

KIGALI TRIENNIAL

Edition #1



16 > 25
FEBRUARY
2024

Where arts,
knowledge
and economy
converge

DANCE • THEATER
VISUAL ARTS • FASHION
MUSIC • CINEMA
DESIGN • LITERATURE
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Press Pack

Kigali Triennial first edition
16-25 February 2024

Editorial

« Inganzo », the bay of clay

The Rwandan imagination uses the symbolism of excavation to describe the work of artists. Their resource – inspiration – bears the same name as the bay of clay and the quarry from which the potter and the blacksmith obtain their raw material : “Inganzo”. They shape works that are both the product of know-how and the materialization of the spirit.

This first edition of the Kigali Triennial will bring together artists who share the same field of research and observation, in a way the same bay/Inganzo. The program is largely pan-African with artists from across the continent. Particular attention is paid to emerging artists and creators who, through their research in theater, dance, visual arts, music, cinema, literature, design, digital arts, fashion, design and culinary arts, show an African, but also a feminine and generational perspective. The program also welcomes several artists from four European countries (Belgium, France, Italy and the UK), as well as two from the Middle East (Syria and Lebanon).

We designed this Triennial as a place of convergence. A meeting place for all art forms with the aim of breaking down barriers between them, finding bridges and rethinking the relationship between works and audiences. Several off-site presentations are planned in the car-free zones of Kigali as well as inside the country in more remote natural spaces, such as the Twin Lakes at the foot of volcanoes in Musanze, or Rubavu, on an island of Lake Kivu, where artists will propose hybrid forms in collaboration with fishermen.

The Kigali Triennial is also a place of convergence between the arts and other knowledge, between the world of thought and that of the sensitive, between aesthetic and fundamental research. The program includes around ten conferences and twenty training courses.

It is with pleasure that we invite you to Kigali for the first edition of the Triennial, from February 16 to 25, to meet a generation of artists who are not only questioning the present and dreaming the future, but also inventing it.

Dorcy Rugamba, Artistic Director of the Kigali Triennial
Sophie Kabano, Producer of the Kigali Triennial

Focus

The new Rwandan scene, towards a total art

Kigali lives. The city vibrates with a thousand passions, a thousand desires. Do you know that Kigali laughs? That its performers, among the most avant-garde, have undertaken to rethink aesthetics? We want to reveal to you a little-known aspect of Rwanda: the creativity of a scene whose talents, especially young people, and women too, are no longer concerned with the traditional barriers between the different forms of art – and whose research leads to a total art form.

You will find a young “neo-gakondo” musician, Michael Makembe, who takes hold of the heritage to give it an electronic and futuristic interpretation. And who, at 25, teaches courses at Stanford University in California.

After all, in Kinyarwanda, the word “ejo” means both yesterday and tomorrow. Here, as in Japan, modernity is in no way opposed to tradition. With Carine Poet, you will find slammers who love poetry. Journalists who are also actresses, actresses who are also poets. Stylists like Masa Mara who take photos and visual artists like Cédric Mizero who try their hand at theater.

This generation grew up together and invented its own language, without belonging to any school. Each artist comes with his or her unique universe. Everyone has the gift of ubiquity, this capacity brought about by the digital revolution. They are at the same time in Kigali, Shanghai, Johannesburg or Pittsburgh.

Located in the crossroads that Kigali has become, a cosmopolitan and polyglot city, the new Rwandan scene has an eye on the everyday and the ordinary, but is also part of the broader question of rebound, of rebirth after the genocide. As elsewhere in Africa, where many decolonizations have failed, it is a question of knowing how to start again, as Africans.

For RAI, it is a duty to fight to let people know that these young people have something to say to the world, in a radically new way. All this, without necessarily claiming identities, but rather singularities which refer to the universal. To embrace this scene and highlight it, we seek here to insert it into the world-economy of the arts. And via curations in pairs, to carry out work of transmission and professionalization.

Rwanda Arts Initiative

Summary

The Kigali Triennial, organized by the Rwanda Arts Initiative (RAI) art center, the Kigali City Hall and the Ministry of Arts and Youth, will take place from February 16 to 25, 2024. This major pan-African event focused on literature, theater, dance, music, cinema, fashion, digital arts, gastronomy, and design aims to highlight the vitality of the Rwandan scene, to professionalize the art market and to establish Kigali as a cultural capital. Over 200 artists from 25 countries will perform through 60 shows.

A showcase of “African excellence”: this is the key word of the Kigali Triennial, a partnership between RAI and Kigali City Hall, to be launched on February 16, 2024. Music, theater, dance, literature, fashion, design and gastronomy will be on the program for this major artistic event, which will take place over 10 days, with over two hundred African and international artists performing.

Among them, Zora Snake, a performer from Cameroon, the director of the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris and stage director Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota, the Senegalese gallery owner and designer Bineta Cissé, and the rappers Kivumbi and Bushari from Rwanda.

The first objective of the Kigali Triennial is to highlight the Rwandan cultural scene, animated by several generations of inspired artists in all fields. The challenge, which has been that of RAI since its creation, evolves around the professionalization of this very dynamic scene, and its insertion into the global arts market.

This meeting, which will take place every three years, will also allow Kigali, a polyglot crossroads and the third most visited city in Africa for its conferences, to shine as a cultural capital.

Paired curations

Curations in pairs, associating in each field a big name and a Rwandan artist, will allow all areas of creation to be explored: the musical program will for example be concocted by the Burundian singer Kadja Nin and the Rwandan musician Hervé Twahirwa, while the visual arts will be led by El Hadj Malick Ndiaye, the former artistic director of the Dakar Biennale, and the young Rwandan visual artist Mucyo. In charge of cinema: the French-Rwandan movie maker Sonia Rolland and Rwandan actress Isabelle Kabano, who notably played the main role in the film “Petit pays” based on the novel by Gaël Faye.

From February 16 to 22, cultural professionals will be invited to Kigali, in the presence of 200 programmers from Africa, Europe and the United States. Forums will be organized around the works, as well as training workshops and “masterclasses”, given by experienced artists in several disciplines.

The public will also be invited to attend plays, musical readings, concerts, parades and exhibitions, from February 16 to 25 in around ten different places in Kigali.

Two days of artistic excursion

The Kigali Triennial will go beyond the capital with two days of artistic excursions, on February 21 and 22. On the morning of February 21, a visit to the residency of Cédric Mizero, visual artist, will be organized at Twin Lakes, at the foot of the volcanoes, in the north of the country. In the evening, a ceremony for the arrival of fishermen on Lake Kivu will be orchestrated in Rubavu with a reading of poetry by the Senegalese Issa Damaan Sarr, author of “People of the Water”.

On February 22, the day will be devoted to a visit to Paradis Island, inhabited by Mucyo, visual artist and co-curator of the visual arts section of the Triennial, with a staging of plastic works in the open air.

The Kigali Triennial is placed under the artistic direction of Dorcy Rugamba, author, actor and director, founder, and director of Rwanda Arts Initiative. The production of the Triennial is ensured by Sophie Kabano, who will also curate the design part with Bineta Cissé.

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PROGRAM

Friday 16 Feb			
Artist	Artwork and category	Country	Place and time
Dorcy Rugamba/Fargass Assande	Gamblers (Theater)	Rwanda Ivory Coast	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (8h30 – 10 pm)
Visit of the Gisozi Genocide Memorial (2-5 pm)			

Sat. 17 Feb			
Dorcy Rugamba/Fargass Assande	Gamblers (Théâtre)	Rwanda Côte d'Ivoire	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (7:30-9 pm)
Zora Snake	L'opera du villageois (Performance)	Cameroon	Car Free Zone (11am -12:30 pm)
Eddy Eketé	Cans Men (Performance)	DRC	Car Free Zone (11 am-12:30 pm and 3-4:30 pm)
Jules César Nyonkuru	Devil's Gold - Galamsey (Theater)	Rwanda	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (2:30-4 pm)
Hendrickx Ntela & Carine Poet	Carte blanche (Performance)	Belgium Rwanda	Car Free Zone - (3-4:30 pm)
Ossama Halal	The Trees Dance Sometimes (Theater)	Lebanon-Syria	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (5-6 pm)
Echanges entre artistes – Artists Talk			Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (1:30 – 2 pm)
Visual arts exhibition * Open all day, Hôtel Milles Collines and School of Architecture			
Design exhibition – Vincent Niamien (Côte d'Ivoire), Chris Schwagga (Rwanda), Tchaka Tambwe (Rwanda). Open all day at L'Atelier			
Art & Tech Exhibition : – Rwanda : Guez Show, Imagine We, Africa in colors, Zacu TV, 63 Create, Gravity Studio – Kenya : My Movies Africa, Mdundo – Uganda : Better, Music in Africa – Nigeria : Gocreate			

Africa, CCHub – **Egypt** : Gemini Africa - **Ivory Coast** : Studio KA, Paradise game – **Tunisia** : 3D Netinfo – **Tanzania** : Fikiri 3D. Open all day at Africa in Colors

21 H – Opening cocktail of Kigali’s Mayor + Concert “Ikaze” of traditional music gakondo with Ibihame by’Imana, Michael Makembe, Angel & Pamela (by invitation, Hôtel des Milles Collines).

* **SCULPTURES / INSTALLATIONS:** Maximilian (Rwanda), Ibisazi designer (Rwanda), Precy Numbi (RDC), Benjamin Rusagara (Rwanda), Shema Gaetan (Rwanda), Moise Izabiriza (Rwanda)

PAINTINGS: Timothy Wandulu (Rwanda), Ulrikabe Mrcafe (Ivory Coast), Moise Izabiriza (Rwanda), Ukeye (Belgium- Rwanda), Christella Bijoux (Rwanda), Manzi Jackson (Rwanda), Bless Hirwa (Rwanda), Izere Antoine (Rwanda), Sophie Kabaka (France-Rwanda), Dusabe King (Rwanda), Mucyo (Rwanda), Isaac Irumva (Rwanda)

Kouame Ouacabessay Xavier François (Ivory Coast), Alohi Chapo Denis Fernandez (Ivory Coast), Epa Binamungu (Rwanda), Ismael Kwizerwa (Rwanda), Niyonkuru, Canda Bruce (Rwanda), Alain Webuliza (Rwanda), Willy Karekezi (Rwanda), Pablo Mugisha (Rwanda), Bova Tuyizere (Rwanda , Poupoute (Rwanda), Feline Ntabangana (Burundi), Eli Made (RDC), Dolph Banza (Rwanda), Brave Tangz (Rwanda)

PHOTO: Leslie “Akanyoni” (Rwanda), Schwagga Chris (Rwanda), Bob Chris Raheem (Tanzania), Holyziner (Burundi), Yakubu (Rwanda), Masamara (Rwanda), Abdul Mujyambere (Rwanda), Giles Dusabe (Rwanda), Delphine Diallo (Senegal), Abdoulaye Barry (Tchad), Akussah Anne Marie (Ghana), Sethembile Msezane (Afrique du Sud), Alun Be (Senegal), Djibril Dramé (Senegal), Ibrahima Thiam (Senegal), Jessica Valoise (France/Canada), Nelson Niyakire (Burundi) Malick Welli (Senegal)

Sunday 18 Feb			
Hendrickx Ntela Carine Poet	Carte blanche (Performance)	Belgium Rwanda	Car Free Zone (11am – 12:30 pm) Et Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (6:30 – 8 pm)
Eddy Eketé	Cans Men (Performance)	DRC	Car Free Zone (11am – 12:30 pm) (3-4:30 pm) Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (6:30 – 8 pm)

Zora Snake	L'opera du villageois (Performance)	Cameroon	Car Free Zone (3-4:30 pm)
Ossama Halal	The Trees Dance Sometimes (Theater)	Lebanon-Syria	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (4:30-5:30 pm)
Freddy Sabimbona	Point Zero (Theater)	Burundi	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (6 – 7 pm)
Collectif Made in Rwanda Twinkle by Asty	Fashion show (prêt-à-porter)		Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (5:30-6 pm)
Etienne Kubwabo	The Difference between us (Cinema)	UK	Canal Olympia (5 pm)
Ngabo Ganza	Fish Bowl (Cinema)	Rwanda	Canal Olympia (5 pm)
Hosea Androa	Till Death Do Us Part (Cinema)	Uganda	Canal Olympia (7 pm)
Abdelsalama Kelai	Poissons rouges (Cinema)	Morocco	Canal Olympia (7 pm)
Inès Girihirwe	Umwali (Cinema)	Rwanda	Club Rafiki (8 pm)
Samuel Ishimwe	Imfura (Cinema)	Rwanda	Club Rafiki (8 pm)
FORUM	Exchanges on freedoms and international cooperation		KECV (10 am- 1 pm)
Visual arts exhibition *			
Open all day, Hôtel Milles Collines and School of Architecture			
Design exhibition – Vincent Niamien (Côte d'Ivoire), Chris Schwagga (Rwanda), Tchaka Tambwe (Rwanda). Open all day at L'Atelier			
Art & Tech Exhibition : Open all day at Africa in Colors			

Mon. 19 Feb			
Winnie Ange	Ndabaga (Performance)	Rwanda	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (2:30-3 pm)
Joëlle Sambi	Maison Chaos (Theater)	Belgium	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (5h-6h30 pm)
Lisette Ma Neza	The Weight of a Woman (Theater)	Belgium Rwanda	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (7h30-8h20 pm)

Alesandra Seutin	Air de temps (Dance)	Belgique	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village - Virunga (9-10 pm)
Carine Munyana	Cacophony (Cinema)	Rwanda	Chez Mayaka, Cinéma El May à Nyamirambo (6h30 pm)
Richard Minier	Africa Mia (Cinema)	France	Chez Mayaka, Cinéma El May à Nyamirambo (6h30 pm)
Philbert Mbabazi	Twin Lakes Heaven (Cinema)	Rwanda	Chez Mayaka, Cinéma El May à Nyamirambo (6h30 pm)
FORUM	3e rencontres Théâtres d'Europe et d'Afrique		KCEV (10h-13h)
Visual arts exhibition * Open all day, Hôtel Milles Collines and School of Architecture			
Design exhibition – Vincent Niamien (Côte d'Ivoire), Chris Schwagga (Rwanda), Tchaka Tambwe (Rwanda). Open all day at L'Atelier			
Art & Tech Exhibition – Open all day at Africa in Colors			

Tuesday 20 Feb			
Joëlle Sambu	Maison Chaos (Theater)	Belgium Rwanda	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (11 am-12:30 pm)
Lisette Ma Neza	The Weight Of a Woman (Theater)	Belgium Rwanda	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (2:30-3h20 pm)
Claudia Munyengabe	Le roi est mort, vive la reine (Musical reading)	Burundi	Espace Urwintore (2 pm)
Kivu Ruhorahoza	Fathers's Day (Cinema)	Rwanda	Canal Olympia (5:30 pm)
Ganza Moise	Muzunga (Cinema)	Rwanda	Canal Olympia (5:30 pm)
Philbert Mbabazi	Twin Lakes Heaven (Cinema)	Rwanda	Canal Olympia (6:30 pm)
Hakim Regan	Insight (Cinema)	Rwanda	Canal Olympia (6:30 pm)

Carine Munyana	Cacophony (Cinema)	Rwanda	Chez Mayaka, Cinéma El May - Nyamirambo (7 pm)
Rutiganda wa Nkunda	Le secret du bonheur (Cinema)	Rwanda	Chez Mayaka, Cinéma El May - Nyamirambo (7 pm)
Oliver Tarpaga	When Birds Refuse to Fly (Dance)	Burkina Faso USA	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (9-10:10 pm)
FORUM	Insight on art creation by emerging young artists		KCEV (10 am -1 pm)
Visual arts exhibition * Open all day, Hôtel Milles Collines and School of Architecture			
Design exhibition – Vincent Niamien (Côte d'Ivoire), Chris Schwagga (Rwanda), Tchaka Tambwe (Rwanda). Open all day at L'Atelier			
Art & Tech Exhibition : Open all day at Africa in Colors			

Wed. 21 Feb			
Machérie Ekwa Bahango	Mak'ila (Cinema)	RDC	Canal Olympia (6:30 pm)
Issa Damaan Sarr	Peuple de l'eau (Musical reading)	Senegal	Lac Kivu-Rubavu (6 pm)
Angel Malaika	Rhymes of Remembrance (Musical reading)	Rwanda	Lac Kivu-Rubavu (6 pm)
FORUM	Construction of cultural places		Musanze-Twin Lakes
Visual arts exhibition * Open all day, Hôtel Milles Collines and School of Architecture			
Design exhibition – Vincent Niamien (Côte d'Ivoire), Chris Schwagga (Rwanda), Tchaka Tambwe (Rwanda). Open all day at L'Atelier			
Art & Tech Exhibition : Open all day at Africa in Colors			

Thur. 22 Feb			
François Sauveur	Qu'avez-vous fait de la maison ? (Theater)	Belgium	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (7-8 pm)
Dorcy Rugamba	Maremba (Musical reading)	Rwanda	Rubavu-Lac Kivu (11 am)
Anne Sophie	Ici s'achève le monde	France	Canal Olympia (6 pm)

	(Cinema)		
Angela Wamai	Shimoni (Cinema)	Kenya	Canal Olympia (6 pm)
Katy Léna Ndiaye	L’histoire du Franc CFA (Cinema)	Senegal	Canal Olympia (8 pm)
Visual arts exhibition * Open all day, Hôtel Milles Collines and School of Architecture			
Design exhibition – Vincent Niamien (Côte d’Ivoire), Chris Schwagga (Rwanda), Tchaka Tambwe (Rwanda). Open all day at L’Atelier			
Art & Tech Exhibition : Open all day at Africa in Colors			

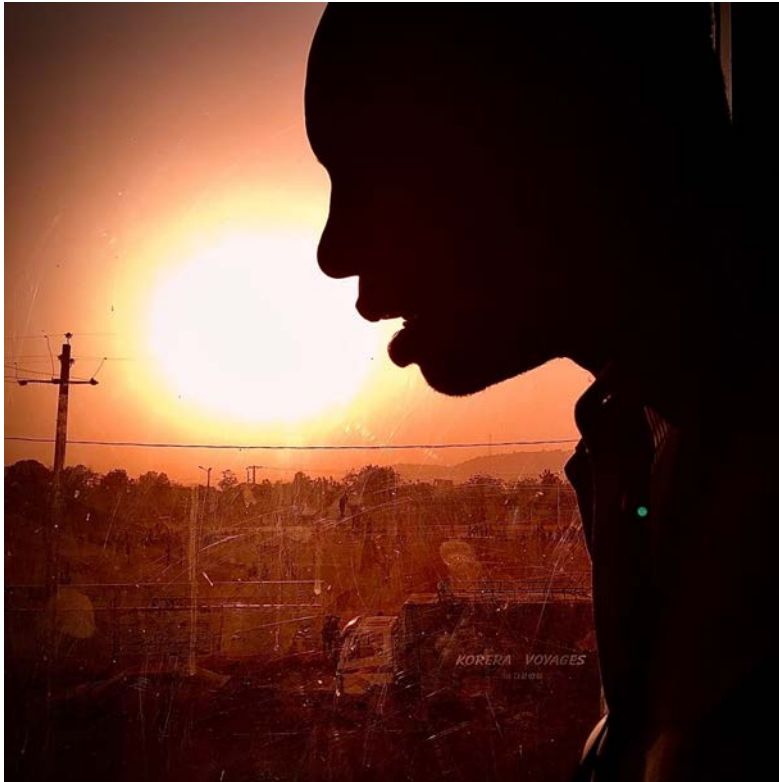
Friday 23 Feb			
Dorothee Munyaneza	Umuko (Dance)	Rwanda	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (3-4:30 pm)
Thamsanqa Majela	Ditoro (Dance)	Tanzania	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (5:30-6:15 pm)
François Sauveur	Qu’avez-vous fait de la maison ? (Theater)	Belgium	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (7:30-8:30 pm)
Gaël Faye	Petit Pays - Gahugu Gato (Musical Reading)	France Rwanda	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (6:30 pm)
Inès Girihirwe	Breaking Ground (Cinema)	Rwanda	Cinema EIMay - Chez Mayaka (6:30 pm)
Alain Kassanda	Colette et Justin (Cinema)	RDC	Cinema EIMay - Chez Mayaka (6:30 pm)
FORUM	Emergent cultural equipments in Africa		Marriott Hotel (10 am – 1 pm)
FORUM	Economic model of cultural and creative industries		Marriott Hotel (2-4 pm)
“East African Literary Festival”, KECV			
Visual arts exhibition * Open all day, Hôtel Milles Collines and School of Architecture			
Design exhibition – Vincent Niamien (Côte d’Ivoire), Chris Schwagga (Rwanda), Tchaka Tambwe (Rwanda). Open all day at L’Atelier			
Art & Tech Exhibition : Open all day at Africa in Colors			

Sat. 24 Feb			
Jules César Niyonkuru	Devil's Gold - Galamsey (Theater)	Rwanda	Kigali Exhibition Culture Village (2:30-4 pm)
Sonia Rolland	Un destin inattendu (Cinema)	France/Rwanda	Canal Olympia (3:30 pm)
Gaelle Bien-Aimee	Port-au-Prince, sa douce nuit (Musical reading)	Haïti	KECV (5 pm)
Alain Kassanda	Coconut Heads Generations (cinéma)	Congo / DRC	Cine El May - Chez Mayaka (7 pm)
Masamara, Matheo, Ikanda House, Al Gueye Dakar	Fashion show	Rwanda Senegal Benin South Africa	Marriott Hotel (7 pm)
FORUM	The dynamics of creative industries and music scenes in Africa		Marriott Hotel (2-4 pm)
"East African Literary Festival", KECV			
Visual arts exhibition * Open all day, Hôtel Milles Collines and School of Architecture			
Design exhibition – Vincent Niamien (Côte d'Ivoire), Chris Schwagga (Rwanda), Tchaka Tambwe (Rwanda). Open all day at L'Atelier			
Art & Tech Exhibition : Open all day at Africa in Colors			
After the Fashion Show at 7 pm: Gastronomy / Gala Dinner – Marriott Hotel – 8 pm			

Sunday 25 Feb			
Alice Diop	Saint Omer (Cinema)	France	Canal Olympia (6 pm)
Sonia Rolland	Un destin inattendu (cinema)	France/Rwanda	Canal Olympia (8:30 pm)
FORUM	Intellectual property and copyrights		Convention Center (10 am – 1 pm)
Big Rusaku closing concert, Afrobeat and All Rwandan Stars (Bushali, Malaika, Kaya Byinshi, Delah Dube, Misteak, Mike Kayihura, Kenny Mirasano, Water Sax and others) - KECV 6 pm			

THE CURATORIAL TEAM

ARTISTIC DIRECTION



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Dorcy Rugamba

Rwandan director, actor, and playwright, born in 1969. Winner of the first prize in drama from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Liège, he was initially trained in performing arts by his father, Cyprien Rugamba, a poet, choreographer, composer, and creator of the National Museum of Rwanda. In 1999, he co-wrote the epic play *Rwanda 94* and in 2001, he founded the Urwintore Workshops, a creative space in Kigali. His 2005 adaptation of Peter Weiss' play *The Investigation*, which focused on the Auschwitz trials and was entirely performed by Rwandan actors, toured worldwide and received both public and critical acclaim.

His epic play *Bloody Niggers*, which explores mass violence with echoes of Aimé Césaire's work, toured Europe and Africa starting in 2007. He directed *Umurinzi*, an opera performed at the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsis in 2019 in Kigali, and assisted Abderahmane Sissako in directing *The Flight of the Boli* at the Théâtre du Châtelet in 2020, with music by Damon Albarn. In 2021, he directed and presented *Liberty, I Would Have Inhabited Your Dream Until the Last Night* by Felwine Sarr at the

Avignon Festival, and in 2022, he staged his latest play, *Supreme Remnants*, which caused a sensation at the Dakar Biennial. In March 2024, Dorcy Rugamba will publish *Hewa Rwanda, Letter to the Absent*, a narrative written two decades apart, by Jean-Claude Lattès.

THEATER

Nine plays will be presented by writers from Africa, Europe, and Syria. The program seeks to break down the barriers between theater and other art forms, with three carnival-like and popular performances outside the theater walls: performers like Zora Snake (Cameroon), Eddy Eketé (DRC), and Precy Numbi (DRC), and a duo featuring slam poet Carine Poet (Rwanda, see bio) and dancer Hendrickx Ntela Carine (Angola).



Fabrice Murgia

Belgian actor and director, he directed the Wallonia-Brussels National Theater between 2016 and 2021. Founder and artistic director of the Artara Company, he received several distinctions including a Silver Lion at the Venice Biennale for innovative character of his theater and an Operadagen Award in Rotterdam for his work directing at the opera.



Jules César Niyonkuru

A lover of the tales of the Arabian Nights, this multidisciplinary artist born in 1997 adapts them for his first play, *Tell me a story*, given in Kepler Kigali with the support of RAI. His first short film, *Omen*, was screened by the Goethe Institut in Kigali and selected for Manyatta Screenings 2021. He assisted Dorcy Rugamba on the staging of the female cast of *Bloody Niggers* at the Franco Rwandais cultural center and *Les Restes Suprêmes* for the Dak'Art biennial in 2022. He is staging the eclectic show *Makembe et Les Pêcheurs*, a fusion of traditional Rwandan rhythms with a modern twist in September 2022. He writes, directs and performs in *Devil's Gold*, a play about the rituals of coming of age, shown at the Lavoisier Moderne Parisien in March 2023.

DANCE

The international program includes a deep dive into ten shows in avant-garde contemporary African dance, featuring recognized talents such as Dorothee Munyaneza (UK-Rwanda). Alexandra Seutin's piece (Senegal, see bio) takes on the highly active youth movements in West Africa. On the menu, some works in progress, including Dorothee Munyaneza's *Umuko*, which will premiere at Théâtre Chaillot in Paris.

**Ellen Dennis**

Assistant professor at the School of Arts at Columbia University (New York), this American independent producer has produced, directed and toured the work of international artists around the world (Mikhail Baryshnikov, Pina Bausch, Black Grace Dance Company, Peter Brook, Diamanda Galas, Philip Glass, Barrie Kosky, Dmitri Krymov, Arthur Miller, Steve Reich, Dorcy Rugamba, Maurice Sendak, Twyla Tharp, Yo-Yo Ma and Robert Wilson), as well as that of the American Ballet Theater, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, National Public Radio (NPR), PBS and the Vienna Festival. She also produced New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival and Season of Cambodia. She is a consultant for the Australia Arts Council, The Asia Society, Columbia University, the Guggenheim Museum, the Taiwan Ministry of Culture, the Vienna Film Festival and the Vienna Film Festival.



Wesley Ruzibiza

Dancer and choreographer, artistic co-director of the École des Sables de Germaine Acogny in Senegal, he is also an associate professor at the CPARC research centers in Bordeaux, at the National University of Rwanda and at Muda Africa in Tanzania. He is part of the group of 13 experts in the world who hold the Germaine Acogny Technique diploma. Recipient of the prestigious artistic direction mentoring program with the Sundance Lab Institute and the Georgetown University Fellowship for Arts and Politics in the United States, Wesley is the artistic director of Cie Amizero, one of the first professional Rwandan choreographic companies.

MUSIQUE

Two exceptional concerts of different genres, including one entirely dedicated to "Gakondo," traditional Rwandan dance and music, will bring together over 20 African artists. Michael Makembe, a "neo-gakondo" researcher, explores futuristic possibilities based on this Rwandan heritage.

The second concert will feature Rwandan urban music stars. This curated pairing is done in collaboration with Christian Dessart, a Belgian-Rwandan producer, publisher, and consultant based in Brussels. His curation focuses on a forum discussing the dynamics of the music industry through the lens of African scenes. The panel will feature three key players in the industry: Eze

Ezegozie from Empire, Rachel Cartier from Mewem Ex Deezer, and Bertil David from Universal Music Publishing. Additionally, he has been entrusted with bringing international acts for the closing concert of the Kigali Triennial.



Khadja Nin

A Burundian singer based in Monaco, she achieved international success during the 1990s and 2000s, with her songs “Sambolala”, “Mama” and “Sina Mali Sina Deni”. An activist for the development of the African and diasporic creative industry, she was notably a member of the jury at the Cannes Film Festival in 2018.



Herve Twahirwa

Rwandan singer, songwriter and sound designer, this cultural entrepreneur is the founder and director of the ART'S CORP label. Arranger, backing vocalist and voice-over dubber, he has contributed to numerous projects with major labels (Warner, Sony BMG, Universal, Disney) and renowned artists (Craig David, Alpha Blondy, Youssou N'Dour, Magic System and Matt Pokora).



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Christian Dessart

Christian Dessart is Belgian-Rwandese producer, publisher & consultant. He is a co-founding member of the production duo The Bionix from Brussels. Alongside Rachid Mir they have worked with top European, American & African superstars like M. Pokora, Magic System, Fally Ipupa, Stromae, Janet Jackson & Nelly, Mylène Farmer, Orelsan, Maître Gims, Kendji Girac & the Black Eyed Peas. www.thebionix.com

VISUAL ARTS

Sculptures, installations, photographs, and paintings from over 30 artists will be exhibited in four locations, in addition to two exceptional exhibitions in the cities of Musanze and Gisenyi. The curators' intention is to take visual art outside of the walls, so that it meets the general public in urban spaces, with the support of performers. Among these performers is Ibisazi Design, an avant-garde group concerned with deconstruction and deconstructionism.

Several galleries have been invited to participate, as well as the School of Architecture and the Kigali Exhibition Center and Village (KECV). In Musanze, an exhibition will be done in collaboration with the rural population, in the residence built by artist Cédric Mizero at the edge of the Twin Lakes in the north of the country. On Paradise Island, in the middle of Lake Kivu, close to Gisenyi, a curation will be proposed by artist and curator Mucyo in collaboration with the lake's fishermen.



El Hadj Malik Ndiaye

Former artistic director of the Dakar Arts Biennale in 2022, this doctor in Art History from Rennes II University is currently a researcher at the Fundamental Institute of Black Africa (IFAN/Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar), Curator of the Théodore Monod Museum of African Art and Secretary General of ICOM/Senegal. Member of the Steering Committee for the 2018 edition of the Dak'Art Contemporary African Art Biennial, he headed the Meetings and Exchanges Commission. Theorist and curator, his publications focus on modern/contemporary art and global history, cultural policies and African museum institutions.



Mucyo

Mucyo Mu is a contemporary Rwandan-French visual artist who graduated from the University of Paris 8 in Fine Arts. He is recognized for his particular “washing out” technique. His pictorial experiences are inspired by urban art and African culture. He draws faces, moments of life, personalities on dark fabrics. He is among the founders of the cultural space and gallery Inema Arts Center located in Kigali.

CINEMA

23 films (feature films, short films, and documentaries) from 10 countries will be screened in three cinemas in Kigali: Horizon, Century, and Chez Mayaka, located in the popular Nyamirambo neighborhood, the first cinema in Rwanda, renovated and rehabilitated by two young Rwandan filmmakers. Many films come from the region (Rwanda, Burundi, and DRC). Two are highly anticipated: Kathy Léna Ndiaye's documentary on the Franc CFA and the premiere of Sonia Rolland's film.



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Sonia Rolland

Born in 1981 in Kigali, to a Rwandan mother and a French father, she became the first Miss France of African origin in 1999. After this experience, she took theater classes at the Pygmalion studio to become an actress. In 2002, she made her first steps alongside Radu Mihaïleanu in the film *Les pygmées de Carlo* for Arte. Then, she performed *Léa Parker* on M6, a series of more than 50 episodes which enjoyed great audience success. She subsequently played for directors such as Bertrand Tavernier, Etienne Faure, Jean Marboeuf, Richard Borhinger and Woody Allen.

As a director, she signed the documentary *Rwanda from chaos to miracle* in 2014, on the reconstruction of the country, then co-directed *Homosexuality: from rejection to refuge* with Pascal Petit, on the actions of the association Le Refuge, that welcomes young homosexuals rejected by their families. Also author of *Femmes du Rwanda* in 2018, winner of the Best Positive Documentary Award at Cinéma Positif in Cannes, in 2022 she co-signed *An Unexpected Destiny*, a fiction for France TV inspired by her own journey. Since 2019, she has played one of the main roles in the series *Tropiques Criminels* on France 2. With her team at SoMad Productions, she develops fiction and documentaries.



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Isabelle Kabano

Actress is a label that this career journalist has only fully accepted since 2020, after her performance in the film *Petit Pays* by Eric Barbier, adapted from the novel by Gaël Faye. This role of the young hero's mother earned her the prize for best female performance at the Angoulême Festival. Inspired by her father, director of a theater troupe who took her on stage at the age of 8, she began to act in her childhood in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, then appeared in films: *Sometimes in April* by Raoul Peck (2005), *Shake hands with the devil* by Roger Spottiswoode, taken from the book by Roméo Dallaire (2007) and *Opération Turquoise* by Alain Tasma (2007). She has just shot for the next film by Abderahmane Sissoko. Her ambition: to set up training platforms for young people passionate about the acting profession.

LITERATURE

Rather than meeting with already-published and well-known stars, the program focuses emerging literature and publishing in Africa. The goal is to introduce authors, some of whom have unpublished manuscripts, to publishers? to showcase the existence of unrecognized literature. A call for manuscripts in French, English, and Kinyarwanda has been launched, with an ad hoc reading committee from the Triennial, composed of curators Gaël Faye, Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse, and Dorcy Rugamba.

Workshops are planned with writer and playwright Mohammed Kacimi and Anne-Sophie Stefanini, editor at Jean-Claude Lattès. Finally, an exhibition from

French Guiana will pay tribute to the work of René Maran, the first Black writer to win the Goncourt Prize in the 1920s with his novel *Batouala*.



Natacha Muziramakenga

Also known by her stage name, Miziguruka, this poet, playwright, actress, curator, director and translator has made resilience, women, memory and transmission the recurring themes of her work. Her performances combine poetry with DJ sets, live music and fire. She is the author of *Méandres*, a piece shown in 2023 in Kigali and Paris. She played in the films *Neptune Frost* by Saul Williams and Anisia Uzeyman, *Petit pays* by Eric Barbier, *Grey Matter* by Kivu Ruhorahoza, *A Sunday in Kigali* by Robert Favreau. In May 2022, she participated in the Frequencies Festival organized in Berlin by the Goethe Institute. Her latest curatorial work includes eight contemporary Rwandan artists, presented in Seoul in September 2023, in the first African exhibition organized in South Korea.



Johan-Hilel Hamel

Deputy Director of the French Institute of Rwanda since 2021, an institution focused on emerging artists from Rwanda. He signed a three-year agreement with Chaillot-Théâtre national de la danse, and contributed to Rwanda being the guest country of honor at the 15th edition of the Angoulême Francophone Film Festival, in 2022. He was director of cultural affairs of the Greater Angoulême conurbation (2015-2021), worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tunisia and Algeria, and directed a theater, the Château, in Charentes (2010-2015). He created the Festival *Young Algeria, contemporary Algerian creation* in 2009 in Bordeaux. He is also the author of a literary anthology of swimming, *Nageurs des siècles* (Editions Marguerite Waknine).

MUSICAL READINGS

The idea is to introduce texts in their oral form, to reach out to the public with different genres (theatre, narratives, poetry). Angel Malaika will be accompanied by Rwandan musician Michael Makembe. Senegalese poet Issa Damaan Sarr proposes *The Water People*, a text that will be read during a ceremony at the shores of Lake Kivu, when fishermen set their nets at dusk. The other texts, including *Marembo* by Dorcy Rugamba, will be accompanied by Senegalese musician Majnun and directed by French actress Marie-Laure Crochant.



Didacienne Nibagwire

“Dida” Nibagwire is a Rwandan cultural entrepreneur, co-founder of L’espace, a multidisciplinary cultural space in the heart of Kigali that produces and welcomes hundreds of artists per year. She is also the founder and managing director of IYUGI, a production company based in Kigali.



Marie-Laure Wawrziczny

Since 2020, she is directing La Charge du Rhinocéros, a support structure for the production and distribution of theatrical and multidisciplinary creations created in 2003 and based in Brussels.

Trained in Belgium at La Kleine Academie and at the Royal Conservatory of Liège, graduated in Performing Arts from the Faculties of Philosophy and Letters of Louvain-la-Neuve, she focuses her career behind the scenes of the stage: raising children's awareness of theatrical play, production management of short films and documentary films, programming assistance at FIFF (Festival International du Film Francophone de Namur).

DESIGN

This curation aims to make certain traditional knowledge, especially in Rwanda, known for its basketry and interior furniture, more contemporary. The idea is to move towards innovation, with original and exclusive works from Rwandan, Irish, Ivorian, and Malian artists, exhibited at L'Atelier from February 16th to 25th, 2024. Ivorian designer Vincent Niamien will spend more than a month in Kigali to meet Rwandan artisans and propose modern pieces. Bineta Cissé (Senegal) will also exhibit her creations.

A laboratory work is also being carried out in order to create the first Rwandan fabric. The country is indeed known for its bark and leather tanners, but not for weavers. Using these traditional fibers, work is underway, and the first prototype will be presented during the Triennial. The design workshop is linked

to the gastronomy part of the Triennial: it has designed table arts to make a proposal around Rwandan cuisine - furniture, cutlery, ceremony.



Bineta Cissé

Bineta Cissé is a Senegalese gallery owner, cultural entrepreneur, founder of Galerie Vema in Dakar in 1992, the year in which she decided to devote herself to the promotion and preservation of Senegalese cultural heritage with an off-exhibition at the Dakar Biennale. The first Senegalese to direct a private gallery in Dakar, she has had a series of exhibitions and collaborations with other galleries around the world, thus helping to promote African art.



Sophie Kabano

Sophie Kabano is the producer of the Kigali Triennale. She began her career as an actress, playing in Koulsy Lamko's play "Body and voice lyrics rizhome" and in the film "Notre-Dame du Nil" by Atiq Rahimi (2019), adaptation of the eponymous novel by Scholastique Mukasonga. Enthusiastic about art and culture, this specialist in business law and economic cooperation law has been part of RAI since its creation.

ART & TECH

The emerging Pan-African scene in digital arts will be presented, featuring gaming, NFTs (digital paintings), augmented reality, holograms, 3D, animation, and projection mapping. Curators have reached out to several studios in major African cities (Kigali, Tunis, Nairobi). A dedicated exhibition showcasing these works will be organized at the Africa in Colors space.



Raoul Rugamba

Raoul Rugamba is a cultural entrepreneur based in Kigali, at the head of Hobe Agency and the Africa in Colors space. Its activities focus on technology applied to education and in the field of cultural and creative industries.



Mohamed Zoghلامي

Co-founder of Afric'Up, Mohamed Zoghلامي is a Tunisian consultant in business engineering and strategic analysis, passionate about new technologies, animation and comics. His objective is to bring African cultures to life throughout the world, and to give young people the desire and the means to flourish in the creative industries.

FASHION

A ready-to-wear proposition will be made through a stand in the village of the Triennale at KECV, featuring several Rwandan fashion brands showcasing their creations. This curation aims to promote African textiles through the

national public program of Made in Rwanda, which supports local designers (Rwanda has banned second-hand clothing in order to promote local industry). A big fashion show will be organized by the two curators, featuring an international collection focused on creativity and haute couture. One of the most anticipated designers is Masa Mara, a Rwandan artist living in South Africa (see bio).



Consolatta Rwayitare

Rwandan businesswoman coming from a family of artists, owner of the Hôtel des Milles Collines since 2005, she transformed this flagship into a meeting space and cultural crossroads in the heart of the city of Kigali. Patron, ambassador of the arts and pan-African, she is keen to promote and exhibit artists, all disciplines combined. It is in this spirit that in 2021 she inaugurated her Wakwanda clothing boutique, a mecca for African fashion, where the continent's creativity and haute couture are celebrated.



Abdou Lahad Gueye

Plays on materials, fitted silhouettes... His geometric approach gives his creations a recognizable signature. This Senegalese fashion designer, artistic director of the Algueye brand, leads a team of more than 10 people. He received the 1st OIF Limited Edition Prize in 2015 and participated in MASA Abidjan, Africa Fashion Week Dakar and Africa Fashion Design Lagos, in addition to fashion shows at the Angola International Fashion Show and AFRIFATA Maroc. His contribution to the fashion sector was also manifested through his role as a trainer from 2012 to 2018, sharing his know-how in patternmaking, gradation and industrialization with the generation of future designers. Lahad Gueye obtained a BTS from the Institut Coupe Couture et Mode in 2011 and a master's degree in Business Management from the Faculty of Economics and Management in Dakar.

MASTERCLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

18 training sessions in different fields including theater, cinema, and dance will be held during the Triennial. A significant amount of workshop, training, and masterclass work is being planned to address the training needs of the creative and cultural industries. Faustin Linyekula will train choreographers for a week, and more established artists will meet with emerging young artists to work on transmitting their knowledge and skills.



Cécile Umutoni

MD, Specialist in Cultural Business Management, Cécile Umutoni is also a professional dancer and teacher of traditional Rwandan dance.

FORUMS

The Triennial will feature more than ten forums dedicated to social, economic, and peace topics, and their impact on artistic practices. Several specialists from around the world will come to discuss issues related to Africa, climate, and the current major challenges. A forum on solidarity between cultural spaces in Africa and Europe is particularly anticipated, especially since the foundation stone will be laid for the Urwintore cultural complex on a 6-hectare site in the center of Kigali, designed by RAI as a place for international production, creation, and dissemination.



Samuel Sangwa Muteba

Regional Director for Africa of the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC), he coordinates the activities of member

societies in Africa, promotes laws relating to intellectual property and develops a network of collective management societies. He has more than 15 years of experience in optimizing the potential of cultural and creative industries, developing the private sector and strengthening local activity and international cooperation in the cultural sector.

Before joining CISAC, he worked as a consultant and project coordinator in partnership with cultural institutions, international development agencies, development aid actors, ministries and representatives of public authorities, local and decentralized organizations and collective management organizations in Africa.

GASTRONOMY

This curation, one of the most original of the Triennial, is the result of a collaboration between RAI and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Its goal is to showcase an unknown Rwandan cuisine that has been abandoned in cities and to revisit traditional cooking in order to rethink dishes and recipes.

The objective is to create a refined and modern gastronomy based on local products, as well as a healthy cuisine that can support local farmers. The result will be presented at a gala evening during which a chef will be awarded after tastings to become an ambassador for FAO for Rwandan cuisine. A recipe book will also be published.



Coumba D. Sow

A Senegalese national, she has been Resident Representative and Country Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rwanda and Djibouti since 2022. A graduate in Public Policy Management from Sciences

Po, Paris, and in agroecology from the University of London, she defends the combination of traditional and scientific knowledge for the development of resilient food systems and better nutrition of populations. In addition to food security and sustainable systems, “Zero Hunger”, target 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is at the heart of her mission.

200 invited artists

To give you an overview of the richness and diversity of the artists who will be present at the Kigali Triennial, we have selected the biographies of some of them.



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Cédric Mizero

Cédric Mizero, born in 1993 in Rwanda, is a visual artist and storyteller with a deep connection to nature. His statues are sometimes dressed in weathered skins. His works, of very large form, are inspired by his emotional and sensory experiences with the world around him, capturing what he defines as "the beauty of everyday small moments."

His creations have been exhibited in London, Abidjan, Pittsburgh, and Dakar, and at the Révélations salon at the Grand Palais Éphémère in Paris in June 2023. In 2019, he brilliantly represented Rwanda at the International Fashion Showcase (IFS) at Somerset House in London with the installation "Dreaming My Memory," receiving special mention for the curation of his work.



Carine Poet

Carine Maniraguha, known as Carine Poet, originally from Kigali, is a slam poet, writer, actress in cinema and theater, as well as a hair stylist at Studio Sawa. She played in three TV series in 2022. She has written six radio plays and is the author of several poems and six children's books.

Discovered in 2017 in the "Arts ubuhanzi" competition, she received two awards: best poetess and best female stylist. In 2018, she launched "Ibanga Poetic Night" and curated the exhibition "The Art of Telling Hair Stories."



Katy Léna Ndiaye

Former journalist in Belgium, Senegalese Katy Léna Ndiaye orchestrated for several years *Reflets Sud* and *Afrique plurielle*, two magazines co-produced by RTBF, TV5, and OIF. She moved away from journalism to focus on longer formats offered by documentaries.

She directed *Traces* in 2002, meeting women from Burkina Faso, a subject that deals with murals, transmission, acculturation, and contemporary Africa. Filmed in Oualata, Mauritania, *Waiting for the Men* (2007) delivers slices of life and testimonies about what it means to be a woman.

Her two latest works portray Smockey Bambara (*We Have Time for Ourselves*), a Burkinabe rapper and co-founder of the Balai Citoyen movement, and the story of the CFA Franc, decoding a lingering controversy over the currency used in former French colonies in Africa.



Nyambo Masamara

Creator of the Masa Mara brand, this Rwandan artist uses the pseudonym "Nyambo" to mark his connection with the cow, whose status was royal in

ancient Rwanda. Moving between traditional art and Afro-futurism, he cares about transmitting traditional values while celebrating innovation.

Based in South Africa and rooted in a Pan-African identity, he designs and prints his own fabric, referencing the Ankara wax print, a ubiquitous kaleidoscopic signature in Africa. He adapts it in his pieces, in a quest for reconstruction.



Alesandra Seutin

Multiple award-winning performer, choreographer, and international teacher, co-director since 2020 of the famous Ecole des Sables by Germaine Acogny in Senegal, Alesandra Seutin has been focusing on exploring movement as the foundation of her multidisciplinary performances for two decades. Born in Harare (Zimbabwe) to a South African mother and a Belgian father, Alesandra Seutin defines herself as "Afro-European". Trained in London, first at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance and then at Middlesex University, she

showcases her work internationally, leading her company, Vocab Dance, founded in 2007. Her productions tour the world, commissioned by prestigious institutions such as KVS, Merce Cunningham Company, or Phoenix Dance Theatre.

She divides her time between Senegal, Belgium, and the United Kingdom. The world is her muse, and she expresses herself through dance, song, and music about social, political, and economic realities. Seutin continues to perform on stage. Recently, she could be seen in *Dear Winnie*, a multidisciplinary and award-winning show about the life of Winnie Mandela. She was also the choreographer and movement director for the production.



Zora Snake

Coming from the Bamiléké people, from the street and urban/hip-hop dance, Zora Snake is a choreographer-performer and dancer, founder of the Zora Snake Company and the international festival Mouvements, Danses et

Performances (Mopaderf) in Cameroon. His transgressive aesthetic aims to leave a mark. Inspired by the myth of sacred animals in the Bamiléké tradition, he snakes through the world to express "the political" or to "dance to box the situation, fight, and move minds."

After training at the Ecole des Sables in Senegal in 2014-15, he was awarded the Visa-Création in 2016-17 by the French Institute in Paris. In 2020, he won the Golden Artistic Awards from Brukmer magazines in Brussels, Belgium, after winning the first prize Acogny d'or in 2019 of the choreographic competition Africa simply the Best in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. His priorities include developing and building a civil society through performances engaged in the streets, intersections, and neighborhoods of Cameroon.



RWANDA ARTS INITIATIVE

Rwanda Arts Initiative (RAI) is a Kigali based non-profit organization founded in 2012 by Dorcy Rugamba. RAI is dedicated to the development of the creative sector in Rwanda by supporting cultural entrepreneurs. Recognizing the presence of talented artists, RAI has identified a need for a comprehensive ecosystem to foster their prosperity.

RAI provides various tools to young cultural entrepreneurs, including co-working spaces, a cultural project incubator, a production and distribution office, a project study laboratory, and residencies for both local and international artists. Filmmaker Joël Karekezi, for instance, conducted a residency at RAI during the preparation of his award-winning film "La Miséricorde de la Jungle" at Fespaco. Other resident artists, including Belgian and French actors François Sauveur and Marc Soriano, immersed themselves in the country through this program.

Moyo, the publishing house affiliated with RAI, translated Gaël Faye's best-selling novel "Petit Pays" into Kinyarwanda in 2019. The work was published as a book and in audio format and on national radio.

RAI has organized several events addressing topics related to the cultural and creative industries (CCI), such as symposiums on cinema and cultural financing, held alongside the Davos Forum in Kigali. Notable activities include the 2018 "Great Black Music" exhibition in Kigali and an International Forum on architecture and cultural spaces in Africa in 2019.

RAI actively promotes the exposure of Rwandan artists, participating in events like the 2012 Récréâtrales in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and the December 2022 Parcours événements Chanel at Aïssa Dione 's Atiss gallery in Dakar. Lately in March, June, and October 2023, RAI showcased over a hundred Rwandan artists in Paris, including venues like Lavoir Moderne, the Grand Palais, Espace Cardin, and Théâtre de la Ville.