



www.artocarpe.net

Contemporary Art contemporain

Le saviez-vous? L'Artocarpe est le nom scientifique de l'arbre à pain!
Did you know? L'Artocarpe is the scientific name of the Breadfruit tree!

PRESS RELEASE

The *Biennale di Venezia* : when contemporary art is viewed through the eye of a curator from Africa...

Two artists from L'Artocarpe visit the Venice Biennale (Italy) so as to be in touch with the contemporary art world.

L'Artocarpe is currently in Venice to enjoy the prestigious visit of the Biennale, this international meeting of artworks from professional artists.

Founded in 1895, the Biennale is celebrating this year its 56th edition. This is the most respected event of this kind, being at the forefront of this kind. Art professionals fly from all places to view the edition, which for 2015 started May to end in November.

Since 1907, the famous pavillon have been added to the event to encourage national representations : each participating country is therefore able to select and present one of a group of artists to represent the colour of its flag. We recall the first even Pavillon being present for Haiti a few years back under the curatorship of Giscard Bouchotte and their sponsor : Agnès b.

However the keynote of the event is the exhibition curated by the chosen curator, who has entire freewheel to choose any artist from the globe to come and present his/her work.

For those who never visited Venice, coming to the biennale is therefore a double take. The journey offers the joy of navigating through the canals of what is truly one of the most beautiful city in the world, as well as entering the dream-like world of the numerous invited artists, over several days. Entrance fee: a reasonable 25€ for a two day pass, which is clearly much cheaper than a tour on a landmark gondola.

However the reason for L'Artocarpe to come all the way from the Caribbean to Italy, is all different! This year, and for the first time in the history of the biennale, the curator in chief is originally from Nigeria. First time ever that an African curator has such post! Okwui Enwezor, lives and work in the US.

L'Artocarpe

Contemporary Art contemporain

55 rue Hugo, 97160 Le Moule GUADELOUPE, FRENCH CARIBBEAN

artocarpe@gmail.com Mob : 00 33 (0) 690 302 743 / LD: 00 590 (0)590 901 949

Siret : 532 758 067 00013

Structure déclarée et enregistrée sous la référence N° W9G2000706 par la Sous-Préfecture de Pointe-à-Pître.



www.artocarpe.net

Contemporary Art contemporain

Le saviez-vous? L'Artocarpe est le nom scientifique de l'arbre à pain!
Did you know? L'Artocarpe is the scientific name of the Breadfruit tree!

PRESS RELEASE

Let's be honest: the biennale has taken all this time to nominate its first ever black curator ! Is it a pure coincidence that Mr Enwezor is in charge of the artistic event on the very first year of the launch of *The International Decade for People of African Descent* ? The initiative is to dedicate a full decade until 2014 to People of African Descent.

An interesting for of positive discrimination imposed onto the entire Western world to redress the imbalance still observed on the human landscape of those countries. Ironically, this is also this year that our small island of Guadeloupe has seen its Memorial ACTe been launched. The mission is similar to that of the Unesco enterprise : breaking all stereotype on people of African Descent through a better knowledge of the historical realities underlying the European countries. Art playing a major role in doing so.

Okwui Enwezor curated L'Arsenal. His choice was to mix artists lesser known to the general public to giant figures well regarded within the art professionals. Many from various regions of the world we know little about. The result is a very nice journey through the psyche of those creators, who are all extremely qualified.

At the very moment when l'Artocarpe is ending 7 full years of activities towards the promotion of contemporary art, the analysis is clear : some of our artists are today ready to be considered for this type of exhibitions.

Most of L'Artocarpe's members have indeed already been invited to take part in biennale exhibitions, such as : Sao Paulo (Brazil) ; Havana (Cuba) ; Dakar (Senegal) ; as well as smaller or younger initiatives such as the ones in Aruba, Martinique (BIAC) which may announced its next edition in 2016.

Experience teaches us that the Biennale of Cuba has nothing to be ashamed of, compared to its big Italian sister. Earlier this year, L'Artocarpe was supporting one of his member who represented the island in Cuba. For the second time, a member of L'Artocarpe is chosen by the Cuban curatorial team, which demonstrates a huge recognition of the work done in our rather modest organisation.

Being in Cuba to assist Henri Tauliaut was for us a way to grant him real support as well as to carry on working on our own respective career: it is only when you see other artists's work well displayed, that you can truly judge your own.

We also were in New Orleans, in May, with the *Caribbean Studies* Association to promote

L'Artocarpe

2

Contemporary Art contemporain

55 rue Hugo, 97160 Le Moule GUADELOUPE, FRENCH CARIBBEAN

artocarpe@gmail.com Mob : 00 33 (0) 690 302 743 / LD: 00 590 (0)590 901 949

Siret : 532 758 067 00013

Structure déclarée et enregistrée sous la référence N° W9G2000706 par la Sous-Préfecture de Pointe-à-Pître.



www.artocarpe.net

Contemporary Art contemporain

Le saviez-vous? L'Artocarpe est le nom scientifique de l'arbre à pain!
Did you know? L'Artocarpe is the scientific name of the Breadfruit tree!

PRESS RELEASE

our activities. We did a stop in Boston at the University of Massachusetts as well to meet students and present our platform.

Some of our members had exhibition at the Perez Art Museum, in Miami, at the MOCADA in New York and in other parts of the US.

L'Artocarpe shall be again in Miami in February 2016 invited by the Perez Art Museum on the *Tilting Axis* event.

L'Artocarpe is still being closely followed and assisted by its Art Director, Régine Cuzin, who is an independent art curator.

Ms Cuzin last exhibition ended up this year in Paris at the Grand Palais. Both her advice and her network have been crucial to making a real change within our organization. Ms Cuzin is based in Paris, but we are in touch with her at least 3 times a week over SKYPE.

In February 2016, the Perez Art Museum is to invite L'Artocarpe as part of its *Tilting Axis* event. Such presence confirms the interest in L'Artocarpe from official art instances, and more importantly, the input from our Art Director, Regine Cuzin, whose expertise as Independent chief curator has led us today to be better considered.

Regine Cuzin curated the Haiti three-month-exhibition, which ended up earlier this year in Paris at the Grand Palais. Regine Cuzin has met every member individually to offer free expertise and crucial feedback.

At the time when the General Council of Guadeloupe is opening its new Contemporary art collection in St Claude, we can assert that Guadeloupe has definitely entered the era of contemporary art !

Only those artists who did not believe in the possibility of adopting such practices or worse, who did reject them altogether, just a few years back, can bite their tongues. As no doubt, more interest will be given to artists engaging in contemporary art practices on the international level. One has to be strategic to fully understand it. And no doubt that L'Artocarpe has played a huge role - not only Guadeloupe but also in Martinique and Paris- in promoting contemporary art practices of its members.

While most of L'Artocarpe members has based in Guadeloupe, Martinique and Paris, we still have ramifications in Brazil, Dominica, Spain, England and in the US. So far our activities have been numerous as well as exciting, since they have offered us the opportunities to go to various places such as : Haiti, Aruba, Jamaica, Tenerife, Senegal, Santo Domingo, the US, Puerto-Rico, Japan, Italy among many other destinations.

L'Artocarpe

3

Contemporary Art contemporain

55 rue Hugo, 97160 Le Moule GUADELOUPE, FRENCH CARIBBEAN

artocarpe@gmail.com Mob : 00 33 (0) 690 302 743 / LD: 00 590 (0)590 901 949

Siret : 532 758 067 00013

Structure déclarée et enregistrée sous la référence N° W9G2000706 par la Sous-Préfecture de Pointe-à-Pître.



www.artocarpe.net

Contemporary Art contemporain

Le saviez-vous? L'Artocarpe est le nom scientifique de l'arbre à pain!
Did you know? L'Artocarpe is the scientific name of the Breadfruit tree!

PRESS RELEASE

We hope to achieve many dreams : that of the full recognition of our art practices, often left aside, on the peripheries by national instances. Such reality has led many artists to go abroad for better opportunities. The Saatchi gallery recently acquired one of the most important artwork created by Martiniquan artist Jean-François Boclé.

Jean-François Boclé, who was disregarded from his native island of Martinique may well be today the very first French Caribbean artist to integrate such collection.

The irony being that when operating on the un-official mode, in London, L'Artocarpe invited Jean-François to join the team spirit and to offer him what later became the first ever L'Artocarpe' residency.

For it is also crucial to better prepare artist who wish to integrate the art market. Most of them are not ready for it yet. Lack of professionalism, lack of the ropes, lack of contacts... enough to pursue the job !

Earlier this year, Sébastien Mehal, another member of L'Artocarpe, joined 3 galleries following his two residencies with L'Artocarpe and his solo exhibition at Foundation Clément on the sister island of Martinique. He was part of Miami Art Basel, earlier this month with the Lelia Mordoch gallery. Let's salute the work of the young Maëlle galerie, based in Paris, founded by an alumni of the Art school of Martinique, Olivia Breleur. Olivia fully understood the importance of aiming for business !

It goes without saying that some of L'Artocarpe's members are now ready for major top range exhibitions as well as gallery representation.

Art has this interesting fact that it offers a certain type of independence to Guadeloupe artists. Upon looking on the last two edition of the Havana Biennale, we note that it is under the flag of the island that artists were invited and not that of the national flag. That may well lead to other biennale to do likewise : and why not Venice ?

Some art professionals from Guadeloupe are clearly considering the option...

In the meantime, the visit of the Venice Biennale is a way to give other members a good critical account of the present situation of the art world within which, we are all trying to get by...

Translated on December 2015

L'Artocarpe

Contemporary Art contemporain

55 rue Hugo, 97160 Le Moule GUADELOUPE, FRENCH CARIBBEAN

artocarpe@gmail.com Mob : 00 33 (0) 690 302 743 / LD: 00 590 (0) 590 901 949

Siret : 532 758 067 00013

Structure déclarée et enregistrée sous la référence N° W9G2000706 par la Sous-Préfecture de Pointe-à-Pître.