

# **„Musical approach and artistic developments in Dakar in regards to African Futurisms“**

by Stephen IBAKU Bassène

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This wave that we are about to dive in, is the one that is reprogramming the cultural matrix of Senegal with determination and creativity.

They are social icons, entrepreneurs, activists, daydreamers, proud spirituals, sons of legendary leaders. These artists I am about to present are changing the face of the city and by extension the face of the continent. They smash the doors of the status quo.

Their ambitions are to be forces of proposals on themes such as the preservation of the environment, the re-appropriation of imaginaries, decolonization or gender issues and much more.

## **- ISSA SAMB**

## **- FELWINNE SARR**

Economist philosopher, author, artist.

“To accelerate its cultural transformation and give birth to the revolution of which [Africa] is a carrier, the question of the mode of elaboration of its representations is crucial.”

## **- DOUDOU NDIAYE ROSE**

Through his work and his approach, Doudou Ndiaye Rose has always challenged the urban music in a certain way. Rhythm, power, stories, traditions, eternal youth, innovation, so much in common between the art of the master and the urban culture.

## **SOUND AND VISIONS**

## **- GGBB**

GGBB is a duo composed of Stephane Constantini - electronic musician/ researcher, specialized in the uses of Music and Digital and Mara Seck - singer and percussionist and also son of the legendary Ala Seck one of the most popular member of Youssou Ndour's Super Etoile de Dakar. Together they created a unique and new genre:

A sonic collision between the world of the griot and his predilection instrument:

the sabar and the world of electronic music: The electro sabar.

A music halfway between the epileptic rhythms of the sabar (drums, Senegalese percussion) and the viscous tablecloths of electronic music.

### **- DISS**

Diss is a beat maker/ producer, graphic designer. He is the founder of the 2bemusic label. A Dakar label that is for me one of the most prolific at the moment. In addition to the productions of the artists of his label, in February 2016 he released one of the first albums 100% beats in Senegal. A musical project resulting from his fusion experiences where the boom bap of American hip hop mixes well with West African sounds and rhythms. Last May he released « Dox dadjé » which expresses in Wolof the idea of unity. This album is the first of its kind in the history of Senegalese hip hop, because it brings together the growing scene of beatmakers.

According to his vision this project aims:

"The construction of a musical identity specific to Senegalese urban music"

## **ART AND TECH**

### **- Bay Dam // VXlab**

FB/ VX Lab

"Fascinated by interactive and generative systems, I use interactive art technologies to create works which base on the theoretical horizon of the sphere of human interactions. Computer programming and algorithms are in the core of my artistic approach. I privilege open source and collaboration in order to more and more associate arts to sciences. I develop my projects through short cycles of research and development during which I leave all freedom to unforeseen matters. I always try to collaborate with other artists from other fields such as dance, graffiti or even music. My inspirations can originate from everywhere starting from cultural, linguistic and natural human diversities, from the child's mental development in its own environment to the powerlessness of human beings in front of machines. The immersion, optic illusion and perception of the species that are around us are very passionate subjects for me."

### **- BASSIROU WADE aka BASS DESIGN**

Is among the creative structures in our town in Dakar. We find his work in the cartoonish universe of Selly Raby Kane through these giant insects during the Indaba 2017 design in South Africa or the 3m octopus that sat in the middle of the old Dakar train station during the Alien Cartoon performance at Dakar's Biennale des arts 2014.

This year he also collaborated with KerThiossane's Afropixel festival, Villa for Art and Multimedia, which describes itself as "a space where critical and unconventional ways of participating in the development of media and technology can be experienced".

His latest project is a series of motorcycles transformed to tricycles for disabled persons. His ambition is to transmit this knowledge to disabled people association to facilitate their transport and activities.

### - SEN NETWORK SANDAL MAN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLPxk37hwng>

SEN NETWORK is a collective of African film directors wanting to promote the culture "geek" in Senegal and in Africa in its entirety.

After a series of short films including a web series, SN Network has considerably increased its audience with the release of the short film "Sandale Man". A Senegalese superhero who protects the country thanks to the superhuman strength of his sandals. It started out as a joke Ayina Thiam and his clique challenge themselves to make it a feature film: "Sandal Man 2: The arc of the revolutionary. They evoke different thematics such as pan-Africanism or corruptions .

### - MADZOO RBS CREW

Graffiti artist

"For me, African futurism is first and foremost introspection, the recognition of a past that is becoming the very foundation of this futurism today. This goes through the self-determination of our people that eradicate our underlying complex. Since then, the creative genius that has always determined us, this ability that we have always had to shine through the ages.

This African spiritual science, underpinned by scientific and technological advances, defines us even in the way we style ourselves, dress, and our way of life. To constitute a community where each one lives in the respect of the other and the same nature which surrounds it, is an art at once exotic and esoteric.

African Futurism for me is also the will to undertake beyond any stereotype. Futurism is also this touch of madness in our ideologies, in our concepts of life and that everyone in his field, cultivates the ability to subtly bypass the beaten paths that hinder the exacerbated senses of our creativity.

**African Futurism is finally the strength that we have to break despite everything, the psychological barriers and to build bridges between nations, the greatness of giving back to humanity its African universality. "**

## FUTURE IS FEMININE

### - MYAMY the AY GIRL

She is the first female beatmaker in Senegal. At the beginning of the year she released her first beat tape titled "ñaambaan tape". The concept of the tape is just as prime. The ñaaban is a culinary specialty specific to Senegal. It is a mixture of tamarind, with seafood as well as lots of spice. Each title of the project is an ingredient of the dish.

**- VBLOCH**

Empowering women

A great artistic laboratory, whose production speaks to us of diversity and freedom.

**- LAEILA ADJOVI + LOIC HOCQUET**

<http://adjovi.visura.co/>

Loic and Laeila are an artist couple living in Dakar. Leila is a journalist / reporter and photographer, while Loic is a film director. Their joint work "Malaika Dotou Sankofa" is laureate of the Leopold Sedar Senghor Grand Prix of the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Dakar Biennial of Contemporary African Art.

The wings that seems to cross the wall is my favorite. This image means that there is still a lot of obstacles to cross for us Africans, walls and prejudices to bang ... but that we will succeed!!

"Malayka" means the angel in Swahili and "Dotou" to stay right in Fon, a language of Benin. "Sankofa" is the Akan (Ghana) symbol of the messenger bird, who looks with his head turned backwards, a way of inciting to "learn from the past".

And about Afro futurism: "I do not recognize myself in afro-futurism as such but I am for a future that we choose without suffering from that choice.  
To 'build new ways' as Thomas Sankara said. And find 'new ways to live in the world' like Felwine Sarr Says."

**BODY AND SPIRITS**

**- ALI BETA**

Musician, Film director and theater director

His mantra is Africa is the present

And his theme of predilection is travel, with all the additions that it brings, spiritual quest, the question of migrations, or the reconquest of lost imaginary.

His film « LIFE SAARABA ILLEGAL » co directed with Peter Heller, and Barney Ruebe is conceived as a family saga, the documentary follows through ten years two brothers between West Africa and Europe – the younger on a tiny island in the Atlantic and the elder brother as a hopeless illegal on Spanish mainland. A film about Europe's values seen through African eyes of poor migrants, about intercontinental trade routes and connected personal hopes. The saga highlights cultural and family background, by means of very subjective and direct long term insights.



Aspects of leaving but also returning are showing new angles on exile but also on migration of so far anonymous boat-people washed up at South-Europe's borderline coasts. The film is a long term cooperation since 2008 between filmmakers in Senegal, Germany and Spain.

We will watch his last musical video which is an anthem to a spiritual rebirth, from the sacred cosmogony that celebrates the unity of GOD and the World. African cosmogonies have structured our societies before the arrival of revealed religions. A new form of decolonization is under way, to recapture our imaginations and the stories of our lives.

**- ALIOUNE SAMB aka LUN LA LAME**

"To work for the Divine through the Human."

"I am more tempted by stirring the piles perceived as useless by the eye of the layman. Before going to the fashion world with an anti-fashion spirit which makes me particular in the general, I had as activity a long march through the streets of Dakar in search of a support of predilection not only elastic to pull it, propel it, project it towards the future but also authentic by these depths."

Until today Moon the blade does not find this famous support but he wants to share the unearned finds during "the long march on Dakar".

**DOULSY JAHGAL**

Doulsy is Fashion designer, costume designer for cinema or advertising.

In addition to his work for his brand JahGal which explores the diversity of materials with silhouettes imprint to the world BaaFaal, he collaborates closely with photographer Fabrice Monteiro for the series "the prophecy" An apocalyptic fable dealing with environmental issues.

He also works closely with the brand Bull Doff especially for @dakreatives in collaboration with different artists and mediums, graphic, performance, comics, music, dance come to rally to fashion to present the "other way" made in Dakar .

#### **- BULL DOFF**

Is iconic duo of the avant garde fashion in Senegal. Baay Sooley and Laure Tarot move dress codes in Senegal.

Their collections are strongly accompanied marked by a performative facet in order to place the clothing in a historical or imaginary context among others.

I chose to show their work together because they have been facing a drama for a few months. A fire has set their common workshops and showroom on fire.

Annihilating all their enormous work.

They reacted with force and creativity involving their community to support them by launching a fundraising campaign that ended yesterday I hope with success.

#### **- SIAKA SOPPO TRAORE**

"In an environment touched by many cultures, I question them on this metamorphosis of which they face our times and look that they are mutually. What future for Africans, facing this clash of cultures? Building on the fantasy world, science fiction, technology, music and performative arts, I'm trying to rewrite this black experience of the Black world. I'm inspired to make implementations scene playing with symbols, aesthetics, movement and stillness."

#### **- PAPE SANGONE VIERA**

I would like to finish by honoring the spirit of a leading artist of the young Dakar scene.

PAPE Sangone Viera was a multifaceted dancer and founder of the Afrekanam company.

Developing a concept called African martial dance. He unraveled with his associates:

Afro pop a hybrid dance concept melding African dance, martial arts, and hip hop dance.

The excerpt that we will see is from a movie about Senegalese dance. A film where you can see Viera at work as well as a good selection of talented dancers in Senegal.

This film is also a tribute to his memory.

**MUSICAL APPROACH  
AND ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENTS  
IN DAKAR  
IN REGARDS TO AFRICAN FUTURISMS**

NEW PROPHETS

# DOUDOU NDIAYE ROSE



# ISSA SAMB A.K.A JOE OUAKAM





# FELWINE SARR



SOUNDS & VISIONS



Sonic collision between the world of the griot and electronic music

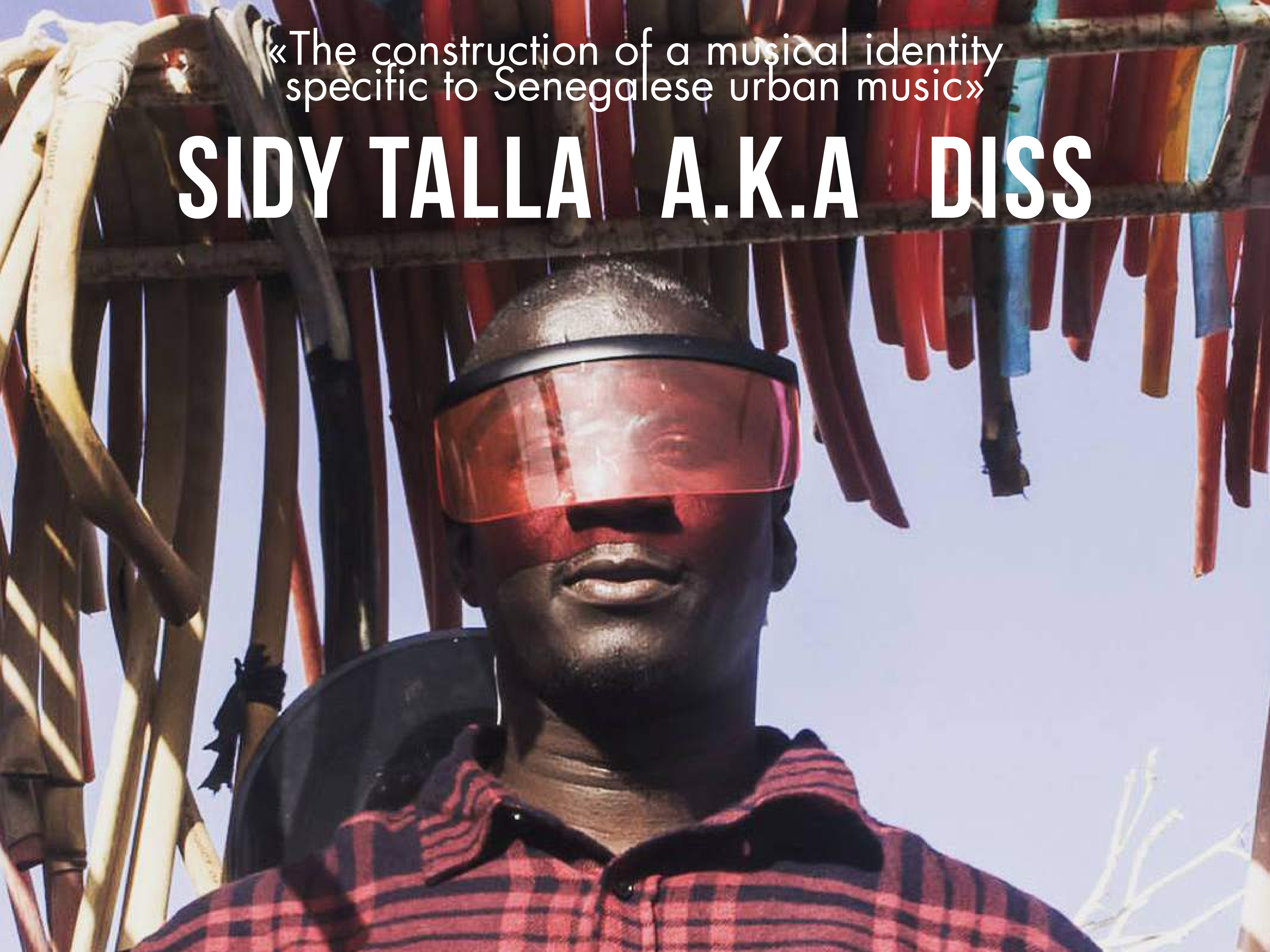
# GUISS GUISS BOU BESS





«The construction of a musical identity  
specific to Senegalese urban music»

# SIDY TALLA A.K.A DISS







DISS-CONNEXION

Tonight

"Black Skin"

Premier extrait



2Bedaxe Musik

disponible sur [www.soundcloud.com/2bedaxe-musik](https://www.soundcloud.com/2bedaxe-musik)



*Diss 2bedaxe  
x Beatmakers*

DOX DAJE



ART & TECHNOLOGY



# BAAY DAM // VX LAB

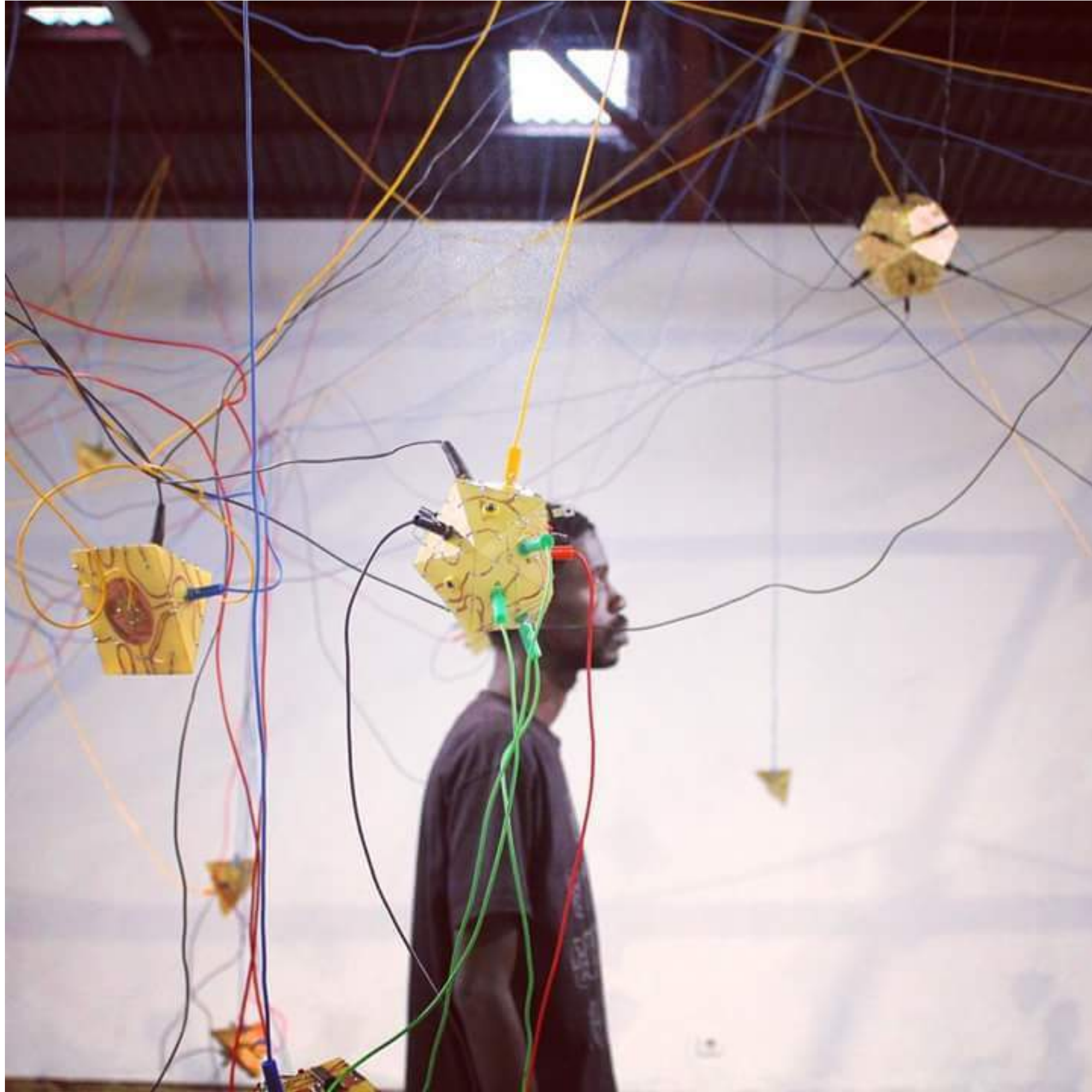
« Computer programming and algorithms  
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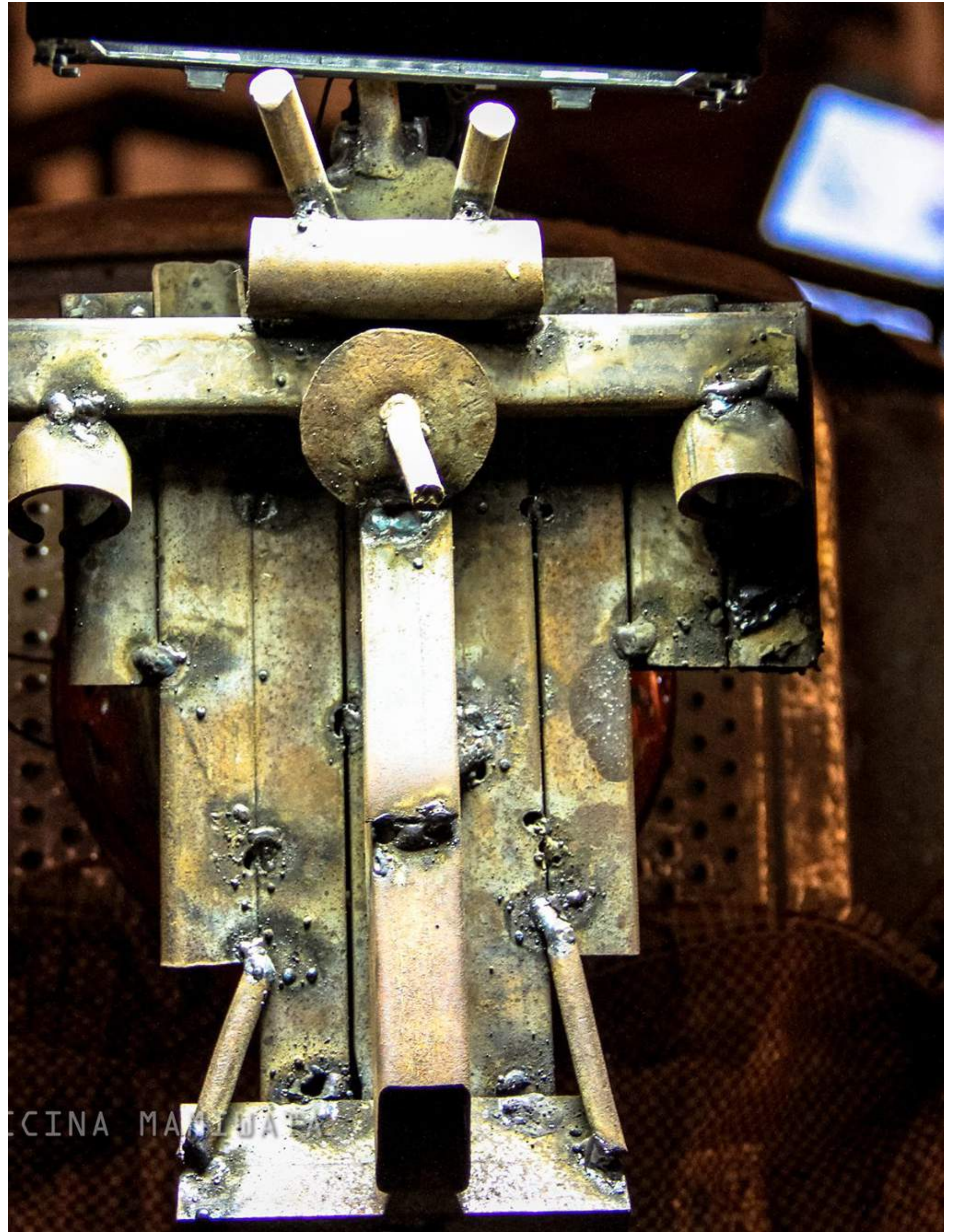


The Humble Giant

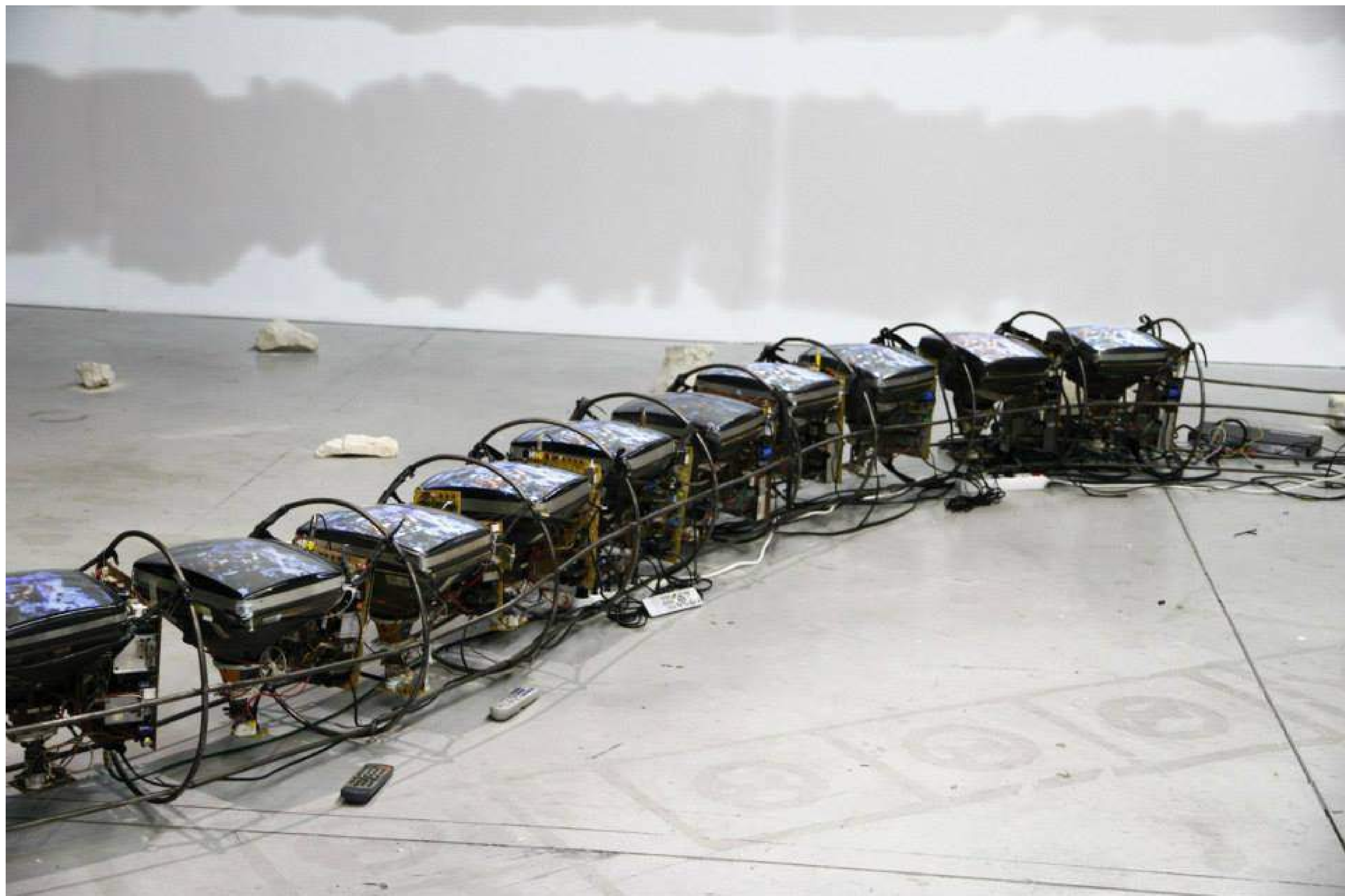
# BASSIROU WADE A.K.A BASS DESIGN

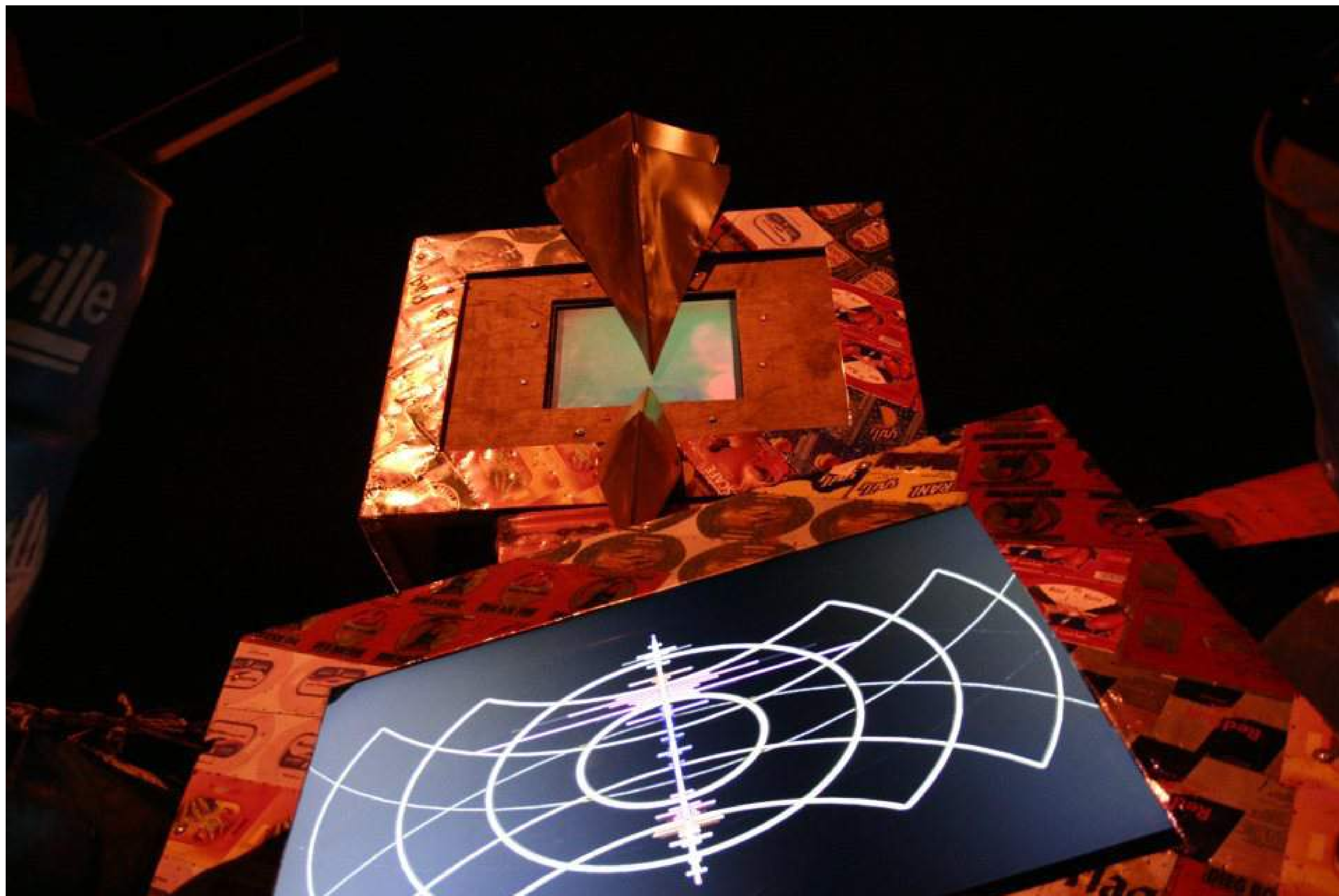










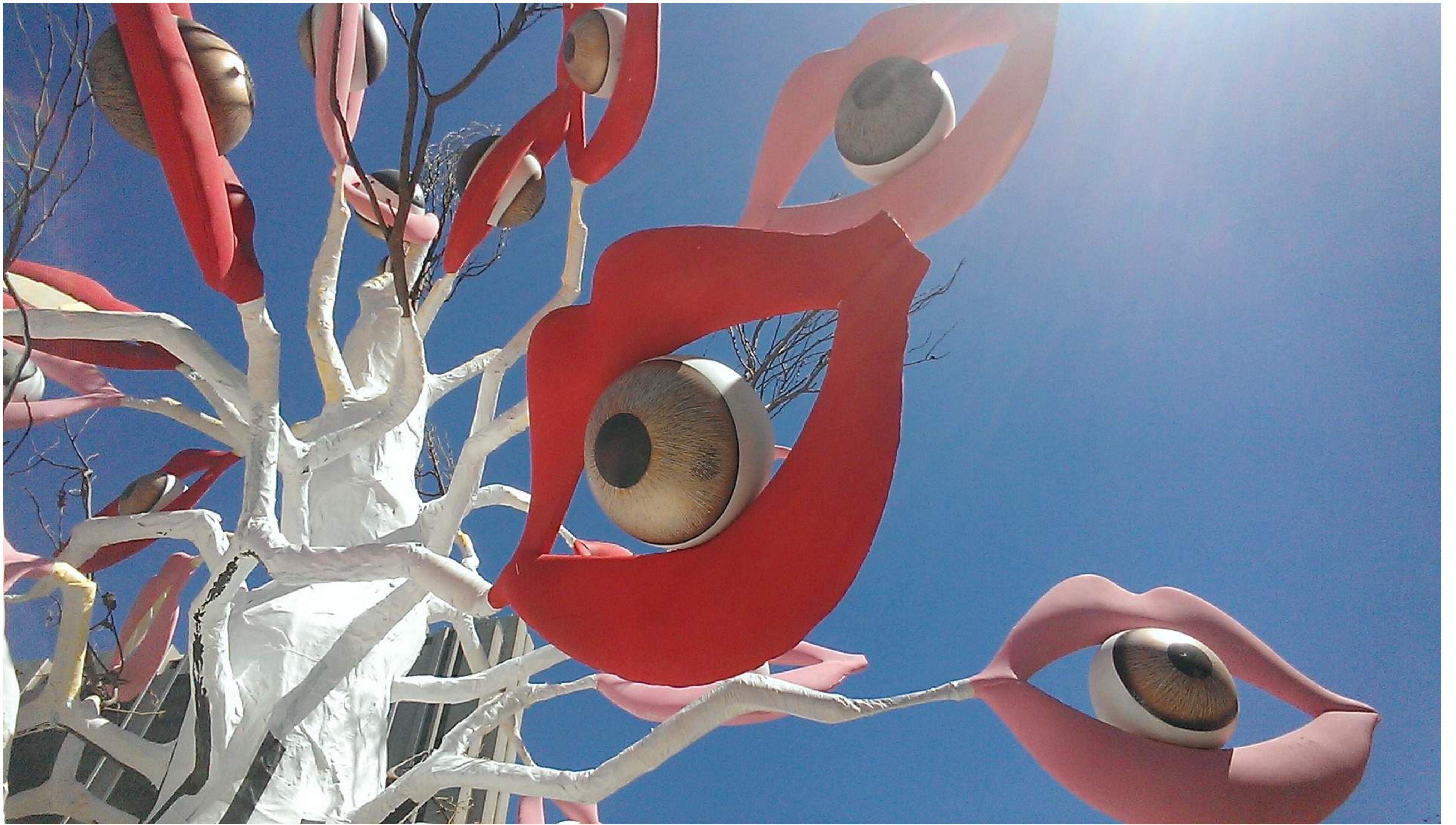
















# SEN NETWORK

A collective of African film director wanting to promote the culture «geek» in Senegal and in Africa in its entirety



JE N'AI JAMAIS  
RESSENTI UNE  
TELLE FORCE AVANT...

TONTON, DEPUIS  
QUE TU AS DISPARU  
DANS CET ACCIDENT  
DE VOITURE, J'AI  
JURÉ DE TOUJOURS  
PROTÉGER MA  
FAMILLE...

C'EST TOI  
QUI ME L'AS  
APPRIIS...

**PAT!**



STORY : AYINA THIAM  
ART: LO





FIN





«To restore to humanity its African universality»

# MADZOO // RBS CREW







# WARNGEL



ASRAFO RISING

Created by Mad Zoo TRK











FUTURE IS FEMININE



First female beatmaker in Senegal

# MYAMY THEAYGIRL



# Ingredients

Daqaar  
Soble  
Povbar  
Kaani  
Ndox  
Paañ  
Suukar  
Xorom  
Bineegar  
jumbo

BONNUS

ARWORK: DASERIOUS

*Nambaan - Tape*  
*The beaTape*

SORTIE OFFICIELLE LE

**20**  
DECEMBRE

Myamy TheAygirll



TELECHARGEMENT LIBRE





Freedom and Diversity

# VBLOCH











VBLOCH







Malaika Dotou Sankofa

# LAEILA ADJOVI / LOIC HOQUET









BODY & SPIRITS



# ALI BETA

«Africa is the present»



ACHT JAHRE UNTER CLANDESTINOS

# LIFE SAARABA ILLEGAL

Ein Film von Peter Heller, Saliou Waa Guendoum Sarr und Bernhard Rübe

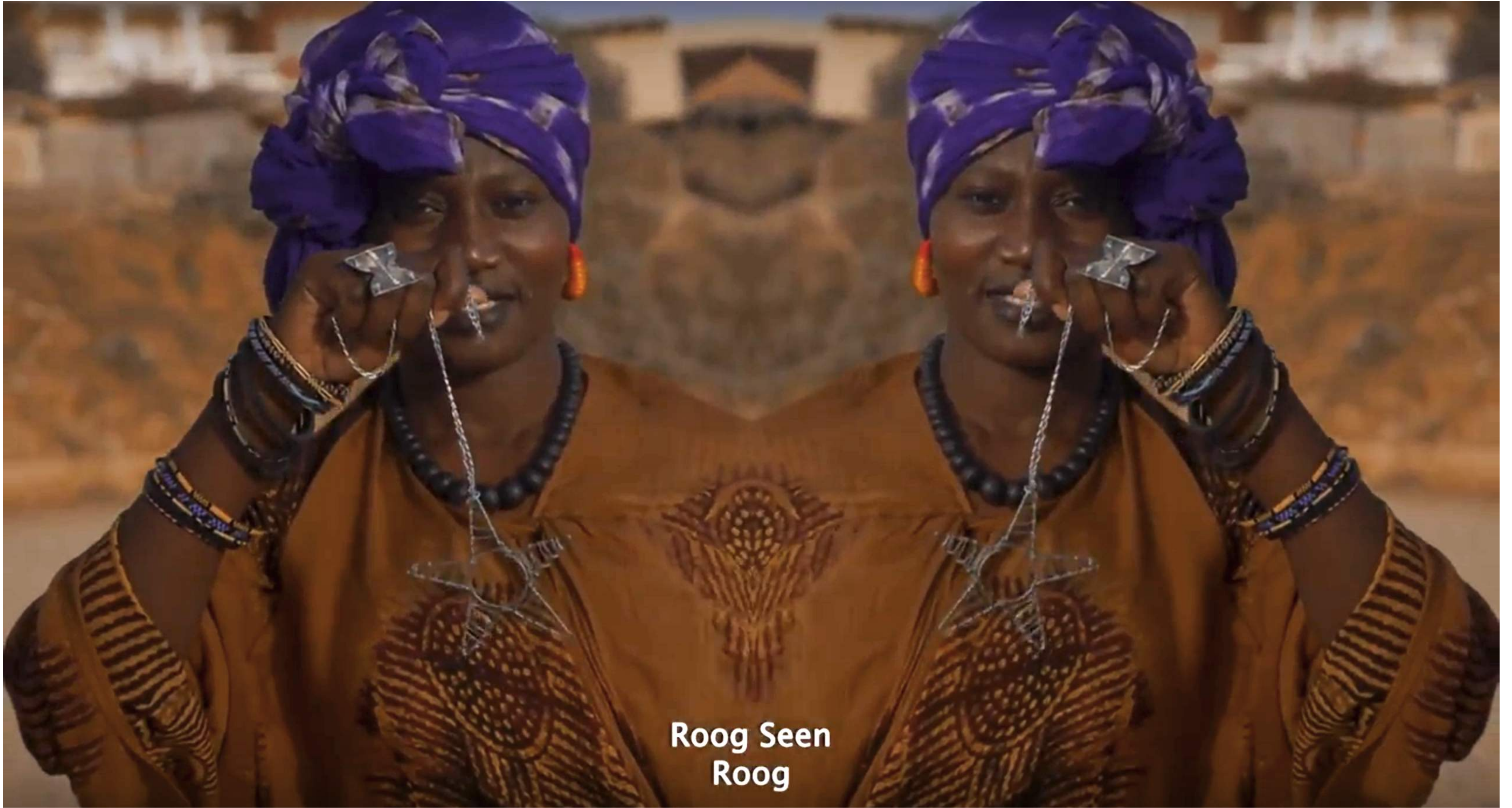
BUCH SALIOU SARR · PETER HELLER · BERNHARD RUEBE · REGIE PETER HELLER · KAMERA BERNHARD RUEBE · JAN BETKE · PAPE MALICK SAMB · MANUEL CASTRO  
MONTAGE UND SCHNITT WOLFGANG GRIMMEISEN · THOMAS BALKENHOL · MUSIK ALIBETA · BARAKA GLOBAL ARTS DAKAR · PRODUZENTEN FILMKRAFT MÜNCHEN · RUEBEFILM · GOETHE INSTITUT  
AUSFÜHRENDER PRODUZENT FILMKRAFT FILM · GEFÖRDERT BROT FÜR DIE WELT · EVANGELISCHER ENTWICKLUNGSDIENST · DESIGN GREEN EYEZ DESIGN



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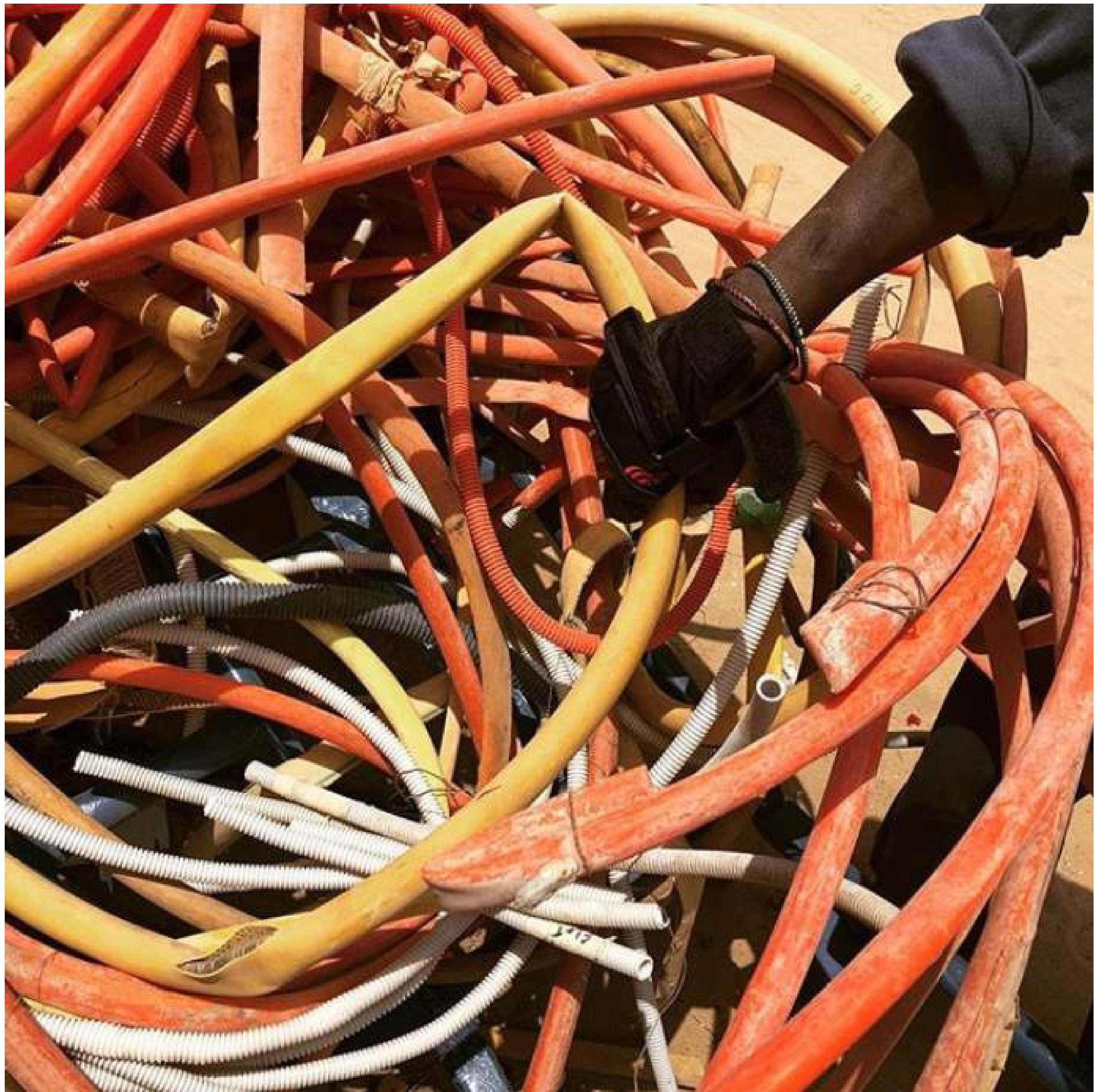
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# ALIOUNE SAMB A.K.A LUN LA LAME

«To work for the Divine through the Human»

























# DOULSY A.K.A JAH GAL & BULL DOFF





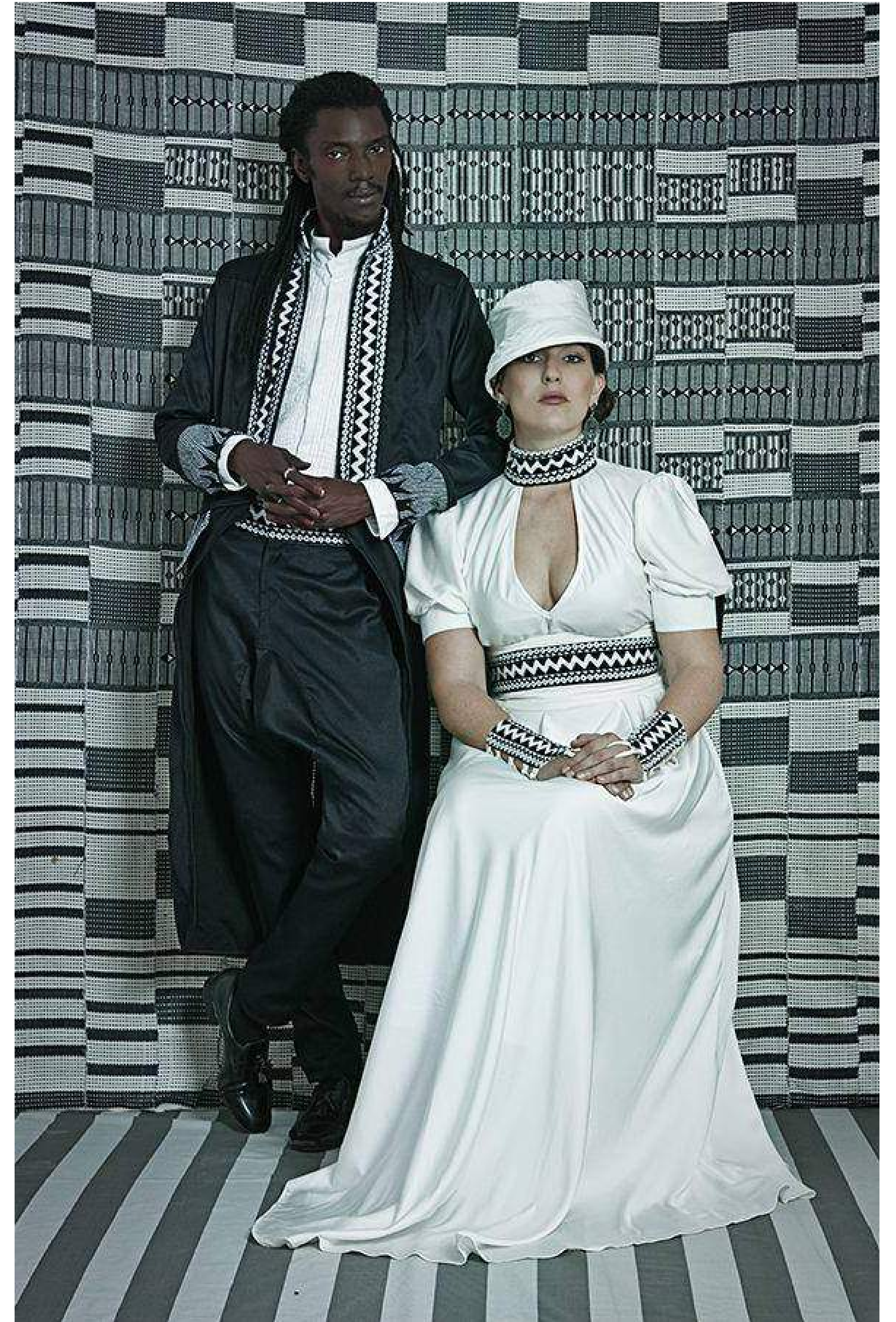






















A portrait of Siaka Soppo Traore, a Black man with a beard and a black flat cap, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and a white shawl with black geometric patterns. The background is a blurred, textured wall made of woven reeds or bamboo. The lighting is soft, highlighting his face and the texture of the shawl.

# SIAKA SOPPO TRAORE

« Re-write the Black experience »































# PAPE SANGONE VIERA







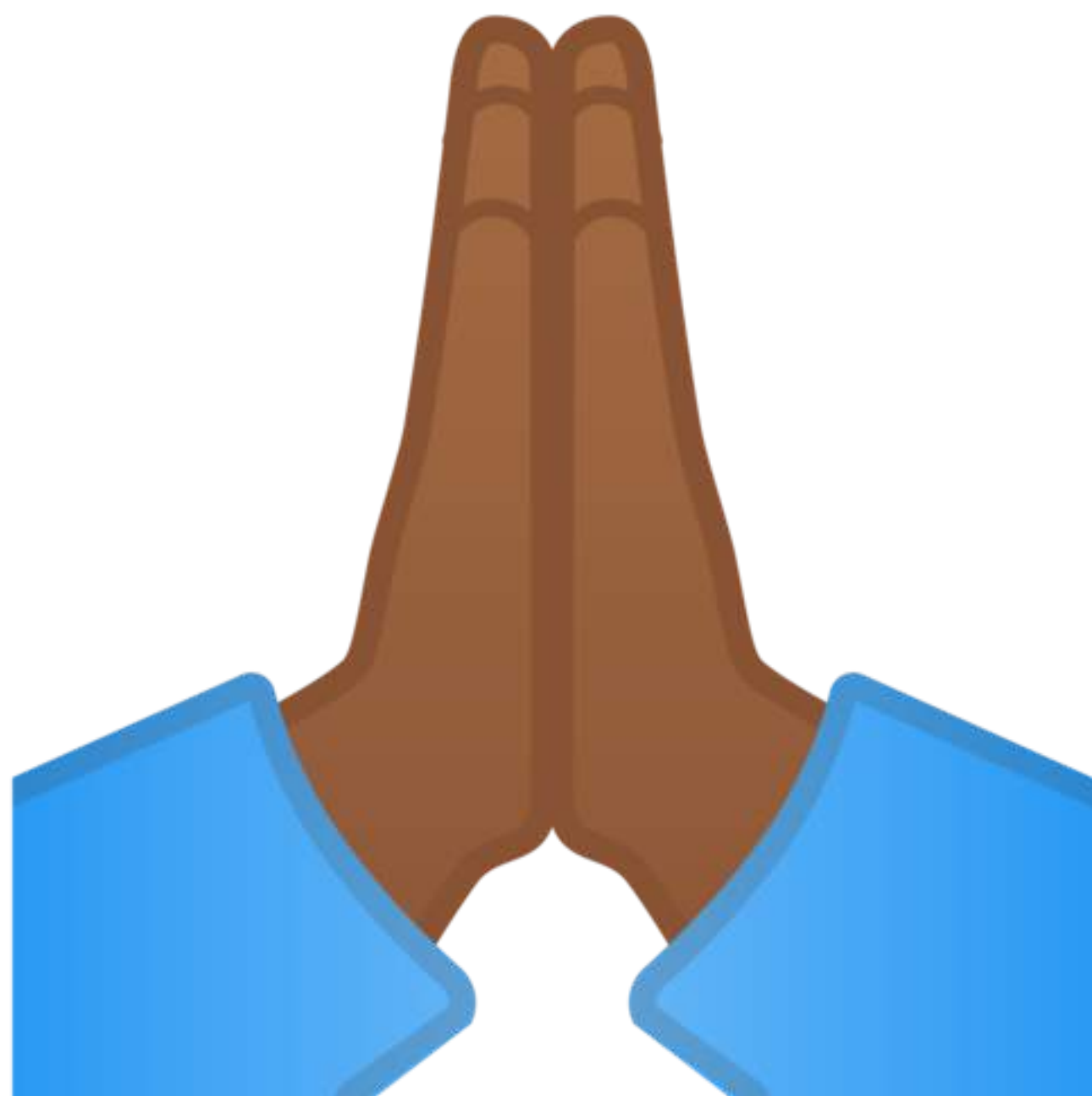












MUCH LOVE