

# Reclaim: Narratives of African women artists

Within the framework of the Africa2020 Season,  
in partnership with the École du Louvre.

DATE  
13.04.2021 – 16.04.2021

LOCATION  
Online

This symposium occurs in the context of a partnership with the Africa2020 Season, a pan-African and multidisciplinary event that takes place in France from December 2020 to mid-July 2021. It is organized by AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions in cooperation with the École du Louvre.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION  
The symposium will take place online from 13 to 16 April 2021, over four afternoons from 2 to 6 pm Paris time. It will be translated in French and English. Registration is free and can be done via the following links—caution, each day has its own link:

APRIL 13  
Forgotten Narratives  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_pmK36rQVRuuJB5srnnw4KA](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_pmK36rQVRuuJB5srnnw4KA)

APRIL 14  
Narratives of Womanhood  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_vwVrQWB4SjWTJivhChJvLw](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_vwVrQWB4SjWTJivhChJvLw)

15 AVRIL  
Narratives of Media  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_5R167aMCQkuQIQ07xctK5w](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_5R167aMCQkuQIQ07xctK5w)

16 AVRIL  
Institutional Narratives  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_X3ABs3dSQ5C2xivz\\_fwJqQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_X3ABs3dSQ5C2xivz_fwJqQ)

**A** Archives  
**W**A of Women Artists  
**R** Research  
**E** & Exhibitions

Billie Zangewa, *In my solitude*, 2018. Courtesy Templon. Picture: Jurie Potgieter



Bringing together researchers from various horizons, this symposium aims to shed light on the research on African women artists, and to bring African perspectives to the foundational narratives of art history. The past few decades have seen concerted drive in Europe and the United States to produce global art histories, with little participation by scholars from other parts of the world, especially Africa. Alongside this initiative is an unprecedented growth in research and writing on modern and contemporary African art. Major monographs on individual artists, groups and national art movements have appeared in recent years. Yet, only very few women artists have featured in these publications, despite that they played important roles in the

making of these histories. This symposium offers a critical platform for established and emerging scholars to evaluate and re-examine existing histories and archives as well as recover new ones to more fully account for the significance of work by African women artists past and present. Among the guiding questions for this symposium are: How have modern and contemporary art history in Africa been written? Which histories, media, identities, genders have been forgotten and which have been overlooked? Which new narratives do we need for the writing of more comprehensive future art histories?

The proposed interventions will examine four different axes, four types of “narratives” that will create a framework for reflection: lost narratives, narratives of womanhood, narratives of media, and institutional narratives.

## Tuesday 13 April 2021

### GENERAL INTRODUCTION

2 PM | Opening by Claire Barbillon, Director of the École du Louvre

2:10 PM | Introduction by Camille Morineau, Director and co-founder of AWARE

2:25 PM | Introduction by N'Goné Fall, General Commissioner of the Africa2020 Season

### SESSION 1

**Forgotten Narratives: Who are the women whose stories we are at risk of losing? How do we fill this gap?**

### CHAIRWOMAN

Nkule Mabaso (Independent curator, South Africa)

2:40 PM | Introduction of the session

2:45 PM | Sule Ameh James (University of Pretoria, South Africa) *A Critical Analysis of Artworks by Two Female Modern Nigerian Artists: Afi Ekong and Clara Ugbodaga-Ngu*

3:20 PM | Nancy Dantas (MoMA, USA), *Bertina Lopes: A Modernist (and Panafrikanist) in Arms*

3:55 PM | Julia Rensing (Universität Basel, Suisse), *Contesting the Archive: Namibian Artists' Renegotiations of the Colonial Past*

4:30 PM | Q&A

4:50 PM | Break

5:00 PM | Keynote speaker: Nontobeko Ntombela (Wits School of Arts, South Africa)

5:45 PM | Q&A

## Wednesday 14 April 2021

### SESSION 2

**Narratives of Womanhood: What does it mean to be a "woman artist"? How do notions of "the feminine" or "womanhood" shape what is accepted, recorded, or understood in the formation of art historical narratives?**

### CHAIRWOMAN

Nadine Hounkpatin (TheArtMomentum and artness.nl, The Netherlands)

2:00 PM | Introduction of the session

2:05 PM | Gladys Kalichini (Rhodes University, South Africa), *Conflicting Archives: Reimagining and Visualising Socio-Political Narratives of Women Freedom Fighters in Zambia and Zimbabwe*

2:40 PM | Martha Kazungu (MARKK Museum, Germany), *Njabala: towards activating the pluralities of Ugandan Womanhood as a site of resistance*

3:15 PM | Ruth Belinga (Université de Dschang, Cameroon), *Aesthetic and socio-anthropological analysis of the art of seven Cameroonian women from three generations*

3:50 PM | Q&A

4:10 PM | Break

4:20 PM | Keynote speakers: Nadira Laggoune (musée national public d'Art moderne et contemporain d'Alger, Algeria) and Rachida Triki (Université de Tunis, Tunisia)

5:20 PM | Q&A

## Thursday 15 April 2021

### SESSION 3

**Narratives of Media: What are the relationships between gender and medium? How have the politics of materials and techniques played formative roles in the shaping discourses about women in the arts? How might we challenge or undermine these?**

### CHAIRWOMAN

Gaëlle Beaujean (Musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, France)

2:00 PM | Introduction of the session

2:05 PM | Maha Tazi (Concordia University, Canada), *Women's Creative Disobedience and the Continuing (Gender) Revolution in Post-Arab Spring Morocco (2011-2019): Slam Poetry and RAPTivism*

2:40 PM | Felicia Nitsche (Universität Bayreuth, Germany), *Re-inscribing Antoinette Lubaki into Congolese Art History*

3:15 PM | Portia Malatjie (University of Cape Town's Michaelis School of Fine Art, South Africa), *African Sonic and Spiritual Praxes: Strategies for a Revolution*

3:50 PM | Q&A

4:10 PM | Break

4:20 PM | Keynote speaker: Senam Okudzeto (Artist, Switzerland)

5:05 PM | Q&A

## Friday 16 April 2021

### SESSION 4

**Institutional narratives: What role have institutions played in entrenching the underrepresentation of women in the arts? What responsibility should institutions assume in creating more equitable systems of representation moving forward? What are alternative institutional models that are more inclusive?**

### CHAIRWOMAN

Sonia Recasens (Independent Curator, France)

2:00 PM | Introduction of the session

2:05 PM | Alice Korkor Ebeheakey, representing Alice Korkor Ebeheakey, Dorothy Akpene Amenuke & Bernard Akoi-Jackson, (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana), *Breaking Boundaries and Borders: Undoing Stereotypes with the Stereotypes. The Case of Contemporary Art from Africa*

2:40 PM | Perrin Lathrop, representing Perrin Lathrop & Nddi Dike, (Princeton University, USA), *Modern Women: Archiving African Modernism*

3:15 PM | Amandine Nana (ENS Ulm and Université Paris I, France), *Clara Etso Ugbodaga-Ngu and Miranda Burney-Nicol: Fragments of the trajectories of African women artists between Paris and London during the decolonisation period, through the prism of the magazine Le Musée Vivant*

3:50 PM | Q&A

4:10 PM | Break

4:20 PM | Keynote speaker: Karen Milbourne (National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, USA)

5:05 PM | Q&A and Closing

## Scientific and Organising Committee

### AFRICA2020 SEASON

N'Goné Fall, General Commissioner of Africa 2020

### AWARE: ARCHIVES OF WOMEN ARTISTS, RESEARCH AND EXHIBITIONS

Camille Morineau, Co-founder and Director of AWARE; Anaïs Roesch, International Program Manager; Matylda Taszycka, Head of Research Programmes; Justine Lacombe, Intern; Rose Laedlein-Greilsammer, Intern

### EXTERNAL MEMBERS

Eva Barois De Caemel, Independent Curator; Nadira Laggoune, Director of the Musée National Public d'Art Moderne et Contemporain of Alger; Peju Layiwola, Artist, Founder of the Women and Youth Art Foundation and Vice President of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association; Nkule Mabaso, Independent Curator; Nontobeko Ntombela, Independent Curator and Professor at the Wits School of Arts; Karen Milbourne, Senior Curator, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution; Chika Okeke-Agulu, Professor of Art History, Department of Art & Archaeology/Department of African American Studies, Princeton University; Senam Okudzeto, Artist and Educator, Founder of the Ghanaian NGO Art in Social Structures; Fatou Sarr Sow, Sociologist, Director of the Gender and Family Institute of the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar; Rachida Triki, Professor of Art History and Aesthetics, Tunis University.

### MORE INFORMATION

[aware.africa2020@gmail.com](mailto:aware.africa2020@gmail.com)



An event organized in the framework of the Africa2020 cultural Season



École du Louvre  
Palais du Louvre