

News from women's museum, Batokunku/Gambia

International Arts Exhibition ends

First highlight set at "Mama Africa" in The Gambia

The opening in March was quite a very energetic event: The spirit of the different artworks from artists around the world, the power of the live music and the cultural performance, including the griot and koraplayer Tata Dindin, well-known from the André Heller project: "Afrika! Afrika!", the engagement of the artist themselves being present and at least the wonderful weather, the nice drinks and the great location of "Mama Africa – women's museum & art centre". All this happened at the "International World Women's Day 2010" in a small village at the Atlantic Ocean called Batokunku: translated from the local language it means "Seaside Garden".

Now after more than one month the exhibition ends with another lively event: The "Night of the Griots". Three griots, from The Gambia and Germany, has performed in a wonderful concert inside the gallery. It was a magic and on the other hand a very entertaining night – another multi-cultural experiences in the short period of operating "Mama Africa". During the last weeks more than 500 visitors have had a look at the exhibition. It was the first time in history of The Gambia that more than 20 artist from around the world exhibiting their works in the small country in West Africa. At the opening and during the time of the exhibition the audience was mostly coming from the international organisations, the diplomatic corps, interested Gambians and tourist; unfortunately no member of the official cultural organisations in The Gambia took the opportunity to attend such kind of unique event. That shows the problems culture is facing in countries like The Gambia. But throughout the power and obligation of Isha Fofana, the proprietor of "Mama Africa" and the only international renowned female Gambian artist, the event ends very successful and has set a milestone in the history of her homeland.

22 female artists from around the world were exhibiting at "Mama Africa – Women's Museum & Art Centre". The exhibition was called "Freedom, Equality, Fraternity – For Humans", it started in The Gambia and will continue as a touring exhibition to other Women's Museums around the world: Kenya, Germany, Bolivia, and others. Four artists, participating in the exhibition, has been present at the opening. The event was initiated by the International Artist Association in Germany (www.internationalerkuenstlerverein.de). Isha Fofana, founder of "Mama Africa", is long time member of this recommended organisation. The exhibition is the first highlight set the Gambian artist after her grand opening mid of February. It is a symbol too set by the International Artist Association and the World Women's Museum Network to start the exhibition at their latest member – and of course in an African country.

