

# Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa

The Observatory has been launched with the support of African Union, the Ford Foundation and UNESCO with a view to monitor cultural trends and national cultural policies in the region and enhance their integration in human development strategies through advocacy, information, research, capacity building, networking, co-ordination and co-operation at the regional and international levels.

**March 12, 2003**

**OCPA News N°80**

## Visit the OCPA web site

<http://www.imo.hr/ocpa/>

Are you planning meetings, research activities, publications of interest for the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa?

Have you heard about such activities implemented or foreseen by others?

Do you have information about innovative projects in cultural policy and cultural development in Africa?

Do you know interesting links or e-mail addresses to be included in the web site or the listserv?

Please send information and documents for inclusion in the OCPA web site!

**Thank you for your co-operation**

Interim Secretariat (UNESCO Maputo): <mailto:l.mbuyamba@unesco.org>

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Should you wish not to receive OCPA News, please send an e-mail and we will delete your address from our mailing list.

E-mail: [kovacs\\_mate@mailbox.hu](mailto:kovacs_mate@mailbox.hu)

## **Dans ce numéro – In this issue**

**A. Festival Panafricain du Cinéma et de la télévision de Ouagadougou (FESPACO)**

**B. ARTWATCH SOUTH AFRICA**

**C. First National Conference on Arts and Culture Marketing, Johannesburg, 21-23/05**

**D. 2002 Noma Award for Publishing in Africa**

**F. Vers une convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel**

**G. News from WebWorld, (UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector)**

- Expansion of the Observatory on the Information Society
- Arab Women Journalists' Workshop on Advanced Desktop Publishing Techniques
- Digital Opportunities for Africa: Community Multimedia Centres

**H. Lettre d'information Africultures 9/2003**

- Salon des Hautes Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication, Dakar
- Africancolours : le portail africain de l'art
- RAP 21 - Réseau Africain pour la Presse du 21ème siècle
- The African Studies Association 46th Annual Meeting in Boston
- 4th World Congress of African Linguistics and The 34th Annual Conference on African linguistics

**I. News from Cultural Policy Listserv:**

- Summer Institute for Arts Management, June 19-21
- UNESCO New release: "Arts and Artists from an Economical Perspective"

**J. Signature d'un accord-cadre entre le CICIBA et l'Ecole du Patrimoine africain**

**K. News from the Development Gateway**

- A study about contemporary Arab culture
- International Expert Meeting: "Safeguarding of Endangered Languages"
- UNESCO, Paris, 10 – 12 March 2003
- Des lignes directrices d'études pour le développement professionnel dans les musées
- Le Tissage dans l'Atlas Marocain: Miroir de la terre et de la vie
- Forum électronique: L'Afrique et la mondialisation culturelle
- Leadership in Museums: are our core values shifting?
- MOST (Management of Social Transformations)

**L. Espace Faguèye - Art contemporain africain**

**M. News from Creative exchange -The Merry Trust - Update**

**N. Africa Audio-visual Library – (From the Annual Report 2002, AFAL, London, UK)**

**O. Coming international days**

**P. Sub-regional workshop on the proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity (Muwa, Malawi from 28 April - 1 May 2003)**

**R. Report on "The Protection of Cultural Rights" made available by IIEDH**

**S. L'UNESCO organise le séminaire : UNESCO et NEPAD, de la vision à l'action (UNESCO organizes seminar: UNESCO and NEPAD, from vision to action)**

## **A. Festival Panafricain du Cinéma et de la télévision de Ouagadougou (FESPACO)**

La 18e édition du FESPACO s'est déroulée à Ouagadougou du 22 février au 1er mars. Cette manifestation biennale permet de dresser un bilan sur l'actualité des films africains. Cette année, le prix « Etalon de Yennenga » décerné au film HEREMAKONO de Abderrahmane Sissako (Mauritanie). La prochaine édition aura lieu en 2005.

Pour plus d'information, consultez

### **FESPACO NEWS**

[http://www.fespaco.bf/fesp2003/news\\_francais\\_09.pdf](http://www.fespaco.bf/fesp2003/news_francais_09.pdf)Fespaco

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## **B. ARTWATCH SOUTH AFRICA**

Artwatch South Africa is a weekly news and information service to update subscribers about developments within the South African arts and culture sector. The service is provided by Article 27 Arts and Culture Consultants, producers of the South African Handbook on Arts and Culture.

### **Contents:**

- A. General News
- B. Newspaper Headlines
- C. Forthcoming Events
- D. The Cultural Weapon: Commentary on Contemporary Cultural Issues

### **ARTWATCH subscription details**

#### **1. Rates for weekly column:**

Individuals and companies, institutions and organisations with annual budgets of 100 000 Euros or less: 7 Euros monthly (or equivalent in other currencies).

Companies, institutions and organisations with annual budgets in excess of 100 000 Euros or less: 15 Euros monthly (or equivalent in other currencies) (Column may then be distributed to all their interested staff).

### **How to subscribe**

- Send an e-mail to [art27m@iafrica.com](mailto:art27m@iafrica.com) or hit the reply button after reading this column to request a subscription form.
- Return the completed subscription form by email, indicating your contact details, the date on which the subscription was paid via bank transfer, and the reference name when making such payment.
- Article 27 will match the payments to its bank records and will then provide the service.

## **C. First National Conference on Arts and Culture Marketing**

Johannesburg, 21-23 May 2003

Performing Arts Network of South Africa (PANSAs), in association with Business and Arts South Africa (BASAs), will host South Africa's first national conference on arts and culture marketing from 21-23 May in Johannesburg. One of the outcomes of the event will be the launch of the Arts and Culture Marketing Association of South Africa (ACMASA), a body that will provide further training, mentorships, exchange of information and ideas and advocacy in the marketing arena. ACMASA will be an independent body with its own elected leadership, and will serve all disciplines including the performing arts, heritage and museums, literature, film and the visual arts.

(Information from Artwatch South Africa)

<http://www.panapress.com/RubIndexlat.asp?code=fr006>

## **D. 2002 Noma Award for Publishing in Africa**

### **Monumental Reference Work on the History of the Arabic Novel Wins**

*The Arabic Novel: Bibliography and Critical Introduction, 1865-1995* (6 vols.) by Hamdi Sakkut is announced as the 2002 Noma Award Winner. The book was published in 2001 by The American University in Cairo Press. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Award, for 2002, marks the first time that a University Press has won the Award.

The Jury citation reads: "This comprehensive bibliography of the Arabic-language novel is a monumental reference work that fills a gaping hole in the history of Arabic literature. Covering the most mature novels from Africa and across the Arab world, it presents a spectacular amount of bibliographic information, unsurpassed in its scope. The scholarship is both rigorous and daring, opening new research agendas in the field. Arabic was established as one of Africa's languages by 632 A.D.; and this work will be a major canon of the African continental literature, unlikely to be surpassed for many years to come. The Award recognises the outstanding scholarship, and the furtherance of important work in African languages."

Volume 1 contains Prefaces and a Critical Introduction in Arabic, with an English translation; and a list of Arabic novels translated into English. Volumes 2-6 present the body of the bibliographic information, including short biographies and lists of critical essays - in Arabic and in European languages - about each title. Entries are alphabetically arranged by novel, with their critical writings in one listing and without such writings in another. They are chronologically and geographically indexed by country.

The \$10,000 23<sup>rd</sup>. Award will be presented at a special ceremony to be held in Africa in 2003, details of which will be announced.

The Jury singled out two further **books for Special Commendation** (alphabetical order by publisher):

### **Regions of Floristic Endemism in Southern Africa by Abraham van Wyk and Gideon Smith (Gauteng, SA: Umdaus Press (Pty) Ltd, 2001)**

This is an outstanding ecological work. It documents endemic plant species in Southern Africa, and particularly the Cape, which has a greater number of endemic plant species than any other area of comparable size in the world. The scope and depth of the treatment combined with the stunning illustrations are completely new for this discipline of plant geography coupled to conservation. All aspects of production – paper, layout and excellent mapping – contribute to a visually very beautiful book.

### **Rock Paintings of South Africa: Revealing a Legacy by Stephen Townley Bassett (Claremont: David Philip Publishers, 2001)**

This book is a striking visual documentation of the San painting tradition, spanning more than 27,000 years. It contains 70 full-colour plates of the author's meticulously painted recordings of San murals rendered from those found in rock shelters throughout South Africa. It is a highly unusual, important and innovative book describing and discussing South African rock paintings. The central feature is the author's copies of the paintings, and it is unique in its focus on actual painting techniques and the (projected) relationship between the artist, subject and medium.

**Three first-novels were cited for Honourable Mention.** The Jury considered the writers to have distinctive potential, and the books themselves were of the kind likely to spread reading in Africa. The titles (alphabetical by publisher) are:

**Parched Earth by Elieshi Lema (Dar es Salaam: E&D Ltd, 2001).** Deep and wise, this love story is perhaps the first feminist novel from Tanzania in English. The story of a woman coming to age against the strictures of patriarchy, it is psychologically convincing, told in a style full of suggestive imagery which underlies the themes.

**Slagoffers by Dine van Zyl (Cape Town: Tafelberg Publishers, 2001).**

Set in Angola during the Swapo/UNITA war, the novel convincingly portrays the sufferings of women during the chaos of the war. Its importance lies in exposing the violent history, not least in Afrikaans, a language not often used to recount atrocities suffered by Africans.

**Welcome to our Hillbrow by Phaswane Mpe (University of Natal Press, 2001).**

Set in a South African township, the painful subject matter is AIDS, suicide and xenophobia. Its form vividly captures the chaotic, ambivalent and schizophrenic world of the New South Africa with vividness and imagination; and is unusual in its use of techniques borrowed from the African oral tradition.

94 titles, from 56 African publishers, in 18 countries, in 6 languages, were submitted for the 2002 competition.

The Noma Award Jury is chaired by Walter Bgoya from Tanzania, one of Africa's most distinguished and respected publishers, with wide knowledge of both African and international publishing. The other members of the Jury in 2000 were: Luli Callinicos, South African scholar and historian, currently writing the biography of Oliver Tambo; Dr. Ato Quayson, Director of the African Studies Centre, and Fellow of Pembroke College, University of Cambridge; and Mary Jay, Secretary to the Managing Committee (the Jury). Dr. Fatou Keita, University of Cocody, Abijan, is the fifth member of the Jury (and who was unable to travel to the Jury meeting for circumstances beyond her control). The Award is sponsored by Kodansha Ltd, Japan.

For further information about the Award, please contact:

Mary Jay, Secretary to the Noma Award for Publishing in Africa, PO Box 128, Witney, Oxon OX8 5XU, UK. Tel: +44-(0)1993-775235 Fax: +44-(0)1993-709265

Email: [maryljay@aol.com](mailto:maryljay@aol.com)

Web site: [www.nomaaward.org](http://www.nomaaward.org)

## **F. Vers une convention pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel**

Paris, 21 février – Qu'il soit terrestre ou sous-marin, culturel ou naturel, mobilier ou immobilier, le patrimoine matériel de l'humanité est aujourd'hui protégé, en temps de paix

comme en temps de guerre, par quatre conventions internationales adoptées par les Etats membres de l'UNESCO en 1954, 1970, 1972 et 2001. Pourtant, un peu partout dans le monde, une autre composante très importante de l'héritage culturel des peuples - leur patrimoine immatériel, formé de traditions orales, coutumes, musiques, danses, rituels, fêtes, ou médecines traditionnelles - court de sérieux risques de disparaître si des mesures de sauvegarde appropriées ne sont pas prises.

Pour combler cette lacune, les Etats membres de l'UNESCO, lors de la 31<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale en novembre 2001, ont décidé que « la question doit être réglementée par la voie d'une convention internationale » et ont invité le Directeur général « à lui soumettre à sa 32<sup>e</sup> session un rapport sur la situation devant faire l'objet d'une action normative et sur l'étendue possible d'une telle action, ainsi qu'un avant-projet de convention internationale ». Ils prenaient ainsi acte de la nécessité d'apporter une protection juridique internationale à des manifestations fragiles par nature et aujourd'hui particulièrement exposées aux effets de la mondialisation, de la dégradation de l'environnement ou, tout simplement, de l'inévitable évolution des modes de vie. Du 24 février au 1<sup>er</sup> mars, des experts gouvernementaux d'une centaine de pays se sont réunis à l'UNESCO pour étudier un avant-projet.

La sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel est un processus complexe, car elle concerne une multiplicité d'acteurs, au premier rang desquels les populations qui les font vivre. Mais l'UNESCO estime que les gouvernements ont également un rôle majeur à jouer, en identifiant, avec l'aide d'experts, de créateurs et des populations concernées, les formes et expressions culturelles particulièrement significatives pour une communauté, et pouvant avoir une valeur universelle. Pour que cette sauvegarde soit efficace, l'Organisation propose que soient créés des organismes locaux et nationaux de gestion, des programmes éducatifs et des dispositifs législatifs, à côté des mécanismes internationaux de coopération technique et financière. Toutes ces mesures, de même que l'identification, la collecte d'information et la documentation des pratiques et manifestations du patrimoine immatériel de l'humanité sont les objectifs principaux de la convention envisagée

La réunion est en fait la deuxième session d'une réunion intergouvernementale tenue au Siège de l'UNESCO en septembre 2002. 281 spécialistes de 120 Etats membres avaient débattu d'une première esquisse de convention. Cette fois, leur mandat sera tout d'abord de déterminer le champ d'application de l'avant-projet de convention internationale, puis d'en avancer l'élaboration.

C'est sur la base de ces consultations intergouvernementales que le Directeur général présentera un rapport, assorti d'un avant-projet de Convention, aux 190 Etats membres de l'UNESCO (puisque l'UNESCO devrait accueillir en son sein deux nouveaux Etats membres, le Timor-Leste et les Etats-Unis d'Amérique) à l'occasion de la prochaine session de la Conférence générale, en octobre 2003.

Bureau de l'information du public, Section éditoriale  
e-mail : [l.iglesias@unesco.org](mailto:l.iglesias@unesco.org)

## **G. News from WebWorld, the website of UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector**

### **Expansion of the Observatory on the Information Society**

28/02/2003 (UNESCO) - UNESCO's Observatory on the Information Society is expanding its services and coverage to all regions of the world. Two new sites have been established to join the Spanish-language news service in existence since 2001.

[http://portal.unesco.org/ci/ev.php?URL\\_ID=8064&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201&reload=1046445996](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/ev.php?URL_ID=8064&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201&reload=1046445996)

### **UNESCO/EU Arab Women Journalists' Workshop on Advanced Desktop Publishing Techniques**

27/02/2003 (UNESCO) - Within the framework of the UNESCO/European Union Project: Promotion of Independent and Pluralistic Arab Media, UNESCO will organize from 16-21 March an Arab Women Journalists Workshop on Advanced Desktop Publishing Techniques, at its Offices in Amman Jordan.

[http://portal.unesco.org/ci/ev.php?URL\\_ID=8045&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201&reload=1046445996](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/ev.php?URL_ID=8045&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201&reload=1046445996)

### **Digital Opportunities for Africa: Community Multimedia Centres**

26/02/2003 (UNESCO) - UNESCO in collaboration with AMARC Africa is organizing a pan-African symposium on Community Multimedia Centres from 12-17 June 2003 in Dakar, Senegal. The aim of this meeting is to find out more about how community radio stations across Africa are using ICTs in order to forge a strategy for larger-scale CMC development in Africa

[http://portal.unesco.org/ci/ev.php?URL\\_ID=8026&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201&reload=1046445996](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/ev.php?URL_ID=8026&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201&reload=1046445996)

### **H. Lettre d'information Africultures 9/2003**

[www.africultures.com/actualite/agenda/detail.asp?no\\_evenement=105](http://www.africultures.com/actualite/agenda/detail.asp?no_evenement=105)

### **Salon des Hautes Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication**

Dakar (Sénégal) du 3 au 7 mars

Ce Salon, unique en Afrique, a permis de réunir les acteurs majeurs européens désireux de se tourner vers le marché des NTIC africain : 40 exposants, 3.000 visiteurs et 200 auditeurs sont attendus.

[www.africultures.com/actualite/agenda/detail.asp?no\\_evenement=1305](http://www.africultures.com/actualite/agenda/detail.asp?no_evenement=1305)

### **Africancolours : le portail africain de l'art**

[www.africultures.com/actualite/murmures/detail.asp?no\\_murmure=53](http://www.africultures.com/actualite/murmures/detail.asp?no_murmure=53)

### **RAP 21 - Réseau Africain pour la Presse du 21ème siècle**

La Newsletter n°98 du 21/02/2003 vient de paraître.

[www.africultures.com/actualite/murmures/detail.asp?no\\_murmure=43](http://www.africultures.com/actualite/murmures/detail.asp?no_murmure=43)

### **The African Studies Association 46th Annual Meeting in Boston**

The theme this year is: "Youthful Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"

The African Studies Association 46th Annual Meeting will take place from October 30 – to November 2 2003 in Boston, Mass. The theme this year is: "Youthful Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" (for the general arts blurb see the bottom of this message).

Proposals for individual papers, completed panels and roundtables are to be sent to the ASA Executive Office and postmarked by Friday, March 31, 2003. Completed proposals must be accompanied by membership and pre-registration fees.

For guidelines visit the website: <http://www.africultures.com/actualite/universitaire/>

## **4th World Congress of African Linguistics and The 34th Annual Conference on African linguistics**

Theme of the conferences:

- "The Description of African Languages in a Rapidly Changing Field"
- "International Symposium on The Marginalized Languages of Africa."

The 4th World Congress of African Linguistics and The 34th Annual Conference on African Linguistics will be held on June 17 - 22, 2003 at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA. The organizers of the WOCAL 4 and ACAL 34 would like to invite papers that address the conference theme, or any other topic relating to African languages and linguistics. Papers can be presented in English or French.

Further Information on WOCAL 4 and ACAL 34 available at:  
<http://www.wocal4.rutgers.edu/>

### **I. News from Cultural Policy Listserv:**

#### **Summer Institute for Arts Management, June 19-21**

Information on the University of Massachusetts's Arts Extension Service's Summer Institute for Arts Management is online at <http://www.umass.edu/aes>. It will be held June 19-21, 2003 at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. This year Bob Lynch (Americans for the Arts) will be honored as the Robert Gard Lecturer.

#### **UNESCO New release: "Arts and Artists from an Economical Perspective"**

"Arts and Artists from an Economical Perspective" by Xavier Greffe, has been recently published by UNESCO and Economica. This book examines the relationship between the fine arts and economics - the contribution of various art forms toward economic growth and development, and the impact of economic factors on the creation of art. For further information, visit <http://upo.unesco.org/bookdetails.asp?id=4015>.

### **J. Signature d'un accord-cadre entre le CICIBA et l'Ecole du Patrimoine africain de Porto-Novo (Bénin)**

Pour une promotion plus efficace des vestiges matériels et de l'héritage intangible bantou - c'est le principal objectif de l'accord-cadre signé, dans l'historique cité béninoise de Porto-Novo, il y a quelques jours, entre ces deux institutions. Le document y relatif prévoit la mise en route de plusieurs projets dont notamment la promotion grâce aux nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication, du patrimoine culturel de la zone bantou.

Paraphé par les Directeurs Généraux des deux structures, MM. Vatomene KUKANDA et Alain GODONOU, l'accord a été défini comme un instrument de coopération scientifique, technique et professionnelle.

S'orientant vers un large champ d'action, incluant les vestiges matériels et l'héritages intangible, les deux parties se sont donc engagées à identifier et à analyser les créations plastiques anciennes et contemporaines ainsi que les traditions orales et les expressions artistiques des peuples de l'Afrique centrale, orientale et australe.

(Information reçue du CICIBA)

### **K. News from the Development Gateway**

### **A study about contemporary Arab culture**

<http://www.developmentgateway.org/culture>

What Arabs Think: Values, Beliefs and Concerns? This is the current highlight on the Culture & Development Topic page of the Development Gateway. This timely report, based on interviews with 3,800 Arab adults in eight mideastern countries, provides a new window into understanding modern Arab culture. The Arab Thought Foundation in Lebanon commissioned the study with the support of the King Faisal Foundation of Saudi Arabia.

Based on local personal interviews conducted in Spring 2002, it measures attitudes among urban residents about religion, cultural identity, gender, age, education and politics. The highlight also provides links to the Arab Human Development Report 2002, the first such study produced by UNDP and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

### **International Expert Meeting: "Safeguarding of Endangered Languages"**

UNESCO, Paris, 10 – 12 March 2003

As the linguistic diversity of the planet shrinks at an unprecedented rate, to the point that most of the world's languages may be replaced by a few dominant languages by the end of the 21st century, the top experts in this field, from the scientific community and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), are to meet at UNESCO from March 10 to 12. A preparatory study reports that: "About 97% of the world's people speak about 4% of the world's languages; and conversely, about 96% of the world's languages are spoken by about 3% of the world's people.... at least 50% of the world's nearly six thousand languages are losing speakers. Even languages with many thousands of speakers are no longer being acquired by children. We estimate that about 90% of the world's languages may be replaced by dominant languages by the end of the 21st century." This International Expert Meeting will seek to identify the means to combat the phenomenon of linguistic decline and to establish UNESCO's specific role in the actions to be taken.

### **Des lignes directrices d'études pour le développement professionnel dans les musées**

[http://www.developmentgateway.org/culture/dg-contribute/item-detail?item\\_id=293180&version\\_id=171842&from=alert](http://www.developmentgateway.org/culture/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=293180&version_id=171842&from=alert)

Ces Directives du Conseil International des Musées (ICOM), autrefois "Syllabus de Base UNESCO-ICOM pour La Formation du Personnel des Musées" sont construites pour celles qui sont responsables de créer et livrer l'enseignement professionnelle dans tous les formats ...

### **Le Tissage dans l'Atlas Marocain: Miroir de la terre et de la vie**

[http://www.developmentgateway.org/culture/dg-contribute/item-detail?item\\_id=293189&version\\_id=171848&from=alert](http://www.developmentgateway.org/culture/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=293189&version_id=171848&from=alert)

Textes et photos d'Ivonne Samama; dessins de Serge Marrel. La tradition du tissage inscrite dans le quotidien, porteuse d'identité. Le métier à tisser est le reflet du monde et il confère aux femmes une puissance incontestable.

### **Forum électronique: L'Afrique et la mondialisation culturelle**

[http://www.developmentgateway.org/culture/dg-contribute/item-detail?item\\_id=293195&version\\_id=171852&from=alert](http://www.developmentgateway.org/culture/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=293195&version_id=171852&from=alert)

Forum Internet de discussion ouvert d'Agriculture sur la mondialisation de la culture.

### **Leadership in Museums: are our core values shifting?**

[http://www.developmentgateway.org/culture/dg-contribute/item-detail?item\\_id=293386&version\\_id=171996&from=alert](http://www.developmentgateway.org/culture/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=293386&version_id=171996&from=alert)

The texts of 16 wide-ranging papers on the current state and the future of cultural sector management and leadership, presented to the Dublin, October 2002, conference of the International Committee on Management of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

### **MOST (Management of Social Transformations)**

[http://www.developmentgateway.org/culture/dg-contribute/item-detail?item\\_id=293678&version\\_id=172189&from=alert](http://www.developmentgateway.org/culture/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=293678&version_id=172189&from=alert)

MOST is a UNESCO programme that promotes international, comparative and policy-relevant research on contemporary social transformations and issues of global importance. Created in 1994, it focuses on multicultural and multi-ethnic societies, urban development, ...

### **L. ESPACE Faguèye - Art Contemporain Africain**

Contact : [fagueye@binome.net](mailto:fagueye@binome.net)

Site web : [www.africanloxo.com](http://www.africanloxo.com)

Toutes les actions de l'Espace Faguèye (Dakar, Sénégal) et ses artistes obéissent à un engagement, celui de travailler pour l'art contemporain. L'art contemporain africain peut et doit apporter beaucoup au Monde, comme par le passé l'Afrique apporte une énergie créative. Ces artistes doivent être reconnus mais doivent aussi s'engager vers des voies à explorer.

L'Espace Faguèye s'est organisé autour de 4 axes de travail :

La recherche, la promotion, la création et la gestion. L'association s'engage dans un vrai projet de développement dans un esprit d'échange et de croisement des disciplines. Des liens doivent être recréés, les liens entre les artistes eux-même, mais aussi les liens entre les artistes et le secteur économique.

### **M. News from Creative exchange**

EMAIL: [info@creativexchange.org](mailto:info@creativexchange.org)

<http://www.creativexchange.org>

### **The Merry Trust - Update**

The Merry Trust was set up in memory of Jani Llewellyn to establish or support dance and theatre workshops, music rehearsal and recording facilities and arts and crafts studios with young people in **Mozambique**. Following a recent trip to Mozambique Vincent Rich has compiled a report reinforcing the links with contacts in the area and to get some firmer ideas on future Merry support for cultural and educational activities.

Some examples include how by channeling money through a local organisation Merry has helped the Bela Baia Woodcarvers Cooperative with improvements to its premises. They have agreed to help with the provision of better quality tools and of bamboo screening to secure the showroom for the Karibou Wimbe Cooperative (also woodcarvers).

Merry have also agreed to help Tambo Tambulani Tambo (TTT) to participate in a Southern African theatre festival, by providing funds and guitars.

Merry also plan to match the existing funding given to Centro Cultura Mapico Moderno Cabo Delgado (CCM). CCM organises health education activities for the local community, including Aids awareness sessions; it provides discrete spaces for quiet discussion and debate,

for the teaching of cultural, religious and social history as well as for the performance of dance and music.

The Merry Trust are now a registered charity., their entry can be viewed on the Charity Commission website: <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>. Their formal objectives are:

1. The relief of poverty and the advancement of education, in particular but not exclusively, through support in the establishment and provision of facilities for a cultural centre in Pemba, Mozambique.\*

2. The advancement of education of children attending schools in Deptford, South London, by providing items, services and facilities that are not normally provided out of public funds."

If you would like more information on the Merry Trust or to get a copy of the report by Vincent Rich please contact Peter Llewellyn:

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## **N. Africa Audio-Visual Library – (From the Annual Report 2002, AFAL, London, UK)**

### **1. Introduction:**

The Africa Audio visual Library(AFAL) was set up in December 2001. For too long there had been a glaring gap in the availability of resource material on African Arts and Cultures in their historic and dynamic context.

Why Arts and Cultures?

There is plenty of written information available on African politics, economics and natural disasters. There is also some literature on the Arts and Cultures of various parts of Africa. Only so much, however, can be communicated by the written word or even photographic material. So much of music, dance, architecture, painting, sculpture can be better conveyed by audio and moving visual media.

The gap in availability was obvious, but we nevertheless conducted some empirical research. This consisted of a survey of about 300 people in London drawn from across the range of communities. The detailed results of this survey are available to anyone interested, but in broad terms there was an overwhelming response that access to audio-visual materials on African Arts and Cultures was very difficult, and nearly all said that they would use a library where available.

Within a small group of people who generated the idea of this library we have considerable expertise on both the subject matter and the technicalities of audio and visual media. Indeed it was partly the demand being made on personal resources that first highlighted how much people want access to this material.

### **2. General meeting**

We set about gathering a membership of those interested in contribution to the provision of a library. On the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2001 we held our Inaugural General Meeting, at which we adopted a constitution and elected an Executive Committee. We passed the necessary resolutions to set up a bank account .

The meeting decided the outline of the services that we would try and develop.

### 3. Services

It is the aim of AFAL to make available a wide range of audio-visual materials featuring African Arts and Cultures. Many of these materials require good equipment to enable them to be used. This equipment would be provided by AFAL to enable all visitors (members and non-members irrespective of social and cultural backgrounds) to make immediate use of the materials that we have on offer.

A library such as the one we are building would be under used if it did not become the basis for seminars, workshops and lectures. In the first year of AFAL we have already piloted this with a workshop in which two video tapes on Art and Culture in Central Africa were studied by a good attendance of 25 people. The workshop was followed by a panel discussion. It is the first of a series of three workshops, the remaining two being planned for early 2003.

AFAL also took part in a conference on Social Enterprise held at Hounslow Civic Centre, and contributed to events in Black History Month organised by the LBE.

We are planning to conduct outreach events, particularly in schools, to bring the richness of our material to a wider audience, and encourage people to make use of the library.

AFAL has been invited by Action Acton to take part in the Acton Spring Festival in March 2003.

Our web site [www.afal.org](http://www.afal.org) is currently under construction . We have secured a web link from [www.wv3.org](http://www.wv3.org) and have subscribed to the directory of Refugees in Effective and Active Partnership.

### 4. Premises

In November 2002 we secured premises at Hawkco House, 35 Horn Lane, Acton, London W3 6NS. The library is thus located in a quiet but easily accessible area, with public transport from most parts of West London, and good links to the general London transport system.

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**Conclusion:** AFAL is still very young, just one year old. We are however very pleased with the progress that we have made during our first year and are enthusiastic and optimistic about making even greater progress the year to come.

**Contact:** helene lembanaka <[basionline@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:basionline@yahoo.co.uk)>

### **O. Coming international days**

- 21 March - International Poetry Day
- 23 April - World Book and Copyright Day
- 23 August - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition

**P. Sub-regional workshop on the proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity** (Muwa, Malawi from 28 April - 1 May 2003)

UNESCO Harare Cluster office is organising a sub-regional workshop on the proclamation of masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity in Muwa, Malawi from 28 April - 1 May 2003. The principle objectives of the workshop are:

- to promote the Proclamation Program
- to encourage future participation of countries in the region and to provide training on the mechanisms of the Proclamation to Staff of Ministries for Culture and National Committees responsible for the selection and submission of candidature files.

For further information contact [md.ngulube@unesco.org](mailto:md.ngulube@unesco.org).

## **R. Report on "The Protection of Cultural Rights" made available by IIEDH (From Cyberkaris)**

The Interdisciplinary Institute of Ethics and Human Rights (IIEDH), the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights and Democracy, and the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) have published a document on "The Protection of Cultural Rights". It was edited by Mylène Bidault, who is currently writing her PhD on International Protection of Cultural Rights, as well as working for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. You can access the document at (<http://www.unifr.ch/iiedh>)

## **S. L'UNESCO organise le séminaire : UNESCO et NEPAD, de la vision à l'action**

Paris – Près de 200 décideurs politiques, représentants d'organisations régionales, sous-régionales et d'ONG, bailleurs de fonds, parlementaires et experts se sont réunis à Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), du 5 au 8 mars prochain, pour se pencher sur les questions de l'éducation, l'eau, la biodiversité, la diversité culturelle et l'accès à l'information et au savoir en Afrique. Ces thèmes ont été au cœur des débats du séminaire L'UNESCO et le NEPAD : de la vision à l'action, qui a été suivi de la première réunion du Comité UNESCO pour le NEPAD. [Continuer](#)

## **UNESCO organizes seminar: UNESCO and NEPAD, from vision to action**

Paris – Some 200 policy-makers, representatives of regional, sub-regional and non-governmental organisations, donors, members of parliament and experts met in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from March 5 to 8, to examine the issues of education, water, biodiversity, cultural diversity and access to information and knowledge in Africa. These topics formed the core of debate at the seminar UNESCO and NEPAD: from Vision to Action, which was followed by the first meeting of the UNESCO Committee for NEPAD.

**As to Culture**, at this time, in a number of African countries, no cultural policies have been formulated and specific cultural characteristics are not sufficiently taken into account in development strategies. Traditional ways of life, knowledge and know-how are thus disappearing with the onslaught of foreign cultural models. African cultural industries and the media have no real impact on society and the cultural sector does not truly participate in the continent's economic development. Out of nearly 900,000 book titles published every year in the world, only 1.5% are published in Africa, against 73% in developed countries.

UNESCO's actions in the cultural arena will stress three themes: safeguarding of heritage (rehabilitation and conservation, education on heritage in schools and universities, revitalization of intangible cultural heritage such as traditional know-how and oral traditions, fight against illegal traffic), the promotion of cultural diversity (cultural tourism, action to

safeguard languages in danger of becoming extinct, programmes to collect and spread national cultures) and the reinforcement of links between culture and development (support for the creation of cultural micro-enterprises, participation of local communities in projects for environmental protection, urban conservation, Aids prevention from a cultural perspective). [More](#)