

Ras Sankara ellipse Prize winner 2023

Third edition dedicated to the Togolose emerging artistic scene

Ras Sankara is the winner of the third edition of the ellipse prize dedicated to emerging artists living in Togo, as well as Togolese artists living in Africa. The ellipse Prize is an initiative from the endowment fund ellipse art projects which highlights each year artistic creation from sub-Saharan Africa or south-east Asia in France. Linked to a theme every year (« Dreamy memory » in 2023), the ellipse Prize wants to promote messages expressed by artists to engage a collective awareness about our environment.

After long and rich debates, **Ras Sankara** has been chosen among **5 finalists** by an independant jury composed by contemporary art professionnals including Togolese art scene specialists. The 2023 comitee was consisted of: **Victoria Mann**, director-Founder of the AKAA, ALSO KNOWN AS AFRICA, **Atelier Ati - Ferdinand Kokou Makouvia and Juliette Delecour**, founders of Artméliamé, artistic residency in Togo, **Armelle Malvoisin**, journalist, curator, african art market specialist and **Eric Wonanou**, visual artist ant curator. **The 2023 finalists**, chosen among 54 application files, were: **Parmenas Awudza, Clément Gbegno, Ras Sankara, Koffi Seble and Thierry Tomety.**

Truly involved and well known in his country, Ras Sankara **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 tailor-made professionnall and media support.**

The choice of the winner in view of his medium is a challenge for the accompaniment he will benefit from as well as the exhibition of his work during the fair.



(1) Kossi Aféli Agboka known as Ras Sankara

Kossi Aféli Agboka, also known as Ras Sankara is a Togolese self-taught artist born in 1989. Although invested as a visual artist, he began the performance art in 2015, today at the center of his practice, with his body as principal medium.

For the artist devoted to the causes he defends, it's essential to "kill the fear, resurrect courage with optimism, through photography, installation and performance". Through involved 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. Ras Sankara is also the founder of an association gathering artists that invest themselves into social actions.



(2) *Mémoire du sang*, 2021, performance, photography, 55 x 45 cm



(3) *Prière d'une nation*, 2021, performance and installation, photography, 55 x 45 cm

Finalists 2023

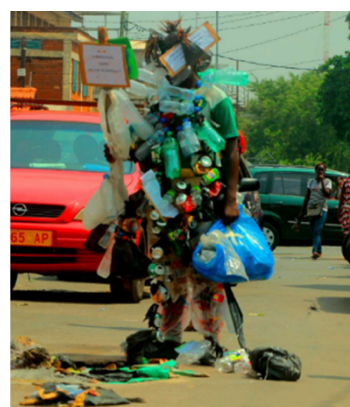
- **Parmenas Awudza** @parme_awu
- **Clément Gbegno** @clementgbegno
- **Ras Sankara** @rassankaraafeli
- **Koffi Seble** @koffi_seble
- **Thierry Tomety** @thierrytomety



(4) *Agbantè*, 2021, performance, photography, 60 x 50 cm



(5) *Position du vent*, 2022, performance, photography, 40 x 50 cm



(6) *Recycle-moi*, 2018, performance, photography, 55 x 45 cm

Partners 2023

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 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.

Online informations

ellipseartprojects.org

Media and communication contact

l'art en plus

Marine Brancq / Sarah Jacquelin

m.brancq@lartenplus.com / s.jacquelin@lartenplus.com

+33 (0)1.45.53.62.74