ART AFRICAN
EXCELLENSITYS

PRESS RELEASE

March, 2026

Following its inaugural edition, Art African Excellensitys returns to Liège for a second edition dedicated to the African cultural and artistic awakening.

Art African Excellensitys is the International Fair for the Arts and Cultures of the African continent, its diasporas, and the Caribbean; it will take place on March 12, 13, and 14, 2027, at the Palais des Congrès in Liège.

The event aims to bring together key figures from the worlds of art, culture, heritage, gastronomy, entrepreneurship, and media, creating a space for networking, discovery, and international collaboration.

Located in the heart of the Euroregion, Liège offers a strategic position for reaching a Belgian audience as well as visitors from neighboring countries such as France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. These regions near Liège will be a specific focus to encourage significant cross-border participation.

54 African countries represented + the Caribbean + the diasporas

Two halls, two atmospheres

• Culture Hall: 66 exhibitors

• Art Hall: 36 exhibitors

• Catering Area: 4 stands reserved for chefs and restaurateurs from the African continent, the diaspora, and the Caribbean (North Africa, East Africa, West Africa, Caribbean)

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On the program:

• Artistic performances and activities
• Participatory workshops
• Art and cultural exhibitions
• Live concerts
• Food & Bar
• Children's area

Eight themes will allow visitors to discover an authentic Africa, resolutely contemporary and forward-looking.

Opening hours:

• Friday: 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (school access) | 7:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m. (opening night by invitation only)

• Saturday: 10:30 a.m.–7:00 p.m. Evening event: 7:30 p.m.–12:00 a.m.

• Sunday: 10:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m. (auction)

For its 2027 edition, Art African Excellensitys affirms its international scope by opening itself to the participation of artists, creators, and exhibitors from Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

This global reach aims to bring together Africans from around the world, whether they are from the continent, the diaspora, or the Caribbean, to offer a shared space for expression, creativity, and knowledge sharing.

It also invites people from all corners of the globe to discover an authentic Africa, rich in traditions, innovation, and cultural excellence. Art African Excellensitys 2027 – Africa shines, the world discovers it.

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For this edition, Art African Excellensitys will donate a portion of the funds raised to the NGO Ndako Wa Bana in Kinshasa and the NGO Green Community.

A donation of €2,000 will be given to **Ndako ya Bana in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.**

Ndako ya Bana, an initiative led by the non-profit organization of the same name, has been committed since 2016 to providing quality education to underprivileged children in Kinshasa. Carefully selected from orphanages, centers for single mothers, and children with disabilities, forty children currently benefit from comprehensive educational support. Following the creation of a Montessori school accessible to the most disadvantaged, the organization now ensures their schooling in a private school while also providing them with a hot meal daily, homework help, and cultural or sporting activities every Saturday. True to its mission, Ndako ya Bana continues to transform lives through the power of education and solidarity.

A donation of €2,000 will be awarded to **Green Community in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.**

Green Community is a non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 2018 and reinvented in 2024, working at the intersection of art, education, and the environment. Based in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, it promotes a sustainable future by valuing creative and innovative solutions for waste management, while supporting the empowerment of women, youth, and children. Convinced that art is a force for social transformation, Green Community combines the beauty of recycled art with concrete actions to protect the planet. Among its flagship projects are: • The Green Women Agro Center, a program for the economic empowerment of women through organic farming. • The Center for Women's Empowerment through Arts and Crafts, which promotes inclusion and creativity as drivers of sustainable development.

This initiative is part of Art African Excellensitys' ongoing commitment to educational projects in Africa, thereby contributing to the empowerment of women through access to education.

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Key figures of the second edition of Art African Excellensitys

- Independent exhibition curator: Daffa Konaté
- Specialist in Congolese painting: Wiligama Art Collector
- Independent curator: Anne Wetsi Mpoma
- Auction house: Stanley's Auction
- Co-organizers: Hayat Nasri and Carlos Djisso
- Interior designer: Élodie Delfosse
- Anthropologist: Alexandre Michotte
- Photographer and videographer: Karima El Jabbari
- Anthropologists and investigative journalists: Ismo
- Co-organizer (artistic component): Chris Lumu
- Videographer: Tchuikoua Magellan Siryl
- Ballast Ateliers Créatifs (Non-profit): Pierre Huson
- Les Ateliers Au Fil Des Jeux (Non-profit): Matumona Olga

This second edition boasts an enhanced international dimension, featuring our **patron, Moussa Sene Absa** a Senegalese artist and filmmaker and our **patroness, Martha Woldu**, an artist based in China.

Together, they help foster cultural exchange among Africa, its diasporas, the Caribbean, Asia, and Europe through art, creativity, and the sharing of knowledge.

Contact

Founder, Matumona Olga
+32 489.23.15.90
info@artafricanexcellensitys.be
https://art-africanexcellensitys.be



A vision for African artistic excellence

Art is one of the most beautiful expressions of human freedom.

It transcends borders, recounting lived experiences, human emotions, and stories that books do not always capture, while building bridges where others see differences.

In becoming the official **patron of Art African Excellensitys 2027**, I sought to support far more than just an art fair. I chose to champion a vision: that of showcasing the talents of the African continent, its diasporas, and the Caribbean, while fostering connections between cultures, generations, and institutions.

Africa is a continent of creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, and excellence. Its artists offer unique perspectives on the world, question our times, pass on memories, raise awareness, and open up new horizons.

This fair serves as a magnificent showcase for this richness. It offers artists a space for expression, invites visitors to explore, and gives everyone the opportunity to build bridges between peoples through culture.

Deeply attached to the province of Liège, I also wish to help make Liège a welcoming hub for major international cultural, artistic, and entrepreneurial gatherings. Liège possesses a history, heritage, and diversity that make it a remarkable crossroads for exchange. Hosting events of this magnitude boosts the city's profile and creates opportunities for our artists, businesses, and community organizations, while affirming its status as a European metropolis open to the world.

As a Belgian Senator, I am convinced that culture is a powerful driver of dialogue, social cohesion, economic development, and closer ties between Africa and Europe. Supporting those who create, innovate, and pass on their knowledge is also a way of preparing for the future.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Ms. Olga Matumona Kembi and her entire team for their trust and commitment. It is my hope that this initiative will continue to grow and, over the years, establish itself as an international benchmark for African artistic excellence.

Marie-Claire MVUMBI
Senator of Belgium
Official Patron of Art African Excellensitys 2027