

### What is contemporary art?

There are many definitions of contemporary art. The term can be used to refer to an **artistic movement**, a **period** or a particular **style**. Contemporary art is most often considered to refer to the body of work produced in the second half of the 20th century to the present day, from 1950 to nowadays. Contemporary artists are therefore often **living artists**.

### What is an art gallery?

An art gallery is a place specially created to show works of art to visitors who come to see the **exhibitions**. Contemporary art galleries, such as Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, exhibit and sell the works of contemporary artists, allowing them to make a living from their art. The gallery is an **intermediary** between the artists and the public.

GALERIE  
CÉCILE FAKHOURY  
ABIDJAN · DAKAR · PARIS

CÉCILE FAKHOURY GALLERY

ABIDJAN - DAKAR - PARIS

The Cécile Fakhoury Gallery presents contemporary African art. The gallery therefore works with artists who are linked to Africa, either because they were born there or because they live on the African continent today.

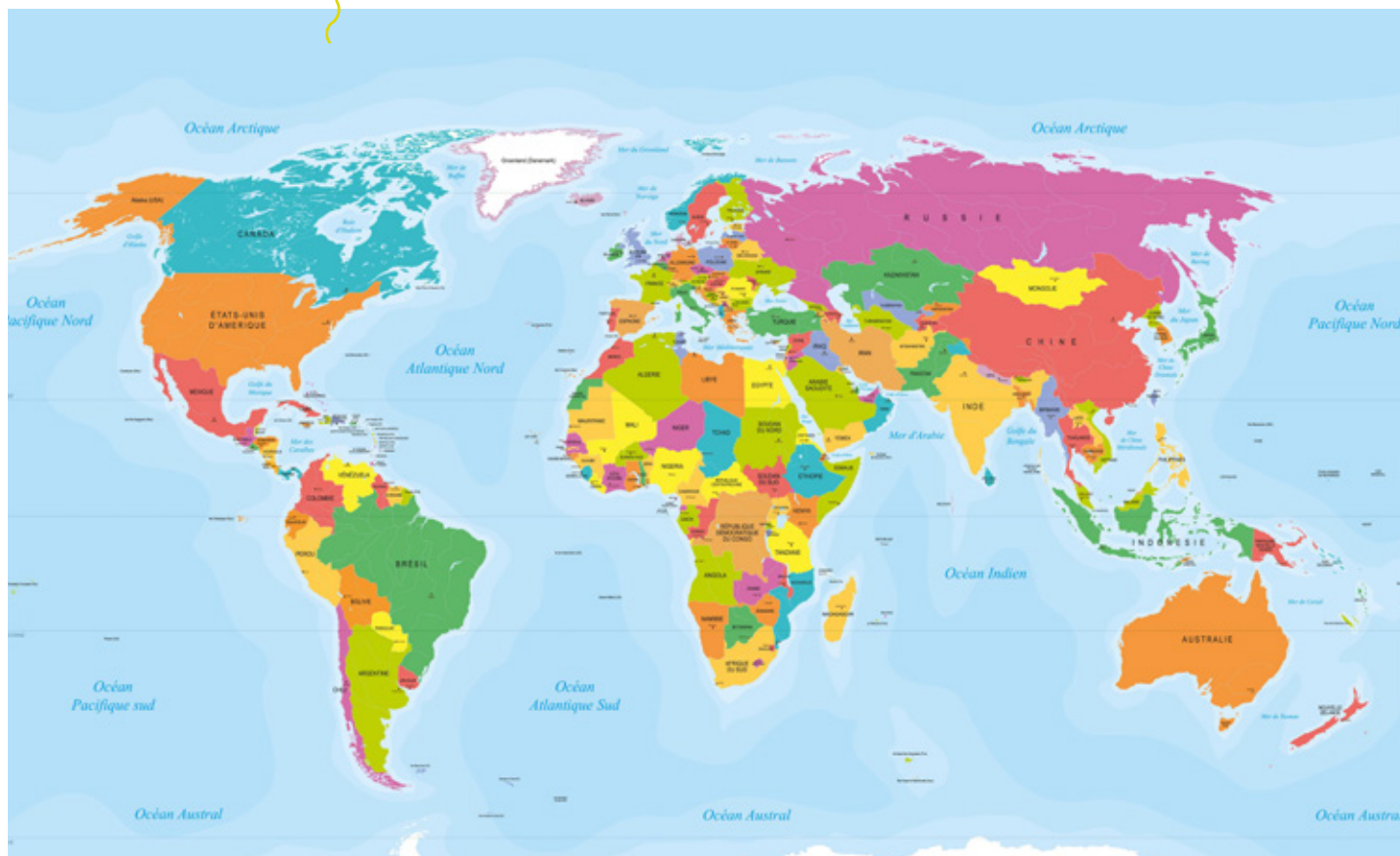
The gallery opened in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in 2012, then in Dakar, Senegal in 2018. In Paris, France, the Gallery has offices.



The Gallery in Abidjan

### Your turn!

Locate Africa on the maps on the next page. This continent is made of 54 countries. The Galerie Cécile Fakhoury is present in Senegal and the Ivory Coast. Can you find them on the map?



## MY EYE!

A work of art - painting, sculpture, photography, video, installation... - creates **an emotion** for the viewer. This emotion can be **positive, negative, or a bit of both**. The reaction to a work of art is **subjective**, which means that it is different for each person who looks at it, depending on the culture, knowledge and tastes of each person. However, the work of art is the same for everyone. Its analysis can be useful in trying to **understand where our emotions come from**, or to **understand the work better when it makes us a little confused**.



And that's what's great about art: **the same work arouses as many emotions as there are viewers!**

Three elements are essential to the analysis of a work: **matter, colour and composition**.

Matter makes up everything. In art, it is the element that the artist uses to give a form to his work. **Matter can be used raw**, meaning without being transformed. It can also be **worked with tools** or **created by chemical reactions**. The artist gives a form to the material. **This is the language he has chosen to express his idea.**



For example, **Jems Koko Bi** uses wood to make his sculptures, which he usually carves with a chainsaw. Here, he used **Soungbé wood**, which is only found in West Africa.



Jems Koko Bi  
*Les visionnaires #22, 2018*

The material is all around us: the wood of the tree trunk, the fabric of the sofa, the glass of the window. Certain materials are found in the fine arts: paint, coloured pencil, chalk, the canvas on which the artist paints. But there is also wood, stone, the sculptor's metal or the paper of photographs. With new technologies, artists have access to more and more different materials.

For this work,  
**Ouattara Watts**  
used many different  
materials.



At the bottom of the canvas, a piece of Baoulé fabric, a people from Ivory Coast



A silkscreen printing: it is the printing with a stencil of an image on a support. Here, Ouattara Watts printed the image on fabric, then glued the fabric to the canvas and drew a face on it.



Ouattara Watts, *La Dama #1*, 2019



A piece of crochet that the artist cut out



Golden paint and natural blue pigments



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Dalila Dalléas Bouzar, *Adama*, 2019



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### Your turn!

This work by **Dalila Dalléas Bouzar** is a tapestry. Do you know what it is? What materials do you see in this work?

You'll find the answers at the end!

**Colour is created by light.** Light is made up of several rays that are not visible to the naked eye. When light hits an object, some rays are absorbed by the object and others are reflected back to our eye: we see a colour!

In this painting, **Kassou Seydou** uses many different shades. How many families of colors do you find? In each family, list the shades you can find.

**Did you know?**

In Senegal, where Kassou Seydou lives, two languages are spoken: French and Wolof. The title of the work means: 'If picking up becomes easy, bending becomes difficult'.



Kassou Seydou, *Bou for yombe, toki yomb*, 2019

The artist chooses his colours according to what he wants to say. The colours speak to each other, they enrich each other by association, opposition or complementarity.

**Did you know?**

An infinite number of colours, also called tints or shades, can be created from 3 colours, the primary colours: **red, blue and yellow**. Take your pencils and try to create new shades from these three primary colours.



Serigne Ibrahima Dieye, *Violence héréditaire #2*, 2020

Black is also  
a colour !

With the materials you have at your disposal - paint, crayons, pastels... - can you recreate the colours of this painting by Sadikou Oukpedjo?

You can play with shades of the same colour, transparency...



Sadikou Oukpedjo, *Nouvelle mythologie #3*, 2020

If you feel like it, you can send us a picture of your drawing to the following e-mail address:  
[suzanne@cecilefakhoury.com](mailto:suzanne@cecilefakhoury.com)  
We will publish the drawings we receive online on our website!

## #3 THE COMPOSITION

Composition is the way the artist puts together the different elements you see in the work.

For example, the composition of this painting by Cheikh Ndiaye aims at realism, which means fidelity to reality or to the idea we have of it.



Cheikh Ndiaye, *Le Ouezzin, Marcory*, 2017

### Your turn!

To represent the building realistically, the artist uses the rules of perspective.

It is lines that help to build the image and give it depth, so that it resembles as much as possible what we see in life.

You'll find the answers at the end!

Can you see the main lines that build the work? Once you've spotted them, create your own scene.

## #3 THE COMPOSITION

The composition is like a recipe in a way. It is made with several ingredients: shapes, materials, colours, shadow, light, perspective... All these elements provoke emotions in the viewer: a feeling of harmony or chaos, balance or imbalance, appeasement or violence...



And sometimes, the composition is detached from reality. What does the composition of this painting by Aboudia evoke to you? What elements do you recognize? What is in the center of the canvas? In the background? What do the dominant colours of the painting remind you of? Is the emotion you feel light or rather serious, solemn?

Aboudia, *Môgô's Dream #2*, 2019



Coloured pearls, golden thread



Golden thread, sequins, medium sized pink pearls and small transparent freshwater pearls



A gold medallion, sequins, transparent freshwater pearls



Golden thread, yellow pearls (yellow agate), silver pearls

Cheikh Ndiaye, *Le Ouezzin, Marcory*, 2017



Here are the main lines from which Cheikh Ndiaye's work is built. They give depth to the scene and an impression of reality.