

MAAOA

Musée d'Arts Africains, Océaniens, Amérindiens

[Re]thinking the MAAOA Reflection Committee

2 – Be(ing) in networked SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

19 mai 2026

12:30pm (Dakar) – 1:30pm (Paris) – 11:30pm (Port Villa)

video conferencing / Marseille



2 – Be(ing) in networked

*"Marseille [...] is not an end in itself.
But only an open door.
On the world, on others.
A door that would remain open, always. "*

Jean-Claude Izzo, Daniel Mordzinski, *Marseille*, 2000, Editions Gallimard

Going beyond an exclusively museum-based approach to multidisciplinary interactions between institutions, the theme of this new committee opens our reflection to a transversal and intersecting vision: nurturing interactions, voluntary or experienced circulations, links to be created, strengthened, tisser, the Museum must be a solid bridge, a hospitable time and an inclusive space within living networks.

If the collections of MAAOA lead us to inscribe its future within international and national institutional networks, first and foremost that of the Museums of France, but also locally, that of the Museums of Marseille, in order to develop a multiperspectivity of approaches, they also invite us, on a global scale, to consolidate, create, and imagine dialogues within human networks with associations, communities, diasporas, and audiences.

The theme "Being in networks" invites us to question the place of MAAOA as museum-actor-member acting, not only during our reflection process, but also through the very definition of a moving identity that is intended to be crossed by sometimes contradictory dynamics. The networks, whether human, virtual, of ideas, whether they are creative, revealing, or unifying, highlight how much the Museum, a space identified and recognized by universal issues, is bearer, here and elsewhere, of strong societal, professional, and personal expectations. At the MAAOA, they are committed both to a search for transparency and dialogue and to an asserted desire for scientific and historical rigor, placing fragilities, particularly temporal, geographical, legal and other weaknesses, at the heart of the reflection. semantics and politics present in our society.

"Be(ing) in networked " also highlights the risk for our approach to be in search of an involuntarily focused and unequivocal response, certainly fed by multiple critical narratives, but carrying an illusory search for objectivity, neutrality, and concord. By detaching ourselves from this issue, by positioning our thinking within polymorphic networks, and thus by decentralizing, we offer to our approach the ability to [re]think the MAAOA as a museum-actor-member acting as it should welcome, to generate, secure, and preserve the multiple vocalities born within the networks with which its collections were, are, and will be connected and not as the bearer of a new situated narrative.

Benoît MARTIN
Director of the MAAOA

SEQUENCE OF NETWORKED

WELCOMING SPEECH 5'

INTRODUCTORY TALK 20'

- Summary of the first committee / Benoît Martin 10'
- Presentation of discussion times since the first committee / Benoît Martin 10'
 - Tables rondes, colloque, ...
 - Scientific and academic collaborations
 - Relations with representatives of communities, associations...

INTRODUCTION 20'

- Introduction by the President of the committee / Pr Souleymane Bachir Diagne 10'
- Presentation of the theme / Benoît Martin 10'

DISCUSSIONS 90'



Orientation 1: Networking with the museum world / Positioning oneself locally, nationally, and internationally

Orientation 2: Networking with communities and their representatives / Building the bonds of a shared relational ethics

Orientation 3: Networking in a universal questioning / Building a common, shared, and open space

Orientation 4: Networking with the challenges of a world in motion / Composing a hybrid and impermanent museum identity

Orientation 5: Networking with creation / Making a fertile and sensitive dialogue possible

Orientation 6: Networking with research / Making collections the actors of an experimental dynamic

REVIEW 10'

CONCLUSION 5'