

La Couverture Vivante and Daoula

Annick Hurst and Awa Meité

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Daoula, Awa Meité © F. Koné, 2006

Independent French film editor Annick Hurst will collaborate with Malian artist Awa Meité during a research and experimentation residency that will be used to develop two interactive Internet portals: one is a network of skills, knowledge and projects (*La Couverture Vivante*) while the other addresses Malian cotton production (*Daoula*).

Initiated by Doris Buttignol for the artist collective Les Brasseurs de Cages, *La Couverture Vivante* project invites women from around the world to express their world views through fabric self-portraits. These self-portraits are then brought together in a larger symbolic object: a quilt of hope. The Internet portal *Les Étonnantes Paroles du Monde*, created by Annick Hurst, couples the self-portraits with cultural information, woven into an interactive timeline. One of the project's objectives is to promote an alternate world map. *Les Étonnantes Paroles du Monde* and the *Daoula* project stand together in their support of viable planetary alternatives.

As the founder of the *Daoula* project, Awa Meité is interested in drawing attention to all aspects of local cotton production, including the cotton growers, spinning wheel operators, artisans, dyers, embroiderers, tailors, and merchants. Mali is one of Africa's largest cotton producers, yet less than 5% of the cotton grown here is processed locally. Awa Meité intends to create a *Daoula* Internet portal to serve as an educational and documentation tool for stories about the economy and the sustainability of local cotton production. The portal will also serve as an interactive meeting space to promote artistic creativity and civic participation. [FDL]

This is the third residency presented as part of the "Research and Experimentation Residencies in Montreal for Professional Artists from Emerging Countries or Regions Program", developed by OBORO and the Daniel Langlois Foundation for Art, Science and Technology.

Annick Hurst is a documentary and fiction film editor who has worked on many films which have marked human history, including Jocelyne Lemaire Darnaud's film *Paroles de Bibs* ("Bibs Speak"), which made it possible for the "Bibs" (Michelin employees) to set up their association, recover their rights and win their battle in the courts against Michelin. Annick Hurst has also worked on Jo Béranger and Doris Buttignol's *Voyage en mémoires indiennes* ("A Journey through Indian Memories"), a reflexion on identity through the exploration of stolen generation's story. She is a member of the group Les Brasseurs de Cages for whom "ART is a Weapon of Mass Construction..."

Awa Meité is a filmmaker, painter, jeweller, stylist and designer working both in Bamako (Mali) and France. Inspired by a number of West African ethnic groups, Meité features local materials and practices in her artistic productions. Active in various African organizations, in 1998 Awa Meité created the *Routes du Sud* association, which organized the 2004 UNESCO event *Le Sud aide le Sud face au Sida*. Since 2007, she has been the coordinator of the *Daoula* project, which encourages local cotton production and the exchange of ideas around Africa's "white gold." More recently, she produced and directed the documentary *Femmes, environnement et créativité*.



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