

# Dak'Art, A Stroll Through African Creativity

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The fifteenth edition of the now-famous biennial of contemporary African Art, Dak'Art (November 7 to December 7, 2024), has succeeded in reconnecting art with the people of Dakar in all their diversity. With each edition, Dakar increasingly transforms into a museum-city, a global city where talent and creativity are showcased, thrive, and take center stage. Each visit to a gallery, a street, an esplanade, or a café unveils unique works of art and resonates with vibrations that portray an Africa in constant motion.

Dak'Art is one of the symbolic meeting places for talents from the African continent, its Diaspora, and the world. Each creation, whether a painting, a performance, or an installation, tells an original story. The themes explored by the artists delve into resilience, heritage, global challenges, and history, all the while adapting materials and techniques.

Titled “The Wake, l'Éveil, Xàll wi”, according to the event's artistic director, Salimata Diop:

The theme of the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Dakar Biennale is part of a continuity, an unstoppable current that embraces a whole range of temporalities: the central idea being to link the past and the future by giving them equal importance. This concept is partly inspired by Professor Christina Sharpe's influential work *'In the Wake: On Blackness and Black Being'*<sup>1</sup>, in which she examines the black condition and its literary, visual and artistic representations in relation to notions of exhumation, mourning, and uprooting. Through this Biennale we will explore the various meanings and evocations of the term *wake* (awakening, trail, funeral wake, *gindiku*<sup>2</sup>), whose rich semantic range ultimately provides cultural and metaphorical bridges between art and society<sup>3</sup>.




1 Christina Sharpe, *In the Wake: On Blackness and Black Being*, 2016.

2 Wolof word meaning the path, the way.

3 <https://biennaledakar.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/note-conceptuelle-bis-VF-ANG.pdf>

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Walking around Dakar during Dak'Art is an act of self-care, offering a unique emotional immersion, detaching yourself from gadgets and reading, looking, and listening, colors, striking forms, textures, and manifestos. While the artifacts are awe-inspiring, the conversations with artists and visitors turn every visit into a memorable encounter.

The editorial team of *Global Africa* wanted to share with its readers the exhilarating, surprising, and moving journey that the biennale represents. This visual thread seeks to capture those moments when art resonates deeply. These photographs, taken during the exploration of galleries and exhibitions, immortalize the intensity of the works and the finesse of their details, illuminated by the unique, singular light of Dakar, the city that serves as an accomplice to artists.

