

## 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair announces galleries and Special Projects for the sixth edition on the African continent

**Fair dates: 30 January - 02 February 2025**

**Press Preview 30 January 2025**



L-R: Malick Welli, *Series Forgotten Paradise*, 2024. Courtesy of L'Atelier 21; Tegene Kunbi, *Triangulation*, 2024. Courtesy of Primo Marella Gallery; Amina Yahia, *Untitled*, 2024. Courtesy of Hunna Art.

1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, the world's leading platform for contemporary art from Africa and the African diaspora, is delighted to announce details of the upcoming Marrakech edition held from **30 January – 02 February (Press preview 30 January)**. Continuing from the previous edition, 1-54 will take place both at La Mamounia hotel and multidisciplinary art space DaDa in the heart of the bustling Medina. This exciting return underscores the fair's enduring impact and highlights its dedication to fostering engagement with Morocco's vibrant art landscape.

The 2025 Marrakech edition will welcome more than **30 exhibitors from fifteen different countries**, including **fifteen galleries** from the African continent (ten of which are based in Morocco) providing local and international audiences with an unparalleled showcase of artistic talent and cultural richness. Newcomers include **C+N Gallery CANEPANERI (Milan, Italy)**, **space Un (Tokyo, Japan)**, **GALERIE FARAH FAKHRI (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)**, **Galerie Medina (Bamako, Mali)**, **Hunna Art (Kuwait City, Kuwait)**, **Le Violon Bleu Gallery (Sidi Bou Said/Tunis, Tunisia)** and **Abla Ababou Galerie (Rabat, Morocco)** who will participate for the first time in any of 1-54's three global editions.

Since its launch in Morocco in 2018, 1-54 has successfully grown its presence in Marrakech, serving as a thriving hub for the continent's art scene with **almost half of the participating galleries hailing from the continent**. For this edition, 1-54 Marrakech will once again offer a dynamic programme of events and Special Projects, in partnership with both local and international institutions, including **Fondation TGCC, Think Tanger, L'appartement 22 and the Kalhath Foundation**.

**Founding Director of 1-54, Touria El Glaoui, comments:** "We are delighted to return to Marrakech for the 2025 edition of 1-54, hosted once again in the iconic settings of La Mamounia and the dynamic multidisciplinary art space DaDa in the heart of the Medina. This year's fair welcomes an exciting array of exhibitors, including notable newcomers from further afield such as space Un from Tokyo and Hunna Art from Kuwait. We are proud to continue longstanding partnerships with Audi Maroc, Fondation TGCC, and Christie's, whose support ensures the fair remains a vital platform for celebrating the diversity and innovation of contemporary African art. With a robust program of Special Projects and collaborations with local and international institutions, 1-54 Marrakech offers an unparalleled

opportunity to engage with Morocco's vibrant cultural landscape and connect with the wider global art community."

#### List of participating galleries:

\*Newcomers to the Marrakech edition

- **Abla Ababou Galerie** (Rabat, Morocco)\*, with a selection of works by an all Moroccan lineup with artists including Hakim Benchekroun, Ilias Selfati, and Fatiha Zemmouri
- **AFIKARIS** (Paris, France), with a booth of works by Omar Mahfoudi, Ozioma Onuzulike, Mouhcine Rahaoui, and Hervé Yamguen
- **African Arty** (Casablanca, Morocco), presenting a solo booth of sculptures and paintings by Moroccan artist Abderrahmane Rahoule
- **CDA Gallery** (Casablanca, Morocco), presenting works by young emerging artists including Amine Asselman, Muhcine Ennou, Rahma Lhoussig and Yvanovitch Mbaya
- **C+N Gallery CANEPANERI** (Milan, Italy)\*, with a booth entirely dedicated to the work of paintings by Nigerian artist Chigozie Obi
- **Galerie Atiss Dakar** (Dakar, Senegal), with a four-pronged presentation of works by Congolese artist Ngimbi Bakambana Luve, French-Senegalese artist Ousmane Bâ, Senegalese artist Camara Gueye and Nigerian artist Yadichinma Ukoha-Kalu (*joint booth presentation with space Un*)
- **space Un** (Tokyo, Japan)\*, with a solo show by Senegalese artist Aliou Diack (*joint booth presentation with Galerie Atiss Dakar*)
- **Galerie 208** (Paris, France), with a group presentation of Mahi Binebine, el Seed and Armand Boua
- **GALERIE FARAH FAKHRI** (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)\*, showcasing a selection of painting and textile works by artists Collin Sekajugo, Charles-David Gnangoran and Taher Jaoui
- **Galerie Medina** (Bamako, Mali)\* showcasing the works of artists Maheder Haileselassie Tadesse, Willow Evann and Victor Adewale
- **Gallery 1957** (Accra, Ghana/London, UK), with a group presentation including work by Kelvin Haizel
- **Gallery Nosco** (Brussels, Belgium)\*, presenting the work of artists Caio Marcolini and Isabelle D.
- **Galerie SINIYA28** (Marrakech, Morocco), presenting works by Rita Alaoui, Rachid Bouhamidi, Abdelmalek Berhiss and Ali Maimoun
- **Hunna Art** (Kuwait City, Kuwait)\*, with a presentation of works by female artists Amina Yahia, and Maissane Alibrahimi
- **La Galerie 38** (Casablanca/Marrakech, Morocco), with a selection of works by significant artists from the gallery's programme including Mohamed Hamidi, Kendell Geers, Younes Khourassani, Ghizlane Agzenaï, Meriam Benkirane, and Yacout Hamdouch
- **L'Atelier 21** (Casablanca, Morocco), with a booth foregrounding the work of artists including M'barek Bouhchichi, Margaux Derhy, Safaa Erruas, Malick Welli, and Najia Mehadji
- **Le Violon Bleu Gallery** (Sidi Bou Said/Tunis, Tunisia) presenting Aly Ben Salem, Farid Belkahia, Hassan El Glaoui and Talal Chaibia
- **Loeve&Co** (Paris, France)\*, showcasing a selection of works by Haitian artist Roland Dorcély and French artist Alex Burke
- **Loft Art Gallery** (Casablanca, Morocco), with an All-Moroccan lineup of artists including Amina Aqueznay, Bouchra Boudoua, and Nassim Azarzar
- **MCC GALLERY** (Marrakech, Morocco), with a booth dedicated to photography by artists Houda Kabbaj, Malika Sqalli, and Mustapha Azeroual
- **Myriem Himmich Gallery** (Casablanca, Morocco), presenting works by artists Zineb Mezzour, Bouchra El Menjra and Valérie Ohana
- **Nil Gallery** (Paris, France), with a booth of works by Sara Benabdallah, Caleb Kwarteng Prah, Joel Bigaignon, and Abdallah El Hariri
- **Primo Marella Gallery** (Milan, Italy/Lugano, Switzerland), presenting installations, sculptural works and textile pieces by Joël Andrianomearisoa, Abdoulaye Konaté, Samuel Nnorom, Tegene Kunbi, and Hako Hankson
- **Ross-Sutton Gallery** (NYC, USA/Stockholm, Sweden)\*, showcasing a selection of works by Joshua Michael Adokuru, Khari Turner and Dina Nur Satti
- **So Art Gallery** (Casablanca, Morocco), with a booth containing the works of Aidan Marak, Ange Dakouo, and Adjei Tawiah
- **The African Art Hub (TAAH)** (London, England)\*, with a booth entirely dedicated to works by Nigerian artist Kingsley Ayogu

- **The Bridge Gallery** (Paris, France), with a dialogue between Ivorian artist Méné, and Nigerian multidisciplinary artist Fadekemi Ogunsanya

### **Special Projects include:**

**Kalhath Foundation** presents a project by Amina Benbouchta who explores cultural connections and gender narratives through the medium of embroidery. In her residency at the Kalhath Institute, Benbouchta collaborated with twenty Indian master embroiderers, merging her artistic vision with traditional techniques. This body of work interrogates gender narratives and the societal spaces occupied by both human and non-human entities, establishing needlework as a form of language in its own right. Each stitch emerges as a narrative of strength, reflecting the intertwining of personal memories with broader histories of resistance and the silent echoes of those often left unheard. Through motifs such as crinolines and hybrid figures, Benbouchta recontextualizes symbols typically associated with constraint, transforming them into tools for healing and unity. Positioned within the fair, her work sparks dialogue about tradition, craft, and identity, inviting viewers to engage in a conversation about memory, love, and reconciliation. In this way, Benbouchta celebrates the art of embroidery as a vehicle for social commentary and personal reflection.

**Fondation TGCC** is thrilled to present the Prix Mustaqbal talents throughout the 4 editions in the group show. The exhibition gathers the works of Khadija El Abyad, Mouad El Bissaoui, Malek Sordo, Yassine Sellame, Mehdi Ait El Mallali, Rida Tabit and Kamil Bouzoubaa-Grivel, intentionally curated as a testimony on emerging Moroccan creation. Since 2021, Prix Mustaqbal has been promoting the artists throughout group shows, solo shows, talks and international art fairs. In 2025, the prize celebrates its 5th anniversary, marking an important milestone in its dedication towards revealing and supporting emerging artists.

Established in 2017 by **Think Tanger**, Tanger Print Club is a studio dedicated to the art and craft of screen printing. It offers a collaborative space for artists, artisans, and researchers to experiment and innovate in printing. For over eight years, Tanger Print Club has worked with both emerging and established artists, as well as galleries, museums, and independent art venues. Its mission is to foster a circular economy within the art sector and inspire a new generation of art collectors by promoting independent publishing practices and prints. For 1-54 Marrakech, Tanger Print Club presents a selection of its artists, including Laila Hida, Yto Barrada, Anuar Khalifi, and Omar Mahfoudi. Tanger Print Club is an initiative by Think Tanger, a non-profit cultural organization in Tangier, working at the intersection of art, the city, and society. Acquiring a print helps sustain the organization and supports the outreach programs.

**L'appartement 22** is an independent art space run cooperatively by artists and curators in Rabat, Morocco. Created in 2002 by curator Abdellah Karroum, following a series of art expeditions and publications, L'appartement 22's artistic program focused on emerging artists' research, residencies and production. In 2007 the space expanded its collaborations by launching the R22 art radio online, while also presenting curatorial projects within major international art events. Since its inception, L'appartement 22 has consistently cultivated relations with peer initiatives within the African continent and internationally, solidifying its significance as a promoter of art expression reflecting on our time. L'appartement 22 accompanied many artists in the production of major projects, such as Mustapha Akrim, Yto Barrada, Matti Braun, Hassan Darsi, Seamus Farrell, Badr El Hammami, Mohssin Harraki, Soukaina Joual, Maria Karim, Syl. Pâris Kouton, Grace Ndiritu, Sara O'Haddou, among others.

Following the **INFINIMENT COTY PARIS** showcase last October in London, 1-54 is delighted to partner again with the very exclusive fragrance brand for its Marrakech edition. Behind the brand, two creators – Sue Nabi and Nicolas Vu – who share a passion for the world of beauty with INFINIMENT COTY PARIS they aspire to define new codes for the perfumery of tomorrow and introduce the next generation of fragrances whose longevity and scents are augmented by science. Designed to be stackable, the INFINIMENT COTY PARIS bottles become a canvas of artistic expression.

Now in its sixth consecutive year, 1-54's continued partnership with **Christie's** reflects the fair's dynamic relationship with the global auction house. The collaboration also demonstrates Christie's commitment to showcasing contemporary African art to its global client base and enhancing exposure for the fair internationally.

1-54 is proud to once again be partnering with **Audi Maroc**. **Audi** maintains a creative dialogue with art and design: Art is created on the pulse of time and provides a perspective on developments of the future. As a progressive brand, Audi stands for modern, trendsetting design and seeks creative interaction. The support of visual arts and design therefore plays an important role for the company. The Audi Group is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles in the premium and luxury segments.

**Fondation TGCC** is delighted to support 1-54 as a long-standing sponsor since its first edition in Marrakech. Created in 2017, Fondation TGCC works towards the promotion and accessibility of contemporary art through Artorium Art Space and charity events. Its mission is to preserve, transmit and reveal culture through its commitment to Morocco's cultural landscape. For this edition, Fondation TGCC will present a group exhibition showcasing the works of the Prix Mustaqbal winners, celebrating the prize's 5th anniversary.

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair**

With annual editions in London, Marrakech and New York, as well as pop-up fairs in Paris and Hong Kong, 1-54 is the leading international art fair dedicated to contemporary art from Africa and its diaspora. Drawing reference to the 54 countries that constitute the African continent, 1-54 is a sustainable and dynamic platform that is engaged in contemporary dialogue and exchange. Initiated by Touria El Glaoui in 2013, February 2025 will mark the fair's 6th anniversary celebrations in Marrakech.

#### **About La Mamounia**

Since 1923, La Mamounia has welcomed travellers from all over the world. The history of the establishment stretches as far back as the 12th century when it stood protected behind the medieval ramparts of Marrakech. The hotel is inseparably attached to its magnificent gardens, which were gifted to Prince Al Mamoun as a wedding present in the 18th century. The passing centuries have brought ever more culture, refinement, and know-how to the hotel. La Mamounia carries with it this prestigious past and its Arabic-Andalusian culture, rich with splendid colours, shapes, and materials, which it nurtures and celebrates.

#### **About DaDa**

DaDa is an exhibition space that celebrates, in the heart of the Medina, the effervescence of the current art scene in Morocco, Africa and the world. A living laboratory for artists in all fields of creation, open to all audiences, DaDa offers every year since 2019, during 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, access to exhibitions and artistic performances.

#### **About INFINIMENT COTY PARIS**

In 1904, Coty transformed the art of perfumery through its revolutionary approach to raw materials, pioneering a groundbreaking blend of natural and synthetic ingredients. 120 years later, Sue Nabi and Nicolas Vu live that heritage, introducing a new chapter under the name of INFINIMENT COTY PARIS, bridging the past and the future. A forward-looking collection of 14 fragrances seamlessly blending art, science, and emotion. Learn more at [infinimentcoty.com](http://infinimentcoty.com) or on [Instagram](#).

## About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business with a physical presence in 46 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, and flagship international sales hubs in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. Renowned and trusted for our expert live and online-only auctions, as well as bespoke Private Sales, Christie's unparalleled network of specialists offers our clients a full portfolio of global services, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's auctions span more than 80 art and luxury categories, at price points ranging from \$500 to over \$100 million. Christie's has sold 7 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction, launched the first fully on-chain auction platform dedicated to exceptional NFT art and manages an investment fund to support innovative startups in the art market. Christie's is also committed to advancing responsible culture throughout its business and communities worldwide

## Press preview

Thursday 30 January, 11:00 – 19:00

## VIP preview

Thursday 30 January, 11:00 – 19:00

Friday 31 January, 11:00 – 19:00

## Public opening hours

Saturday 01 February, 11:00 – 19:00

Sunday 02 February, 11:00 – 18:00

## Social media

Website: [1-54.com](http://1-54.com)

Twitter: [@154artfair](https://twitter.com/154artfair)

Instagram: [@154artfair](https://www.instagram.com/154artfair)

Facebook: 154ContemporaryAfricanArtFair

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