**Àsìkò Art School 2022**

**8th International Art Programme**

**23rd May – 12th June 2022**

**Praia, Cape Verde**

**Curator: Oyindamola Fakeye**

**Programme Manager: Ama Ofeibea Amponsah**

*Conceived and developed by Bisi Silva, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos*

**Cape Verde 2022**

Responding to better suit the times, this edition of Àsìkò will be our first 3-week programme.  After successful editions in Lagos, Accra, Dakar, Maputo, and Addis Ababa between 2010-2017, Àsìkò 2022 ushers us into a new phase and relaunch of the Art School which will take place in the Cape Verdean city of Praia in honour of plans originally initiated by Bisi Silva..

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 catalysed 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 Àsìkò 2022’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.

**Theme - The Poetics of Place**

As the theme for this edition, *The Poetics of Place* invites participants to explore our collective experiences and notions of place - the physical and conceptual spaces we occupy. True to the times, the expressions should also reflect the impact of increased virtuality on their theory and practice. One of the key underpinnings of the Àsìkò pedagogy is to imbibe and engage the rich history and culture of the places that host each edition. The theme and location are in honour of the memory of Bisi Silva who had previously chosen Praia as the next host.

**Curatorial Segment**

In 2012, Àsìkò introduced a curatorial segment to the programme to respond to the urgent need to develop curatorial training on the continent. Over 10 participants from 9 different countries have taken advantage of this to develop their skills and knowledge of curatorial approaches, trends, and strategies in the fields of modern and contemporary art. During the course, curatorial participants will be encouraged to develop their research methodologies, hone their proposal development and critical writing skills, engage closely with artists and experienced professionals from across the continent and beyond. The curators will be challenged to develop and engage new curatorial formats and strategies for the final programme under experienced supervision.

**Workshop Rationale**

In most African Countries, the Visual Arts Sector is predominantly conservative with many artists working in the traditional media of painting and sculpture. There is often minimal knowledge and interest in artistic practices that use new media or digital technology or that are experimental in nature or even research based.

In order to encourage and support 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 Àsìkò is rooted in the convergence of different artistic processes—be it painting, sculpture, performance, installation, photography, video, internet, etc.—whilst striving to provide an alternative to the traditional residency format.

Workshop Benefits Include:

* Access to experienced local and international artists and curators.
* Individual portfolio reviews and personal feedback
* Extended critique sessions
* Developing writing skills for artists and curators
* 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 through the implementation of non-traditional elements (including performance, digital and sound)
* International networking opportunities.

**Structure of the Àsìkò**

Àsìkò is an intensive programme with scheduled activity Monday to Friday. This edition is loosely divided into 3 segments, each lead by a lead artist/curator, each with their own style, working methods, and perspectives. 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 insight to consider for their own development, offering stimulating opportunities for discussion, thought, and reflection. Key in each segment will be critical theory as well as various non-traditional art-making and curatorial approaches, all with the goal of helping participants realise and achieve their unique visions. The group (artists+curators) will work towards the production and presentation of a collaborative project to be shared during the final week of the programme.

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**?

Àsìkò is primarily targeted at Artists and curators from Africa and the African Diaspora. Priority will be given to African artists working on the continent who may not have had access to the education or professional opportunities that this programme offers.

■ 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 programme in Cape Verde (May 23rd-June 12th) and the virtual post-programme activity (June 16th). Participation in the pre-programme activity in Dakar is highly desirable though not essential. Please do not apply if you cannot attend the entire programme in Cape Verde.

* Àsìkò 2022 will be conducted primarily in English. All Participants must have at least a conversational level of English. A Video interview will be held.
* Applicants with any accessibility needs should indicate such on the application to ensure appropriate support and assistance can be provided.

**Key Dates**

Open Call:

Jan 28th – Feb 27th

Pre-Programme Activity:

May 18th - May 22nd

Dakar, Senegal

(Dak’art 2022)

Asiko Art School Programme:

May 23rd - June 12th

Monday-Friday, 9.00am- 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Praia, Cape Verde

Post-Programme Session:

June 16th

(Remote)

**Coronavirus Safety**

Responding to the ongoing changes to Coronavirus travel and safety, we encourage participants to take all available precautions and adhere to the appropriate Covid 19 protocol during the workshops. Any symptoms developed during the programme must be reported to the organisers immediately to ensure your safety and treatment as well as the wellbeing of others in the group.

**Programme Costs**

***Participation fee is $800 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 endeavor to subsidies accommodation costs. 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 April 2022 in order to be accepted on the programme.

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](http://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.3011.0.html?&L=4> ; <http://www.prohelvetia.ch/Cairo.3016.0.html?&L=4>
* Prince Claus Fund: [www.princeclausfund.org](http://www.princeclausfund.org/)
* Goethe Institutes in your respective countries
* Africa no filter <https://africanofilter.org/home>

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?**

<https://airtable.com/shrEY0Cs4fWSNVlm2>

*For additional information please contact: asikoartschool@gmail.com*

**IG** @cca\_asiko