

Feminist Foundation for African Contemporary Art

Fondation Féministe pour
l'Art Contemporain Africain

Annual report 2024



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Introduction

The Feminist Foundation for African Contemporary Art (FFACA) was established on March 23, 2023.

In line with its statutes, the Foundation's primary objective is to promote and support contemporary women artists of African descent, acknowledging that women artists, particularly women artists of colour, have been historically underrepresented in both private and public collections.

Furthermore, the Foundation aims to highlight contemporary African art as a rich and innovative artistic expression, striving to move beyond reductive lenses inherited from colonial perspectives that have long influenced the perception of African creativity.

The Foundation primarily achieves its objectives through temporary exhibitions at Gallery Brulhart (21 Rue des Vollandes, 1207 Geneva) which also houses its office and administrative premises.

This annual report covers the calendar year 2024, from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

In line with our commitment to artistic creation and intercultural dialogue, the year 2024 was marked by a rich and diverse program.

We presented four exhibitions featuring artists from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria, each offering a unique perspective on contemporary cultural and social issues. Each exhibition showcased women's perspectives on current views of history, family and community relationships, gender identities, and the quest for personal fulfillment.

Introduction

Our events included film screenings, artistic performances, and panel discussions that fostered a wide range of meaningful exchanges.

Our second consecutive participation in the AKAA fair was an opportunity to increase the gallery's visibility while strengthening our network within the international art ecosystem.

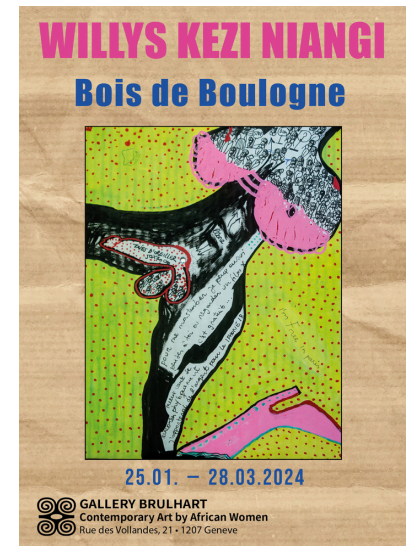
Finally, our partnerships with organisations such as Phenomenal Women Global, Un Soir aux Eaux-Vives, and the Global Fund illustrate our commitment to collaborating with initiatives that share our values of creativity, inclusion, and social impact.

Exhibitions

Bois de Boulogne (25 January - 28 March 2024)

In this exhibition, Willys Kezi Niangi shares her personal impressions of trans* people and sex workers of the Bois de Boulogne in Paris. Although Niangi's artistic practice is often influenced by her own experiences and personal history, this time, with **Bois de Boulogne**, she chose to address a topic that did not directly concern her.

The artist's works evoked mixed emotions: curiosity, surprise, empathy, and sometimes even anger, among the diverse audience that visited the exhibition



“This art is powerful and filled with important messages. Congratulations for conveying such significant suffering and emotions so well! – Eyana

“It's direct, spontaneous. A presence in our time, an energy without restraint. – Marie-Claire



From top to bottom: poster for the **Bois de Boulogne** exhibition (graphic design by Rosie Cook); Willys Kezi Niangi at the opening of the exhibition (photo by Clara Watt); a visitor to the exhibition during the opening night.

Exhibitions

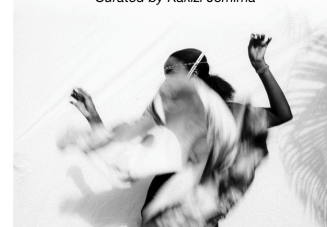
Fierce Femmes (18 April - 4 July 2024)

From the heart of the dynamic Rwandan art scene, the **Fierce Femmes** exhibition reflects the spirit of resistance and the multifaceted identities of Rwandan women. Dr Ceri Chillier-Whatley is the instigator of the project, which is part of the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Tutsi genocide in Rwanda. She facilitated the connection between Gallery Brulhart and Kakizi Jemima, a multidisciplinary artist and Rwandan curator, who served as the exhibition's curator.

Five artists are at the core of this project: Odile Uwera, Cynthia Butare, Teta Chel, Crista Uwase, and Miziguruka. Through various mediums — digital drawing, documentary photography, painting, collage, and videographic performance — they each convey their unique vision of the contemporary Rwandan woman, through an immersive experience that challenges preconceived notions and sparks curiosity.

FIERCE FEMMES

Rwandan women contemporary artists
Curated by Kakizi Jemima



18 April – 4 July 2024

Avec les œuvres de /
Featuring the work of
Cynthia Butare
Odile Uwera
Crista Uwase
Teta Chel
Miziguruka

Vernissage / Opening reception
jeudi 18 avril / Thursday 18 april
18h-22h

Visite commentée de la curatrice /
Curator guided tour
samedi 20 avril / Saturday 20 april
15h-17h

GALLERY BRULHART
Contemporary Art by African Women
rue des Vollandes 21 • 1207 Genève
gallerybrulhart.ch



“A wonderful exhibition. Thank you for putting this together and showcasing talented female African artists from Rwanda. I learned more about Rwandan culture and I appreciate the running theme of women empowerment. - Kely-Ann

“I didn't know what I was coming to discover here, but I found in each of these artists both originality, feminine courage, and great sensitive intelligence. I'm happy to feel that women artists can bring their work together while maintaining their individuality. A very beautiful initiative. Thank you. May this place thrive. – Solène

From top to bottom, left to right: poster for the **Fierce Femmes** exhibition (graphic design by Rosie Cook); artists Odile Uwera, Cynthia Butare, Teta Chel, Crista Uwase, and Miziguruka.

Exhibitions

Fierce Femmes (18 avril - 4 juillet 2024)

The **Fierce Femmes** project was realised with the support of the *Fonds Culturel Sud* and received extensive media coverage. A guided tour by curator Kakizi Jemima took place on 20 April, and the artist duo Miziguruka & Binghi gave a performance on 30 May, as part of the *Un Soir aux Eaux-Vives* event.

Fierce Femmes was also the focus of two other special events, in collaboration with the Global Fund and the Embassy of Rwanda in Switzerland, respectively (details can be found in the Events section). With nearly 600 visitors throughout its duration, **Fierce Femmes** was the most visited exhibition of 2024.



From left to right: Rosie Cook, Ceri Chillier-Whatley, Cynthia Butare, Kakizi Jemima, and Mona Brulhart, at the opening night of **Fierce Femmes** (photo by Clara Watt).

Exhibitions

Filiations (29 August - 18 October 2024)

Through her deliberately blurred lens, Olga Yaméogo reveals her subjects – often friends or family members - emphasising movement rather than a moment fixed in time. The exhibition title, **Filiations**, alludes to concepts of legitimacy in the connections between humans and land, as explored in the work of Édouard Glissant. The shimmering, fuzzy logic of Yaméogo's paintings celebrates fluctuating definitions of identity and the quivering of the world.



“Bravo Olga for the both modest and powerful presence of your characters, which invite us to dream of the tout-monde and créolité, dear to Glissant! It resonates deeply with your journey and your work, inspired by humanity. – Colinette

“A profusion of colours and life. So much depth and softness in these characters, our reflections. Thank you! – Nadège



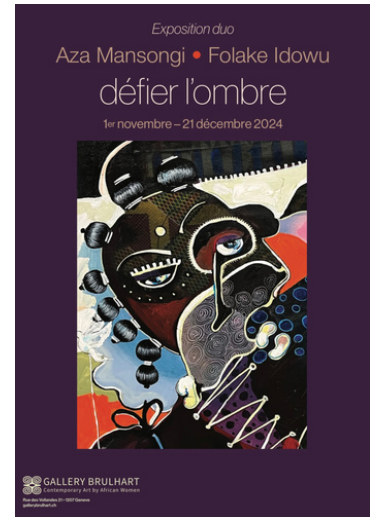
From top to bottom: poster for the **Filiations** exhibition (graphic design by Rosie Cook); artist Olga Yaméogo and Mona Brulhart at the opening night (photo by Clara Watt); Kana, a regular gallery visitor, exploring the exhibition.

Exhibitions

Défier l'ombre (1 November - 22 December 2024)

Through the **Défier l'Ombre** exhibition, two artists engage in a thought-provoking conversation around identity issues, shaped by ever-evolving societies. Their works confront contemporary tensions and paradoxes while reviving the echoes of a past often relegated to oblivion.

Aza Mansongi's canvases pulse with boundless energy, where each brushstroke seems to capture a facet of contemporary life. Through her embroidered portraits presenting complex and irreducible identities, Folake Idowu invites an intimate and direct reflection on the representation of Black women.



“Impressive and Fantastic. “feminise fragrance” with deep sense of creativity and conceptualisation, Beautiful ! - Reuben

“Dear Folake, I was truly moved by your pieces. The depth of the emotions, the detailed techniques, the originality of it all. Your work is remarkable, your art tells universal stories with an African lens. Keep sharing it with us. Keep soaring. - Fatima



From top to bottom: poster for the **Défier l'Ombre** exhibition (graphic design by Rosie Cook); artists Aza Mansongi (left) and Folake Idowu (right); preview of the opening night (photo by Clara Watt).

Art Fairs

AKAA 2024 (18 - 20 October 2024)

For our second participation in the *Also Known As Africa* (AKAA) fair, we presented the work of Philiswa Lila, a visual artist and researcher whose practice explores memory, identity, and personal narratives. Her installation **Keep Out of Reach of Children** (the same title as her 2023 exhibition at Gallery Brulhart) addresses themes of safety by combining beads, found objects, performance, and video. Through her art, she examines how violence becomes normalised in certain environments while uncovering the layered history of people, places, and objects.



Just like in the previous edition, the AKAA fair remains an essential meeting point for connecting with artists, curators, collectors, and gallerists, thus enriching our network and perspectives.

From top to bottom: artist Philiswa Lila; visitors to our booth.

Publications

Our various exhibitions received extensive media coverage throughout 2024. Notable features include:

- An [article](#) on the **Bois de Boulogne** exhibition in l'Art À Genève
- An [interview](#) with Kakizi Jemima and Cynthia Butare on Radio Cité Genève
- A special report, [Rwanda : une renaissance artistique](#) on France 24
- An [article](#) on the **Fierce Femmes** exhibition in the newspaper Newtimes
- An [interview with](#) Olga Yaméogo on Radio Cité Genève

Catalogues for all exhibitions were produced and made available to the public. Curatorial texts featured contributions from Rosie Cook (who also handled all graphic design), Jemima Kakizi, and Samia Tawil.

Our social media presence grew steadily, thanks to the combined efforts of our team. In 2024, the [@gallerybrulhart](#) Instagram account saw a 34% increase in followers, rising from 1,204 to 1,614. Numerous posts, reels, and stories documented exhibitions, events, and other gallery activities, amassing over 50,000 views. The number of subscribers to the Brulhart Gallery newsletter also increased by 6%, from 541 to 583.

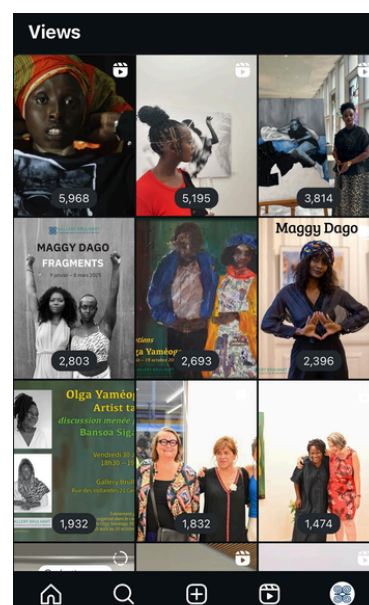
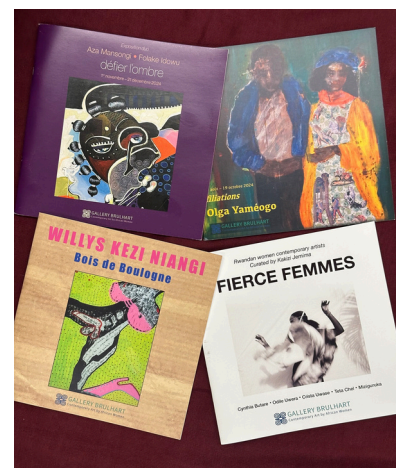
The **New Times** ≡

ENTERTAINMENT

Inside Fierce Femmes exhibition



A visitor touring the Fierce Femmes exhibition in Geneva, Switzerland. Courtesy



De haut en bas : capture d'écran de l'article dans le Newtimes ; les catalogues d'exposition de l'année 2024 ; capture d'écran des statistiques de vues annuelles sur le compte Instagram de la Gallery Brulhart, le 31 janvier 2025.

Partners

In 2024, we continued to work regularly with several passionate and dedicated contractors to enhance the quality and impact of our exhibitions and events.

Photographer Clara Watt documents all our openings, events, and gatherings, and her work is featured throughout this report.



The talented Claudine Mwanangele from Mikate B remains a key contributor to the success of our events, providing Afro-fusion buffets and beverages that delight our guests.



Once again this year, Rosie Cook was responsible for the graphic design of all posters and exhibition catalogues. From conceptualisation to promotion and exhibition installation, she continues to play a fundamental role within the curatorial team at Gallery Brulhart.

In 2024, Mariame Abdou joined the Gallery Brulhart team as a communications and cultural mediation project intern. With a background in international relations, her involvement in the gallery's curatorial activities has enabled her to strengthen her experience in project management and cultural cooperation.



From top to bottom, left to right: Clara Watt, photographed by Shareef Ali; Claudine Mwanangele at the opening of **Défier l'Ombre**; Rosie Cook, Mona Brulhart, and Mariame Abdou at the opening of **Fierce Femmes**. Photos by Clara Watt.

Events



Screening and discussion on 16 March of the documentary *Queer in Africa* by Cristina Karrer, filmmaker and co-founder of FFACA



Guided tour of **Fierce Femmes** on 20 April by curator Kakizi Jemima



Un Soir aux Eaux-Vives on 30 May: artistic performance by Miziguruka & Binghi



Africa Day with the Global Fund: temporary exhibition (one month from 14 June) of **Fierce Femmes** at the organisation's premises as part of the Africa Day celebrations.



#Kwibohora30 on 4 July: **Fierce Femmes** exhibition at the celebration of the 30th anniversary of Rwanda's National Liberation Day. From left to right: collector David Broliet, Kakizi Jemima, Mona Brulhart, and James Ngango, Ambassador of Rwanda to Switzerland.

Events



Poetry reading in July



Artist talk on August 30 with Bansa Sigam and Olga Yaméogo



Collage workshop with the laureats of the OHCHR *International Art Contest for Minority Artists* on November 25



Christmas concert on December 7 with the artists Loïc Vallaeys and Lisa Piazza

Collaborations

Collaborating with various organisations allows FFACA to expand its reach and support local initiatives that align with its objectives.

Phenomenal Women Global (PWG) is a nonprofit organisation based in Switzerland and Uganda, dedicated to connecting, advancing, and empowering women and girls by supporting their personal and professional development, enhancing their leadership skills, guiding them, and providing mentorship. FFCAA | Gallery Brulhart is proud to be a member of the Phenomenal Women Global network. We participated in a webinar on the occasion of International Women's Rights Day on March 8. We were also present with a stand at PWG's annual conference. Members of the organisation regularly support and attend the gallery's openings and other events.

The association **Un Soir aux Eaux-Vives** brings together around twenty art galleries, artist studios, and other artistic spaces in the Eaux-Vives district. Each year, it organises an open gallery night, which typically attracts around 200 visitors. Gallery Brulhart has been participating since 2022.

The **Global Fund** is an international funding and partnership organization committed to fighting deadly infectious diseases, addressing the injustices that fuel them, and strengthening health systems and pandemic preparedness in over a hundred countries. As part of its internal events, the organisation celebrates Africa Day each year, in which Gallery Brulhart took part in 2024.

As part of Swiss cultural cooperation, the **Fonds Culturel Sud** supports productions and events involving artists from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe (non-EU countries). In 2024, Gallery Brulhart received support from the Fonds Culturel Sud for the realisation of the Fierce Femmes project.

Contact

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Fondation Féministe pour l'Art Contemporain Africain

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