



PRESS RELEASE

«Visionary Africa: *Art at Work* » opens in Cairo, Egypt :

15 February – 7 March 2012, « Visionary Africa: *Art at work* » stops in Egypt after Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, before continuing on to other African capitals.

This project, organised jointly by the European Commission and the Palais des Beaux-Arts (Centre for Fine Arts) in Brussels, is an **itinerant urban exhibition of contemporary African artistic practices**, including artist residencies, showcases of local artists, and workshops on art and development in modern urban centres in Africa. Its intent is to focus on the importance of culture and creativity as motor for development and it was timed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of independence of several African countries.

The exhibition pavilion is designed by Ghanaian architect **David Adjaye**. Placed in the 'green lung' of Cairo, Al Azhar Park, the pavilion is accessible to all audiences, and houses several **exhibits**:

- a selection from the photography exhibit *A Useful Dream*, celebrating 50 years of African photography, curated by **Simon Njami**;
- The photodocumentary, *Urban Africa, a decade long personal survey by David Adjaye on the architecture of African capitals*;
- A showcase of young, upcoming Egyptian contemporary artists, curated by **Moataz Nasr**, director of DARB 1718.

All works exhibited are reproductions.

Photographer and video artist **Tracey Rose** (South Africa) is the project's **artist in residence** for the duration of the exhibit.

A **workshop** for Egyptian artists will be organised **on 17 February**, to discuss structures and audiences for art in Africa.

Important dates:

15 February: *Art at Work* exhibit opening, Al Azhar Park entrance, 17h00. On invitation only.

17 February: *Workshop*, in the premises of the DARB 1718. On invitation only.

16 February - 7 March : *Art at Work* exhibit, Al Azhar Park entrance – free public access

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