

Programme Point Sud 2021

Mutant Assembly: From Goree to Sébikotane - A Pan-African Future between Afro-Utopia and Afro-Nostalgia

January 2022 (t.b.c.), Dakar, Senegal

Conveners

Felwine Sarr, Economy, University Gaston Berger, Saint-Louis

Katharina Schramm, Anthropology, University of Bayreuth

Oulimata Gueye, Curator, Le Lieu Unique, Nantes

Julien McHardy, Anthropology, Leuphana University Lüneburg

Mamadou Sy, History, University El Hadji Ibrahima Niass

Marion Louisgrand-Sylla, Director Ker Thiössane, Dakar

Hamedine Kane, Artist, Filmmaker, Brussels/Dakar

Stéphane Verlet-Bottéro, Artist, Researcher, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, programme 4CS, Paris

Abstract

Placed under the scientific advice of Felwine Sarr, Katharina Schramm and Mamadou Sy, this seminar is designed by a committee composed of the artists Hamedine Kane and Stéphane Verlet-Bottéro and the curators and researchers, Julien McHardy, Marion Louisgrand-Sylla, Patrick Gyger and Oulimata Gueye. The event is organized within the framework of the Programme Point Sud, an annual series of workshops and conferences taking place in Africa, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and coordinated by Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. It is part of the project School of Mutants which will be presented at the Lieu Unique in Nantes in October 2020 as part of the Africa 2020 cultural season.

Mutant Assembly takes as its starting point the utopian experiences that have emerged in Senegal in the field of education and knowledge since the Independence: the unfinished University of the African Future and the nearby ruins of the former Ponty School in Sébikotane, the abandoned University of Mutants in Gorée, the contemporary African dance project Mudra taken over at the Ecole des Sables by Germaine Acogny.

Encouraging "mutant thinking", this Assembly will seek to question, from the transformations of the territory of Sébikotane-Diamniadio, the possibility of alternative and non-aligned pedagogies, pan-Africanism, education, architecture, ecology and the future with the underlying question: how to live in the ruins of capitalism (Tsing, Mbembe)?

The programme and the composition of the participants call for research on the utopias and limits of the futuristic projects of independences, but also on case studies and field surveys around decolonial ecologies, pluriverses and futures that escape the influence of Western techno-scientific domination. In addition to site visits, exchanges with the communities and activists of Sébikotane and Toubab Dialaw, presentations and discussions will take place at the Ecole des Sables, an example of radical utopia in the field of dance founded by the great Senegalese choreographer Germaine Acogny.

The meetings are filmed as part of the artistic project of Hamedine Kane and Stéphane Verlet-Bottéro and will result in a graphic video production.