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PRESS RELEASE

Dak'Art Biennale Off

Atelier sur l'Image Imprimée et la Gravure au Village des Arts

Coordinated by Craig Subler, Joanna Grabski, and El Hadji Sy

Village des Arts, May 10-15, 2010

For one week during the Dak'Art Biennale, a group of artists worked together not to exhibit art as is typical during Dak'Art, but to make art and develop their knowledge of printmaking processes. With support from the Public Affairs Section, American Embassy, this printmaking workshop was held at the Village des Arts from May 10-15, 2010 where artist El Hadji Sy offered use of his press and studio. The participants in this workshop included: American artist Craig Subler (Chair of the Printmaking Program, Department of Art, University of Missouri – Kansas City, USA) and Dakar based artists El Hadji Sy, Fatou Kande Senghor, Mouhamadou Dia, Sea Diallo, Mohamed N'dir, and Daouda N'diaye. The weeklong workshop explored a variety of printmaking processes including monotypes, etching, aquatint, dry-point, solar prints with photosensitive plates, collaged prints, and chine collé.

As the first printmaking workshop at the Village des Arts, this initiative sought to introduce new techniques while paying special attention to sustainable and replicable processes. In the broader framework of the Dak'Art Biennale, this workshop also sparked a number of conversations about pedagogy and exhibition as well as the development of art-making practices, including the possibilities and challenges of working across media. While all the Dakar based artist participants have had some previous experience with printmaking, this initiative represents the first time they worked with techniques such as solar prints, monotypes, and aquatint. The workshop's objectives were to collaborate so as to develop and expand individual artistic practices; and to put in place the technical knowledge to allow for a sustainable printmaking studio at the Village des Arts.

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