

The **ellipse prize** 2023 announces its finalists

Third edition dedicated to the togolese emerging art scene

Parmenas Awudza [@parme_awu](#)

Clément Gbegno [@clementgbegno](#)

Ras Sankara [@rassankaraafeli](#)

Koffi Seble [@koffi_seble](#)

Thierry Tomety [@thierrytomety](#)

The first jury's meeting of the ellipse prize 2023 was held Friday, May 12.

The ellipse prize is glad to announce the **5 finalists** of the third edition dedicated to emerging artists **living in Togo as well as Togolese artists living in Africa**. Parmenas Awudza, Clément Gbegno, Ras Sankara, Koffi Seble and Thierry Tomety were nominated. These 5 finalists illustrate the richness and diversity of the Togolese art scene through multiples inspirations and practices.

The winner of the ellipse prize 2023 will be announced on Wednesday, June 7 after the second jury meeting. He will benefit from an exhibition during the international art fair AKAA - ALSO KNOWN AS AFRICA from 20 to 22 October 2023, as well as a professional and communication coaching.

The 5 finalists have been chosen among 54 application files including 14 from women, by an independent jury composed by contemporary art professionals with Togolese art scene specialists.

- **Victoria Mann**
Director-Founder of the AKAA, ALSO KNOWN AS AFRICA
- **Atelier Ati - Ferdinand Kokou Makouvia and Juliette Delecour**
Founders of Artméliamé, artists residency based in Lomé
- **Armelle Malvoisin**
Journalist, curator, African art market specialist
- **Eric Wonanu**
Visual artist, curator

PARMENAS AWUDZA

Born in 2000, Parmenas Awudza is a young Togolese photographer based in Lomé. His artistic practice is a real visual testimony to his country that he roams to capture ephemeral coincidences. The artist expresses his own vision of the world thanks to contrasting colors and a quirky framing transforming the banal and the fate of daily life into striking poetic moments.



- (1) Parmenas Awudza, *Je te vois*, 2022, 30 x 40 cm, photography
- (2) Parmenas Awudza, *Douche contemplative*, 2022, 47 x 27 cm, photography

CLÉMENT GBEGNO

Clement Gbegno is a multidisciplinary artist born in 1993 in Lomé. His "Decomposito-recomposition" approach aims to dissect the cycles of metamorphosis of the being, from genesis to disappearance through reincarnation, across a suggested anatomical study. The artist mixes acrylic, pigments and pastels in acidulous color palette to make these human curiosities physical.



- (1) Clément Gbegno, *Déraciné*, 2023, 137 x 197 cm, acrylic, pigments and pastels
- (2) Clément Gbegno, *La révélation*, 2023, 137 x 225 cm, acrylic, pigments and pastels

RAS SANKARA

Kossi Aféli Agboka, also known as Ras Sankara, is a Togolese self-taught artist born in 1989. Artistic performances are at the center of his work with his body as principal medium. Through engaged interventions, he highlights sociopolitical issues and rises debates in order to generate reactions and reflections from the population in an open space known to all: the street.



- (1) Ras Sankara, *Prière d'une nation*, Performance and installation, 2021, Photography, 55 x 45 cm, 2021
- (2) Ras Sankara, *Recycle-moi*, Performance, 2018, photography 55 x 45 cm, 2022

KOFFI SEBLE

Born in 1993 in Lomé, Koffi Seble was immersed in Voodoo culture at an early age. After training in video production, the artist took a camera to capture the beauty of these initiation rites, leading to the elevation of the soul and the spirit. Thanks to a troubling work of overlay and transparency, Koffi Seble transcribes these moments of communion with the invisible and the sacred.



- (1) Koffi Seble, *Communion avec l'invisible*, 2023, 60 x 90 cm, digital overlay photography
- (2) Koffi Seble, *Dansi*, 2023, 60 x 90 cm digital overlay photography

THIERRY TOMETY

Thierry Tomety is a self-taught visual artist born in 1993 in Lomé. After being interested by computer graphics, the artist discovered an attachment for colors and decided to devote himself to a conceptual art. The process of creation and the idea of perpetual renewal are at the center of his practice. He translates through the work of the material he destroys and then rebuilds carrying to a reflection on the meaning of life.



- (1) Thierry Tomety, *The birth of the sun #163*, 2022, 250 x 150 cm, acrylic and paper on canva
- (2) Thierry Tomety, *Bonds of union 2 #134*, 2022, 150 x 200 cm, mixed technique

The ellipse prize

In connection with a theme specific to each edition ("**dreamy memory**" for this 2023 edition), the ellipse prize is addressed each year to the artistic creation of a sub-Saharan African or a South-East Asia country. This visual art competition aims to spread the messages conveyed by the artists in order to raise collective awareness of our environment. In a context where economic and social disparities are constantly rising, the ellipse prize wishes to encourage the mobility of artists allowing them to share their work and meet creators from different cultures and horizons.

Partners

In order to consolidate its commitment, ellipse art projects associates each year with partners to increase its capacity for action and to act as a lever for social change in France and in its countries of intervention. The partners of this third edition are:

- **AKAA**, ALSO KNOWN AS AFRICA, Paris
- **Association Atelier Ati**, Lomé
- **Institut Français du Togo**, Lomé



ellipse art projects

ellipse art projects was created in 2020 by the French company Ellipse Projects specialized in design and build projects in sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia. Ellipse Projects invests in the social well-being of all the countries in which it operates. Culture is a key element of the Sustainable Development Goals established by the UN since 2015. Culture is a real sustainable lever to promote economic growth and social inclusion. It's undeniably undermined by the lack of support for artists, initiatives and structures working for its dissemination, promotion and protection. In the wake of the geographical location of the founding company, the ellipse art projects endowment fund aims to promote exchanges within territories through art by inspiring the sharing of knowledge and dialogue between cultures.

ellipse art projects

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