

**Press Release (Zurich, October 2003)**

**«Illuminando Vidas. Fotografia Moçambicana 1950–2001. Ricardo Rangel & the Next Generation» is invited to participate in the «5es Rencontres de la photographie africaine» in Bamako, Mali, from October 20 to November 20, 2003.**

The 5th African Photography Encounters in Bamako, Mali, have invited «Illuminando Vidas» to participate. «Illuminando Vidas» is devoted to contemporary Mozambique photography and is curated by Bruno Z'Graggen (Switzerland) and Grant Lee Neuenburg (USA/Mozambique). The exhibition was shown very successfully at three venues in Switzerland in 2002 and in Mozambique (Maputo) between 26 April and 25 May 2003 and is accompanied by an extensive catalogue. «Illuminando Vidas» and the participation in Bamako are supported primarily by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Photography Biennial in Bamako, which first took place in 1994 and is now being held for the fifth time, is constantly gaining in importance. It is in fact the world's largest and most important event dedicated to African photography, which it presents in all its variety and innovative power. The theme of this year's Biennial is «Sacred and Profane Rites».

Now, on the occasion of the fifth Biennial, the exhibition premises are once again being expanded and the number of participants increased. Over 3,000 photographs by approximately 100 African photographers will be shown in twenty exhibitions and, as in previous years, the Biennial will be accompanied by an extensive catalogue. At the same time, a varied supporting programme will offer discussions, seminars, workshops, school programmes and other events. Six prizes for photography will be awarded by an international jury.

In addition to the main international exhibition on the theme of «Sacred and Profane Rites», there will be sections with exhibitions of the life's work of recently deceased photographers (among them Seydou Keita), solo exhibitions, national exhibitions (including «Illuminando Vidas»), and separate thematic exhibitions.

For the first time, Bamako is inviting eight young photographers from a non-African, European country, namely Germany, to exhibit work on the theme of «Another Gaze. Portraits from Germany». The exhibition is curated by Akinbiyi Akinbode from Nigeria, and the invitation is intended to draw attention to the theme of dialogue and openness, to which the festival will be dedicated in future.

The Biennial is organised by the Association Française d'Action Artistique (AFAA), which is a subsidiary of the French foreign office, in collaboration with the Mali Ministry of Culture, and supported by numerous international partners. The artistic director and chief curator is Simon Njami (co-founder and Chief Editor of Revue Noire and curator of contemporary African art and photography exhibitions). «Illuminando Vidas» is presented in close co-operation with the AFAA in Bamako.

**Please order press documentation in F or E from:  
Association Française d'Action Artistique (AFAA)**

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