

PRESS KIT



7^{eme} FORUM
TRANSCULTUREL
D'ART
CONTEMPORAIN

Du 2 au 11 avril 2015

creation
et contrepuvoirs





Presentation of the Forum

For 15 years, the Transcultural Forum of Contemporary Art, an initiative of the Fondation AfricAméricA, is a main international event, bringing to Haiti, every two years, professionals, artists, researchers, critics, teachers, collectors, and promoters in the field of visual arts.

Since 2000, when the first Forum took place, a theme serves as a guideline and binds many different activities, such as workshops, public lectures, exhibitions, in situ creations, lectures, debates, and film screenings.

On the other hand, the theme allows thoughts / creations to be inscribed in the difficult and unique Haitian context. From its genesis, Haiti is this guarded world engaged in a forced quest, of originality, a falsely new world in the West Indies. Indeed, the historical factor has determined over the last two hundred years the unique aspects of the Haitian world. We are in a closed world with multiple insularities: independence, freedom of ex-slaves, the Creole language, the use of French, voodoo, sub-urbanization, the informal economy, political instability, ideological drift, political violence, many factors of isolation that will create the conditions for its identity.



"The Robot" Maksiens Denis

The 7th Forum of Transcultural Contemporary Art which will take place in Port-au-Prince from April 3rd to the 13th, with a theme of "Creation & Counterpowers" invites creatives and researchers to deepen **the relationships between creation, subversion, transgression and resistance**. The upcoming edition of the Forum has already received funding from the European Union through PESIC (European Program Support for Cultural Initiatives) and FOKAL (Fondation for Knowledge and Liberty).

The global objective of the Transcultural Forum of Contemporary Art is to contribute to the creation of international openness of the Republic of Haiti by focusing on exchanges with Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas.

The specific objectives are :

- Train young professionals in the cultural arena in Haiti through workshops given by internationally renowned professionals.
- Valuing Haitian cultural production through a multidisciplinary approach.
- Take advantage of the numerousness of places of transference to make up for the lack of public cultural spaces.



2015 Forum

The 7th edition of the Transcultural Forum of Contemporary Art, with the theme “Creation and Counter-powers”, will be featuring artists and speakers from Canada, Martinique, Germany, Cuba, the Bahamas, Togo, the Dominican Republic, Greece and Haiti.

Confirmed participants

Jean Morisset (Canada)
Habdaphai (France, Martinique)
Edgard Endress (Argentina)
David Frohnapfel (Allemagne)
Kossi Assou (Togo)
Kishan Munroe (Bahamas)
Tessa Mars (Haiti)
Maksaens Denis (Haiti)
Josué Azor (Haiti)
David Boyer (Haiti)
Etzer Pierre (Haiti)
Sébastien Jean (Haiti)
Valerie Noisette (Haiti)
Xavier Dalencour (Haiti)
Mafalda Nicolas Mondestin (Haiti)
Jean-Michel Ozinska (Haiti)
Yael Talleyrand (Haiti)
Karim Bleus (Haiti)
Faika Bernardeau (Haiti)
Fabian Jean-Baptiste (Haiti)
Lilika Papagrigoriou (Greece/Haiti)
Lobenson Civilma (Haiti)
Guyodo (Haiti)
Killy (Haiti)
Dubreus Lherisson (Haiti) Mario
Benjamin (Haiti)
Pasko (Haiti)
Ti Pelen (Haiti)
Baka Roklo (Haiti)
Andre Eugen (Haiti)
Papouch Ernst Payern (Haiti)
Romel Jean-Pierre (Haiti)

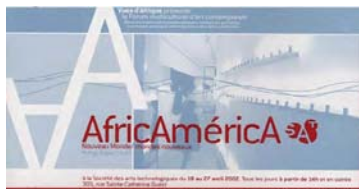


History of the Forum

The first Forum, which theme was “Identity & Diversity in the 21st Century” was inaugurated in the context of electoral violence, on April 3rd 2000, marked by the assassination of world renowned journalist Jean Dominique.

It took place in Port-au-Prince , and includes creators and speakers from Senegal, Mexico, Equator, Porto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Canada and Haiti.

2002: Second edition of the Forum, with the theme “New Worlds/Worlds New”, that delves deep into subjects such as: nostalgia of the origins, the north american myths and their deconstruction. The launch took place in Montreal in April 2002, within the Vues D’Afrique Festival, and continues in Port-au-Prince in October 2002. The event gathered artists from Canada, Reunion, Trinidad, Paraguay, Colombia and Haiti.



Barbara Prezeau-Stéphenson sculpture



Christopher Cozier Installation at Musée d'Art Haïtien du Collège St-Pierre

2004: “Black Codes”. With 15 exhibitions, 27 projected films, including the first retrospective of filmmaker Arnold Antonin in Haiti. Researchers and creators try to deepen the possible meanings of Black and Code, Black Code, and Black Codes. “Black Codes” refers to the commemoration of the Bicentennial of Haiti’s independence and to the birth of the first anti-slavery state in the world. The use of these two words together offers many avenues for reflection and creation.

A second leg will take place in Montreal at Tohu, the international headquarters of Cirque du Soleil.

Black Codes has gathered creators and researchers from France, Réunion, Martinique, Guadeloupe, du Gabon, Canada an Haiti.



Blue Habeas Corpus By Jack Beng-Thi at FOKAL, Haiti.



Kily Installation



History of the Forum

2006: The theme “Exploited Bodies” allowed researchers and creatives to tackle modern day issues such as modern slavery, child labor, children and organ trafficking, science, prostitution, pornography, fashion, advertising, sexuality, HIV, but also more antiquated forms of body exploitation, slave trade, torture, incarceration, wars, games, rituals, funeral rites, marriage, religion, trance, dance, tattooing, scarification, mortification, mutilation, initiations, theater, portraiture, human portrayal.

With 11,220 festival goers, in spite of the FIFA World Cup, the 2006 Forum offered 9 exhibitions, 7 thematic conferences, 8 shows and performances, 3 workshops with 30 participants.

The artists and researchers invited were from Canada, Reunion, Cuba, Guadeloupe, Togo, Gabon, France and Haiti.



Myriam Mihindou - Dechoucaj



Elodie Barthelemy - Chevelure Collective

2008: The 5th Transcultural Forum's theme was « Lands and Migrancy ». It took place over 17 days, from June 20th to July 6th 2008, at the main cultural locations of Port-au-Prince, Croix des Bouquets and Jacmel, as well as the most busy public spaces, and attracted 20,000 visitors, around conferences, film projections, creations in situ, exhibitions, workshops, lectures, musical and theatrical performances.

For international as well as local press, it's a rendez-vous with creatives and researchers hailing from : Martinique, France, Canada, Togo, Burkina Faso, Trinidad, South America, along side their haitian peers.

As with the previous forums, the haitian capital got to be know intimately through its numerous vodou sanctuaries, folk museums unknown to some and criticized by others, while its old neighborhoods, a real network of artists and artisan studios, specialized markets and micro industries will be the subject of media coverage and interviews.

Right in the midst of a political transition, this moment was, once again, one of hope and international solidarity, and the peace and security recently acquired but strongly entrenched, contributed to the spread of new directions, and the increase of analytical angles... Haiti, beyond cultural debates, a land full of singularities.



History of the Forum



"Painting In the City"- Place Canapé-Vert, Port-au-Prince. Various Artists

2011: The 6th Transcultural Forum of Contemporary Art took place in Port-au-Prince, Pétion-Ville and Croix-des-Bouquets, from Sunday September 25th to Monday October 3rd 2011.

Originally planned for June 2010, it got pushed back because of the earthquake. The program, executed in part in the public places of the capital, was also reviewed to be centered at a specific place, l'Ecole Nationale des Arts (ENARTS), and tools – new technology and multimedia – not commonly used in Haiti.

For the first time, from September 25th to October 3rd 2011, the Transcultural Forum of Contemporary Art of Port-au-Prince filled up the Ecole Nationale des Arts, or ENARTS (the National School of the Arts), the only public art school in Haiti. Closed for many months after the graduation of the April 2011 class, the school reopened shortly after the Forum to welcome new students for a revised 4 year cycle. The Transcultural Forum of Contemporary Art played a role – symbolic, spirited and diverse–, in this reshaping by introducing a dozen artists from the continents of Africa, America and Europe. Thanks to the trans-project and the multimedia workshops of the Centre Culturel Virtuel (the Virtual Cultural Center) of the ARCADES program, financed by the European Union, new technologies were at the heart of the Forum. A variety of art practices – mural paintings, paintings on canvas, sculptures, performances, etc. – helped shape the program. In addition to ENARTS, different cultural institutions were involved in the Forum all around the city : the sculptor collective of Grand Rue, “Atis Rezistans”, the Centre Culturel Virtuel of the Ministry of Culture, the Direction Nationale du Livre, the Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (FOKAL), Institut Français, Galerie Monnin, the Musée Georges Liautaud et l'Association des Artistes et Artisans de la Croix-des-Bouquets (ADAAC).



History of the Forum

During 9 days, workshops, meetings, exhibitions, conferences, performances, film projections and more contributed in promoting contemporary creations locally, regionally and internationally.

The international artists invited were:

- Ishola AKPO (multimedia, Bénin)
- Kossi ASSOU (sculpture, Togo)
- Jean-Marc HUNT (mural painting, Guadeloupe)
- Myriam MIHINDOU (photo, France)
- Jean MORISSET (literature, Canada)
- Ezequiel TAVERAS (sculpture, Dominican Republic)

Participated in the trans-project :

- Joël ANDRIANOMEARISOA (30 et Presque Songes exhibition, Madagascar)
- Boris NZEBO (painting, Cameroun) ;
- Rina RALAY-RANAIVO (multimedia, Madagascar)
- TEMANDROTA (installation, Madagascar)
- Hervé YAMGUEN (performance, Cameroun)

The Haitian artists participating were:

- Josué AZOR (photographer)
- Jean-Bernard BAYARD (film maker)
- Mario BENJAMIN (visual artist)
- Maksaens DENIS (film maker, multimedia artist)
- Marc Antoine JOSEPH dit ZAKA (visual artist)
- Tessa MARS (visual artist)
- Jean Eddy REMY (sculptor)
- The sculptors of Grand Rue, and those of the new school, members of Tele Ghetto : Romel JEAN PIERRE,
- Alex Louis and Stevenson SIMEON
- The artists and artisans of Croix-des-Bouquets
- Newly graduated ENARTS alumni



This edition of the Transcultural Forum of Contemporary Art of Port-au-Prince has partnered with the trans_project, a project on current forms, transcontinental, transdisciplinary, transcultural, led by BICFL/Revue Noire with Jean Loup Pivin as curator, and was created under the Programme du Groupe ACP financed by the European Union.

The 6th Transcultural Forum of Port-au-Prince had the backing of the Ministry of Culture and Communication, of the European Development Fund (Arcades - Programme d'Appui au Renforcement de la Culture et de l'Art pour le Développement Economique et Social), the Institut Français, the Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (FOKAL), the group IBI-DAA, and the telecommunication company Voilà.



Origine -Ishalo Akpo



Digital Art Workshop with Maksaens Denis



Target Audiences

The Port-au-Prince public

The natural beneficiaries of the Forum are the inhabitants of the capital. This public, often young and educated, francophone or even multilingual, is comprised of the student population, teachers, professionals in the cultural sectors. A media strategy done thru the various radio stations of the capital, and a tv spot will be used to reach a much larger public. Free access to the activities will allow for meetings within disadvantaged communities, who have very little access to quality leisure activities nor contemporary art dealing with current issues.

The national public

With a population of 9,000,000, the Republic of Haiti is one of the most populated countries in the Caribbean. To this day, radio is the main source of news and information for close to 60% of illiterates. Therefore it will be used to reach a maximum of people. Furthermore, a specific endeavor is undertaken through the rural and community radio networks. This decentralized approach will be seconded by a billboard and flyer distribution campaign throughout the Alliance Francaise locations, the CLACS and the public library networks.

The Haitian Diaspora

Estimated at 1,000,000 immigrants, concentrated in the USA, Canada, France, Belgium and other countries in Europe, the diaspora is an important phenomena in the Caribbean, by the large and long standing presence of Haitians in Cuba, the Dominican Republic the French Antilles and in Guyane as well. Everywhere the Haitians have settled they will establish media networks, community radio shows, publications. They will be informed by a weekly newsletter, and on a daily basis during the length of the Forum. Flyers and posters will be distributed by airplane.

The regional and international public

The communication campaign of the Forum was done in great part on these 3 sites :
www.africamerica.org (1256 visitors a month), www.gensdelacaraibe.org (6000 connexions per month) and www.alterpress.org.



AfricAméricaA Foundation

AfricAméricaA The Foundation was created in 1999 to implement the Transcultural Forum of Contemporary Art, the first festival in Haiti at an international scale, initiated in 2000.

It is the first group of visual arts professionals established in Haiti. The AfricAméricaA Foundation is supported by a network of partner institutions and associations in the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, the Indian Ocean and the Americas.

Our mission is divided into three parts: training creators, promotion and dissemination of contemporary art.

Main Achievements

- The Transcultural Forum of Contemporary Art, published every 2 years (2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011).
- The Cultural Center AfricAméricaA in Port-au-Prince from 2002 to 2008.
- The Georges Liautaud Museum in the village of sculptors Noailles in Croix-des-Bouquets.
- The Jean Brierre Poetry Prize, made in 2001 in partnership with the State University of Haiti, the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar and the International House of Poetry in Dakar.
- The "Kore Atis ak Atizan" project funded by the European Union in 2008 and 2012.
- Publications and derivatives such as Agenda Art, DVD and notebook "10 years of contemporary art" directories guides.
- Interventions in middle school, mentoring young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods, training professionals, in partnership with UNICEF, the National Fund Sponsorship and USAID, the European Commission and Plan Haiti.
- Completion of three editions of the Festival of sculptures in partnership with the French Institute
- The completion of the first exhibition 100% Numerik (Digital)
- Projects of social and economic development benefiting target populations such as associations of artists and artisans, youth, children and women.

Foundation Websites

www.africamerica.org
www.croix-des-bouquets.net
www.belairhaiti.net

Contact

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Visual artist, art historian, Forum commissioner

Bernard Chancy
Engineer, member of the board of directors of
Fondation AfricAméricA

Maksaens Denis
Visual artist, artistic director of Fondation AfricA-
méricA

Eddy Jean Rémy
Sculptor, member of Fondation AfricAméricA
Logistics

Christine Stephenson
Geographer, member of the board of directors of
Fondation AfricAméricA

Christelène Martial
Administration of Fondation AfricAméricA

Mafalda Nicolas Mondestin
Visual Artist, member of Fondation AfricAméricA

Josué Azor
Photography

Allenby Augustin
Akoustik Prod
Logistics, exhibitions and workshops

Valérie Noisette
Visual artist, Kolektif 509

Xavier Dalencour
Visual artist, Kolektif 509

Elizabeth Pierre-Louis
Program Director of FOKAL

Michele Lemoine
Director of theatre department of FOKAL

Pascale Monnin
Visual Artist, Centre d'Art

James Noel
Poet

Our partners

- Akoustik Prod
- FOKAL (Fondation Konesans Ak Libeté)
- Institut Français de Port-au-Prince
- Le Centre d'Art
- Kolektif 509
- Institut d'Études et de Recherches Africaines d'Haïti
- FOKAL (Fondation Konesans Ak Libeté)
- Ministère de la Culture

Our sponsors

- Ministère du Tourisme et des Industries Créatives
- Mairie de Pétiion-Ville
- Banque de la République d'Haïti
- PESIC (Programme de Soutien aux Initiatives Culturelles)
- Digicel
- Génie Conseil
- Secom
- Oxfam
- Sogener
- Dauphin Banners & Signs
- Fior Di Latte
- Mache Ti Tony
- Ti Malis