



Also Known As Africa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Also Known As Africa* announces first Los Angeles edition opening May 2-12, 2024**

Artists from Africa and its diaspora will be presented in large-scale exhibition and public program in South LA and across the city



(Los Angeles, October 5, 2023) – [*Also Known As Africa \(AKAA\)*](#), the principal contemporary African art and design fair in Paris, France, announced today that it will open its first international edition in Los Angeles from May 2-12, 2024. ***Also Known As Africa: LA***, which will feature more than 80 artists, galleries and curators from around the world, will be presented in the form of a large-scale, curated and commercial exhibition, rather than in the mode of a traditional fair with exhibitor booths. The ground-breaking, hybrid exhibition will focus on the diverse art scenes from Africa and its diaspora, offering a new interpretation of the contemporary art map that places a multi-faceted Africa at its center and creates a space where awareness and dialogue can deconstruct preconceptions.

Curated by AKAA Artistic Director **Armelle Dakouo**, *Also Known As Africa: LA* will explore, through its exhibition and public programs, how curatorial practice can impact the writing of art history and may fill the void left by the long absence of Black artists in institutions and academia.

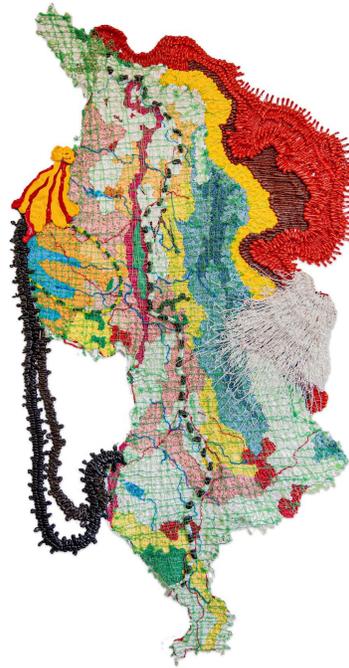
“We are committed to writing a new narrative, to creating and transmitting an archive that will contribute to the writing of art history,” said AKAA Artistic Director Armelle Dakouo. “As we examine the role curation plays in the perception and visibility of an art scene, we invite artists to explore their space of ex(-)pression necessary to the development of those that shall follow.”

Also Known As Africa: LA will occupy the 5-acre campus at The Beehive, a SoLa Impact company, dedicated to providing access to education, culture, and technology in the South LA community. As a cultural hub, The Beehive celebrates creators, innovators, and cultural leaders. [SoLa Impact](#) is a Black-owned development company that focuses on providing high-quality affordable housing in Black and brown communities. Free and open to all, the exhibition’s location is integral to community accessibility and bridge-building among local communities.



Also Known As Africa: LA will be unveiled with partners among the leading art and cultural institutions and patrons in the city, laying the foundation for a multidisciplinary platform to host and connect the city’s diverse communities, collectors, and art professionals through its accompanying public program and community engagement initiatives.

“Los Angeles is one of the most dynamic art centers in the world today and we saw an opportunity to engage with it in a new dialogue through our unique curated and commercial exhibition,” said **AKAA Executive Director, Victoria Mann**. “Our Los Angeles edition will demonstrate how curatorial practice can advance critical thinking around the work and careers of artists, while giving them new opportunities for expression, presentation and visibility.”



AKAA, which will open its eighth annual fair in Paris later this month, has evolved into a vibrant cultural platform that fosters an active exchange between the African continent and the rest of the world, propelling a shift in the way art from the African continent is viewed and valued. Ties to Los Angeles will be evidenced by the presentation of *LIMIN/EN*, a monumental installation by Jamaican-born, Los Angeles-based artist and Assistant Professor at UCLA, Cosmo Whyte. Curated by Dr. Fahamu Pecou, artist and Founder of ADAMA (African Diaspora Art Museum of Atlanta), the work seeks to reconstruct and reclaim the fragmented histories and identities that have been torn apart by colonialism and white supremacy, bringing together the scattered pieces of Black subjectivity, reconnecting them to their roots and reimagining a future that is rooted in liberation and self-determination.

These themes and ideas will be further explored in the Los Angeles exhibition in 2024 and in the accompanying hardback book *Others Shall Come*, co-published by AKAA and JBE Books and distributed by Artbook D.A.P. The book is co-authored by Dakouo, independent curator and writer **Allison Glenn** and curator and critic **Jeanne Mercier** in conversation with a selection of artists committed to challenging artistic practices and curatorial patterns in order to extend their visibility and pave the way for those to come.

Participating artists, galleries and public programming are to be announced. ***Also Known As Africa: LA*** will take place from May 2-12, 2024 at the Beehive, 961 E. 61st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90001.

EDITORS' NOTES

Also Known As Africa

Also Known As Africa (AKAA) was founded in Paris, France in 2015 as a dedicated, annual contemporary art and design fair with an international focus on the diverse art scenes from Africa, its diaspora and artists who claim a link in their practice to the African continent. Transcending geographical borders and historical interpretations, *AKAA* offers a new interpretation of the contemporary art map that places a multi-faceted Africa at its center. In 2020, in Lyon, France, *AKAA* introduced *AKAA Curated Projects*, an alternative model for a commercial fair presented in the form of a curated exhibition. *AKAA's* first edition outside of France will take place in this new format in Los Angeles in 2024 providing contemporary African artists, galleries and curators with wider international visibility and new opportunities for expression, presentation and community engagement. *Also Known as Africa (AKAA)* is an independent company founded by majority owner and executive director Victoria Mann.



Victoria Mann

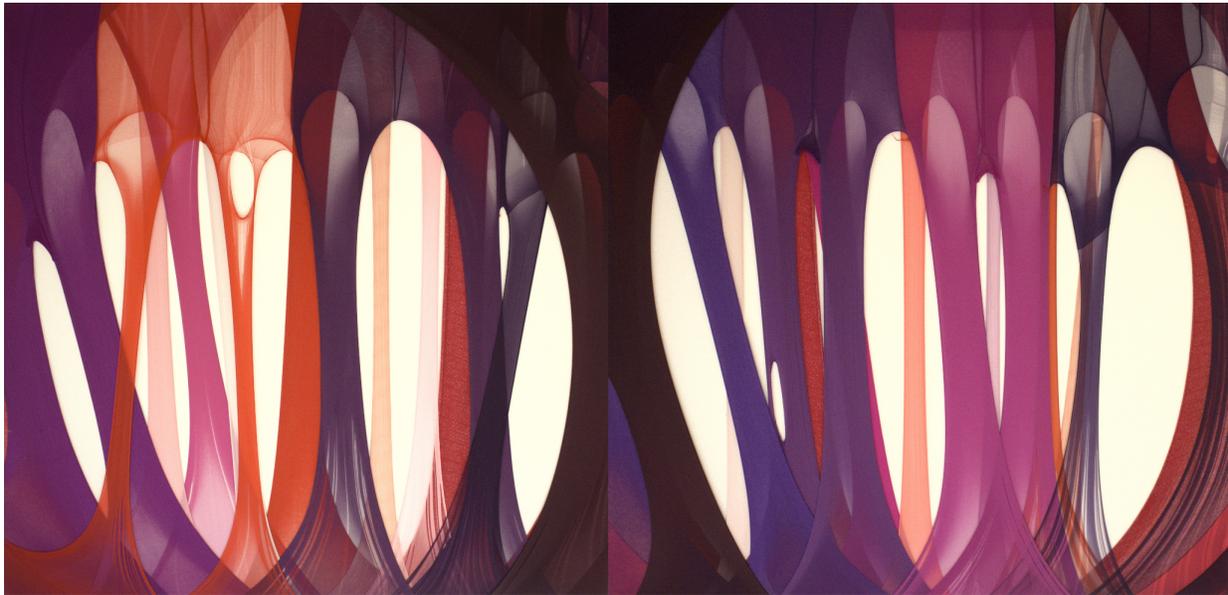
Founder and Executive Director of *Also Known As Africa Art and Design Fair (AKAA)*, Victoria Mann is a 38-year-old Franco-American cultural entrepreneur who comes from a family of art collectors, business leaders and world travelers. She started her career working at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and for Pace gallery in London. Passionate about all things related to Africa and contemporary art, she quickly understood

the importance of contributing to the development of an emerging market in Paris, and created the first commercial and cultural platform for contemporary art from Africa and its diaspora in France. *AKAA*, eight years running, is driven by her determination to always reach further. *AKAA* is a platform which constantly questions and redefines itself to provide an ever more dynamic, innovative and professional vision. Its primary ambition is to contribute to the sustainability of the market.



Armelle Dakouo

Armelle Dakouo oversees the Artistic Direction of *Also Known As Africa (AKAA)* fair in Paris and *AKAA Curated Projects* around the world. She will co-curate *Also Known As Africa: LA*. Dakouo has a thorough knowledge of contemporary art scenes on the African continent and beyond. She served as co-curator of the 2022 Congo Biennale in Kinshasa, DRC and has produced several exhibitions in France featuring artists from Africa and its diaspora as an independent curator. While based in Senegal and then Morocco between 2010 and 2017, Dakouo created and produced traveling photographic exhibitions in West Africa and collaborated as a curator with Moroccan art galleries.



Images from top L to R: **Duncan Wylie**, *Whistleblower 4*, 2023, oil on canvas, 54 x 46 cm /21.3" x 18.1", courtesy the artist and Backslash, Paris; **Alice Mann**, *Siphithemba Mshengu*, Tshwane, 2019, 40.6 x 50.8 cm (image), 55.8 x 66 cm (impression), impression par encrage sur papier Hahnemühle Photo Rag © Alice Mann, courtesy AFRONOVA GALLERY; **Slimen Elkamel**, *The Natural Kiss*, 2022, 200cm x 150 cm, acrylic on canvas © Slimen Elkamel, courtesy Yosr Ben Ammar Gallery; **Troy Makaza**, *Mapping the Unreasonable Part 2*, 2022, 203 x 104 cm, silicone infused with paint © Troy Makaza, courtesy First Floor Gallery Harare; **Turiya Magadlela** 'ilife ifana nama crayon ukuthi kanjani Nami angazi' from the *Inequalities Series*, 2022, 120cm x 240 cm, nylon and cotton panythose on canvas, courtesy Kalashnikovv Gallery.

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