



2ND KUMASI BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM: COMMUNITY ARTS IN FOCUS

Date: July 16 - August 6, 2011

Venue: Kumasi and the Nearby Village of Abetenim in Ashanti Region of Ghana

The problem the symposium addresses is the widening gap between contemporary African artist and the community in changing times. There is an obvious social disconnection; yet, the fine arts and craft are viewed the same by the general public, including deep in the village. How can we meaningfully engage the rural sub-Saharan population in the contemporary artistic process? How can we broaden the scope of the Curio Kiosks project of the first Kumasi Symposium that was a successful attempt to bring international contemporary art to the general public who might not normally come to art galleries and museums?

In light of these questions and social concerns, the 3-week event will focus on community arts practice, as a response to the growing problem. We define community arts, also known as "participatory arts" or "community-based arts," as the world of artistic processes and forms made by, with, or for a community setting that may emphasize community involvement and collaboration. Most often, it involves engagement with the issues and practices for communal bonds and empowerment for grassroots social change. We will use Kumasi City-Abetenim rural sites such as market places, local schools, village centers, and others as laboratories for workshops, artistic interventions, site-specific installations, lectures and other community-based approaches from around the world.

Thus, we invite individual or group submissions for community theatre, media arts, readings, film screening, slide shows, open studios, visual activism, musical performances, community design, social architecture and others to allow the rural community to become acquainted with international contemporary artistic practice. We aim that the participants will be inspired by one another's work.

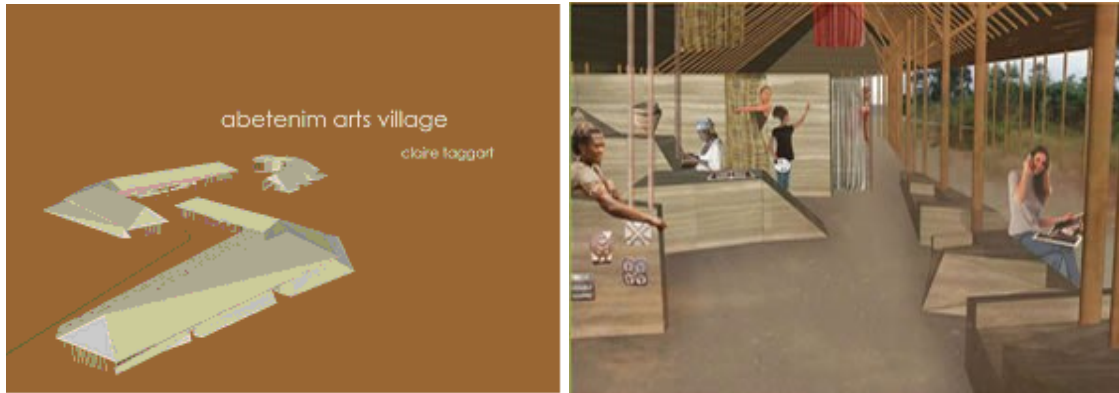
Registration for the 3-week event will be \$520 / €395 / £328 in Ghana or equivalent in local currency; and early registration is \$466 / €350 / £305 (till April 17, 2011). Participants are responsible for the costs of travel and materials; and we will provide you with a letter of candidature for your sponsor. Hotel accommodation or homestay for cultural immersion can be arranged within your budget. Dinner will be by cooperative kitchen in which we all work together in sharing the planning, cost, shopping and cooking; the estimate is \$7-9/day. It has been more of a dinner party, a time to come together to sample national cuisines, have fun at the table and bond as a community. The symposium opens with a 2-day seminar. It will close with a Community ArtsFest, which will involve two days of exhibitions and screenings of project results along with food and performances by indigenous music and dance troupes from surrounding villages. Prizes to the winners of the "GHANA: 2011 OPEN ARChiTecture CHALLENGE" (International art+architecture Design Competition) will be awarded at the closing banquette.



Grand Prize Winning Entry
(Design Team: Mitsuru Hamada, Architect, Tokyo, Japan)



Second Prize Winning Entry
(Design Team: Giuseppe Calabrese, Architect, Sydney, Australia)



Third Prize Winning Entry
(Design Team: Claire Taggart, Architect, London, UK)

Interested individuals and collaborative groups should apply by submitting the abstract of your paper (200 words maximum) for the seminar or project proposal in English with a brief biography (200 words maximum) of the presenter to info@nkafoundation.org. The submitter should include title of the contribution and author(s) information such as name, affiliation, address, phone contact, and e-mail. Upon acceptance, author(s) can decide to publish the full text or only the abstract in symposium proceedings. The deadline for the full text submission is July 1. If submitting full paper (6,000 words maximum in APA format) e-mail it to info@nkafoundation.org and/or nkaprojects@gmx.com. The event is organized by Nka Foundation in cooperation with the Center for Cultural and African Studies at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST) and the Center for National Culture in Kumasi. For additional information on the project go to www.nkafoundation.org

(Press Version)

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KUMASI CURIO KIOSKS II (Arts+ Architecture Social Experiment)

Kumasi Curio Kiosks II is a part of the *2nd Kumasi Biennial Symposium* that will run from July 16 - August 6, 2011, as a response to the growing problem of widening gap between contemporary arts practitioners and the broader public across the sub-Saharan. As arts+ architecture social experiment, project is to bring together arts specialists, architects, and social interest groups from diverse parts of the world in a transnational platform to trade in cultural capital with the local public who might not normally come to art galleries and museums.

In the project, we will use Kumasi City-Abetenim rural spaces such as market places, local schools, and village centers, as empirical sites for curio kiosk workshops, artistic interventions, site-specific lectures and other community-based approaches from around the world. Each participant or collaborating team will create own curio kiosk; the size/design is open to the subject-specific needs and site-specific necessities. We use the term "curio kiosk" in anticipation that the outward design or content will invoke curiosity and bear special attraction to the public.

Thus, we invite individual or group submissions for community theatre, media arts, readings, film screening, slide shows, open studios, visual activism, musical performances, community design, social architecture and others to allow the rural community to become acquainted with international contemporary artistic practice. Project is open to only serious applicants; submissions will be reviewed until July 8, 2011. Submit your curio kiosk proposal (sketches/description) to info@nkafoundation.org and/or nkaprojects@gmx.com. Project web site is www.nkafoundation.org. And we seek as we go, nominations for the Project Curator and an expert in filmmaking/media arts, to do the DVD and create the e-publication.

Photos from the 2009 Kumasi Curio Kiosks





Slipper Kiosk Project by Patrick Tagoe-Turkson, Ghana



Portrait Shop by Brigitte Mulders, The Netherlands (portrait painter)

For additional information on the 2009 Kumasi Curio Kiosks, see:

- (1) <http://www.artinprocess.com/Kiosks> this is a 05:56 minute video on Curio Kiosks Project.
- (2) Project photo Documentary, 500 photos on Flickr:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/artinprocess/sets/72157621992680241/> and
- (3) <http://www.wandsbektransformance.de/news.html> to download the Artists' Catalogue.