanzania), Tuli Mekondjo (Namibia/Angola), Otobong Nkanga (Nigeria/ Belgium), Owanto (Gabon/France), Thania Petersen (South Africa), Katia Kameli (Algeria/France), Les Soeurs Chevalme (France)



More to come:

- > 3/4 The educational component of the Africa2020 Season;
- > 4/4 A few highlights of the Africa2020 Season.

Already issued:

- > 1/4 The Africa2020 Season unveils its Headquarters

THE AFRICA2020 SEASON

Initiated by the President of the French Republic, the Africa2020 Season is an outstanding project designed around the major challenges of the 21st century: social progress, technology, climate/environment, citizenship, economic challenges. This Season is an invitation to observe and understand the world from an African perspective.

The Season is dedicated to the 54 States of the African continent. Africa2020 will take place from December 2020 to July 2021 in the entire French territory. It will include more than 200 events organized in all of the national territory - in Continental France as well as the French overseas departments and territories.

The Africa 2020 Season is operated by the French Institute with the support of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, National Education and Youth, the Ministry of Sport, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and in partnership with the Agence française de développement, and with the participation of regional and local authorities that are partners of the Institut français. The Season also enjoys outstanding support from the Patrons Committee of Africa 2020, and from its media partners.

The Institut français is the public institution in charge of France's international cultural actions. Under the dual auspices of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture, the Institut contributes actively to France's cultural diplomacy.

For more information, please consult the [Website of the Africa2020 Season](#) and social media: [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#).

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