

Àsìkò 2018 Cape Verde
8th International Art Programme
13 August – 16th September 2018

Project conceived and developed by
Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos

Curator: Bisi Silva

Project Co-ordinator: Fabiana Lopes

About the Programme

In 2010, the Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos started Àsikò, an innovative programme designed to redress the frequently outdated or non-existent artistic and curatorial curricula at tertiary institutions across Africa. Each year a cohort of approximately 12-15 emerging African artists and curators join an international faculty of practicing artists, art historians, curators and writers, for an intensive 35-day course of study in art and curatorial history, research methodologies and professional development. Moving between models of laboratory, residency and academy, Àsikò privileges experimentation over conventional approaches to art making and curatorial inquiry, encouraging participants to workshop ideas, proposals and projects for long-term development and implementation.

Curatorial Segment of the Programme

Since 2012, Àsikò has included a curatorial segment that responds to an urgent need to develop curatorial training on the continent. Up to thirteen participants from over 9 countries have taken advantage of this course to develop their skills and knowledge of curatorial approaches, trends, and strategies in the fields of modern and contemporary art. During the 35-day course, curatorial participants will be encouraged to develop their research methodologies, hone their proposal development and critical writing skills, engage closely with artists from across the continent, as well as with experienced professionals from around the world. The curators will be challenged to develop and engage new curatorial formats and strategies for the final programme under experienced curatorial supervision.

2018 Programme in Cape Verde

After successful programmes in Lagos, Accra, Dakar, Maputo, and Addis Ababa between 2010-2017, Àsikò 2018 will take place in the Cape Verdean city of Praia. In 1975, Praia was designated the capital of Cape Verde when the country joined Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau in attaining independence from Portuguese colonial rule. An archipelago approximately 375 miles off the coast of Senegal, Cape Verde has been dubbed “a nation of emigrants” given that the country’s diaspora significantly outnumbers its local population. Historical patterns of exodus largely catalyzed by economic conditions has resulted in sizable settlement populations in Italy, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, and the US. Nevertheless, Praia, home to 90% of the country’s local population, stands as a dynamic and cosmopolitan city whose languages, literary traditions, music, food, architecture, religions, and social life bear traces of centuries-long European and African influences. One of Àsikò 2018’s principle objectives is to question how histories of slave trade and colonialism have shaped the city’s urban ethos and culture, while also exploring how the city and its contemporary art scene forge relations and dialogue across oceans and continents.

Workshop Rationale

The visual art sector in most countries in Africa is predominantly conservative with many artists working in the traditional media of painting and sculpture —with little or no knowledge of or interest in artistic practices that use new media or digital technology or that are experimental in nature or even research based. With an eye toward encouraging and supporting artists interested in exploring different conceptual and material possibilities especially in the area of lens-based media and other experimental modes of working, the structure of Àsikò is rooted in the convergence of different artistic processes—be it painting, sculpture, performance, installation, photography, video, internet, etc.—while striving to provide an alternative to the traditional residency format.

Workshop Benefits Include:

- Access to experienced local and international artists and curators.
- One-to-one individual portfolio reviews and feedback about your work.
- Extended critique session by each participant.
- Developing writing skills for artists and curators and writers
- Encouraging and developing new contemporary practices on the African continent.
- Sharing knowledge through curatorial lectures, artists' presentations and critical debate.
- Developing new ways of creative thinking by integrating new elements such as performance, installation and sound projects into your work.
- Networking opportunities.

Structure of the Àsikò

Àsikò is a very intensive programme that takes place from Monday to Saturday 9am – 6pm. The workshop is loosely divided into 3 segments, each lasting approximately 10 days. There will be one or two lead artist/curator instructors facilitating each segment, each with his/her own style, working methods, and opinions. Each segment will be complemented by 1-3 visiting guest speakers (4-5 days); curators, artists, historians, filmmakers and writers amongst others. This gives participants a broad range of processes and opinions to consider for their own development, offering stimulating opportunities for discussion, thought, and reflection. Each segment introduces various non-traditional art-making approaches as well as curatorial strategies with the goal of helping participants realise and achieve their unique visions.

Participating artists and curators are required to present their work each week to their colleagues and the facilitators through seminars, talks, presentations and one to one portfolio reviews held over the course of the programme.

Who Can Apply?

Àsikò is principally targeted at African artists working on the continent who may not have had access to the education or professional opportunities that this programme offers. They will be prioritized.

- Visual Artists can be working in any media - painting, sculpture, textile, ceramics, photography, video, film and performance art,
- Applications are open to all artists (with or without formal art education) who have been professionally active for at **least 3 years**.
- Curators and writers from across Africa with at least **2 years** experience and who would benefit from the close interaction with artists as well as other professionals.
- Artists and curators who have participated **more** than once are not eligible to apply.

Conditions of Acceptance:

All Participants **must** be available for the full 35 days. Please **do not** apply if you cannot attend the entire programme.

- **Àsikò 2018** will be conducted principally in English. All Participants **must** have at least a conversational level of English. A Skype interview will be held.

**For additional information please contact Fabiana Lopes:
office.ccalagos@gmail.com**

Workshop Timeline: 13 August – 16th September 2018

- The workshop will be an intensive 35-day (5 week) programme facilitated by experienced local and international artists, critics, and curators.
- Workshop sessions will commence daily at 9.00am and end at 6.00pm, Monday to Saturday.
- The group (artists+curators) will work towards the production and presentation of a collaborative art project to be shown publicly in the final week of the programme.

Programme Costs

Participation fee is \$750 USD.

All participants **MUST** pay the participation fee which goes towards running the programme, a modest production budget, and final project.

Non-resident participants are expected to bear their travel costs to and from Cape Verde as well as their living cost for the duration of the programme.

Where possible CCA, Lagos will endeavour to subsidise all of the double-occupancy accommodation costs. A single room can be requested but comes at an additional cost to the participant. Participants who do not pay their participation fee before or on arrival will not receive subsidies towards accommodation. **All fees must be fully paid by end of July 2018 in order to be accepted on the programme.** A deposit of \$350 13 August – 16th September 2018 to secure the space by 14th June with full balance by 24th July.

Participants are **encouraged to apply for funding** from their home countries or other sources to support their fees, travel and living costs. Several possible resources for funding for African applicants are as follows:

- Art Moves Africa (AMA): www.artmovesafrica.org
- The African Arts Trust (TAAT), based in Kenya, eligible to artists from East Africa: <http://www.theafricanartstrust.org/>
- ProHelvetia in Johannesburg and Cairo:
<http://www.prohelvetia.ch/Johannesburg.3011.o.html?&L=4> ;
<http://www.prohelvetia.ch/Cairo.3016.o.html?&L=4>
- Prince Claus Fund: www.princeclausfund.org
- Goethe Institutes in your respective countries
- British Council in your respective countries

NOTE: We advise you to apply for travel funding whether or not your participation in the programme has been confirmed so as to not miss the application deadlines.

How Do I Apply?

Application Deadline: May 6th 2018

Selection Notification: 18th May 2018

Programme Dates: 13 August – 16th September 2018

1. Complete and sign the information form
2. Current resume/CV: 3 pages maximum.
3. A short **possible** project proposal that takes a book, a quote, a film, a musical score, a research you have done or even another artists work showing how you use it as a starting point for a possible work, or curatorial project in a minimum of 300 and maximum 500 words. **This is compulsory. Your application will not be considered without this part.**
4. Documentation of your work. You can either submit images OR video documentation, NOT both. We review video documentation ONLY for artists whose work is time-based, interactive, web-based, kinetic, film, video and performance. If you work with installation, site-specific, painting, sculpture and/or drawing, you MUST submit images.
6. IMAGES: Ten (10) jpeg images, at 180 DPI resolution minimum, maximum total file size 200kb. **Heavy files will be deleted immediately.** Images must be titled with your last name, first name, number with no spacing: e.g.: **jonesmary1.jpg**, jonesmary2.jpg.
7. **IMPORTANT:** we only accept images in jpegs or pdfs. Do not submit: Powerpoint presentations, TIFF, Gif or PSD files.
8. **For additional information, or to submit your application, contact: Fabiana Lopes: office.ccalagos@gmail.com**

About Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos

Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos is an independent Visual Art organisation founded in 2007, to provide a platform for the development, presentation and discussion of Nigerian contemporary visual art and culture. It seeks to create a new audience, and prioritise media such as photography, animation, film, video, performance and installation art, which have been under-presented in Nigeria. It supports the intellectual and critical development of different art and culture practitioners through talks, workshops, seminars and exhibitions. In addition, they promote the professionalization of production and curatorship in Nigeria and West Africa collaborating with artists, curators, writers, theorists and national and international organizations.

CCA, Lagos has set up one of the fastest growing independent libraries in West Africa specialising in the visual arts and the creative sector in general. The library contains over 5000 books, catalogues, brochures, journals and art videos with a strong focus on Nigeria and the African continent. The centre is being developed as an important resource and artists archive and specialised educational facility.

www.ccalagos.org

info@ccalagos.org