



November 23, 2023

## **Hot Flux: Modern and Contemporary Photography in Taiwan and Africa**

November 28, 2023 - April 28, 2024

Tainan Art Museum is pleased to present the exhibition *Hot Flux: Modern and Contemporary Photography in Taiwan and Africa*. This collective exhibition focuses on photography as an artistic medium, and its development in African countries and in Taiwan from the middle of the 19th century to today. More than a hundred works from 24 artists are showcased in this first major exhibition featuring African photographers in a Taiwanese museum.

In recent years, the academic and artistic communities in Taiwan and Africa have both been conducting in depth research into the history of photography with renewed interest. Whereas each of these traditions have more often been compared against their Western counterpart, this exhibition invites them to converse directly. Since the last century, both regions have developed unique cultural and artistic identities. Photography, as a means of both documentation and creation, is worth our attention: the axial relationship between the West and its former colonies is an inevitable topic in constructing historical narratives for each region. However, stepping outside of this central framework, we also hope to explore some commonalities and challenges faced by countries in the global south, as well as the relationships that may emerge between them.

This exhibition is divided into three sections. The first, *Modern Photo Studio*, primarily showcases modern photography works, including portraits from earlier photo studios as well as candid outdoor shots depicting social gatherings and everyday life scenes, snapped as photographers hit the streets. The second section, *Across Oceans*, takes a more theoretical approach, with the works of three contemporary artists, to depict the intricacies and complications involved in intercontinental population migrations. The third part, *South by South*, fosters a dialogue between contemporary artists from Taiwan and Africa, demonstrating how their works resonate with each other, and highlighting the significant issues they confront in their creative processes, focusing on themes such as race, identity, heritage, the environmental and more, and more.

African countries began to gain independence from Western colonial powers in the mid-20th century. As these nations developed their identities post-independence, the people experienced a vibrant period of revitalization. Though Taiwan's political development process differed from that of these African nations, its people were still influenced by the global trend of convenient living brought about by globalization. This

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section showcases several masterpieces by African contemporary photographers, such as Seydou Keïta, Malick Sidibé and Sanlé Sory, marking their debut appearance in Taiwan.

The second section alludes not only to the poetics of the Black Atlantic, but also incorporates the dispersion and emotions of other ethnic groups. Three artists, Tainan's Wei Ze, Benin-born Laeïla Adjovi and Hong-Kong born American photographer Lau Pok Chi's works weave together a grand epic of voyages across oceans .

The final section invites recent works from contemporary photographers from both regions, showcasing iconic works that are powerful comments on modern issues such as pollution (Fabrice Monteiro and Wu Cheng-chang) and identity (Omar Victor Diop and Wong Hoy-cheong).

A catalogue will be published. This illustrated bilingual (Chinese/English) catalogue will include critical texts, biographical entries on the artists, and commentaries on the artworks, many of which are new to the Sinophone world.

Tainan Art Museum Building 2  
Gallery O, P, J  
No. 1, Sec. 2, Zhongyi Rd.,  
West Central District, Tainan, Taiwan 70041  
<https://www.tnam.museum>

Hours:  
Tuesdays to Sundays 10:00-18:00  
Saturdays 10:00-21:00  
Mondays Closed except on National Holidays

Supervisor: Tainan City Government  
Organizer: Tainan Art Museum

Curators: Lou Mo, Lin Jui-yang  
Coordinators: Huang Jing-jung, Chang Yu  
Consultant: Delphine Buysse

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Artists:

Alun Be  
Ambroise Ngaimoko  
Fabrice Monteiro  
Ibrahima Thiam  
J. D. 'Okhai Ojeikere  
Laeïla Adjovi  
Malick Sidibé  
Omar Victor Diop  
Philippe Koudjina  
Robin Rhode  
Roger Da Silva  
Sanlé Sory  
Seydou Keïta  
Wu Tien-chang  
Wu Cheng-chang  
Tou Yun-fei  
Shen Chao-liang  
Chen Po-I  
Hsu Yuan-fu  
Musquiqui Chihying  
Wong Hoy-cheong  
Huang Jin-shu  
Lau Pok Chi  
Wei Ze

Special Thanks:

Eslite Gallery, Galerie MAGNIN-A, OH Gallery, SKPEAC & the Jean Pigozzi African Art Collection, Virginia & Wellington Yee, Florent Mazzoleni, Loïc Quentin, Fati N'Zi-Hassane, Luc Da Silva, Takamori Nobuo & Lehmann Maupin Gallery

About Tainan Art Museum:

The Tainan Art Museum opened its doors to the public in January of 2019, after more than 8 years of planning and construction. Located in the heart of Tainan's cultural and historical district, the museum is housed in two separate buildings designed and built by the firm of Pritzker Architecture Prize winner Shigeru Ban in collaboration with Chao Yung Shih Architects. Covering an area of more than 66200M2, the Museum's collections consists of important works and artifacts spanning 400 years, preserving the

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artistic and historical legacy of Tainan, Taiwan's oldest city and historical capital. The aim of the museum is to integrate this art heritage, so it becomes a daily part of the modern life in the city.

About the curators:

Lou Mo (b. 1990, France) is a Chinese Canadian art professional, artist, and curator. She lives and works in Taipei. She graduated from Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris with a degree in Asian Studies. As an art professional, she has worked in museums, an auction house, and galleries in Canada and in France. As an artist and curator, her research is focused on modern and contemporary Afro-Asian connections and Third World artists' creative practices. She is also interested in issues of diaspora, identity, and perception in relation to post-colonial history and the centre-periphery model. She was invited curator of the 14<sup>th</sup> Dakar Biennial in Senegal where she presented 'Havana, Forging the Souths' exhibition at the Musée Théodore Monod – IFAN. As a member of the School of Mutants collective, her works have been exhibited in venues such as the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Centre Pompidou Metz and the 12<sup>th</sup> Berlin Biennial. Her other research-based works have recently been exhibited at the Hong-Gah Museum in Taipei and the Kochi Biennial in India.

Lin Jui-yang

Currently living, making art, and working in Tainan, Taiwan.

In addition to being a photography artist, he is also a curator at the Tainan Art Museum.