



The Pan-African Research Residency: A Journey Towards
Afro-Sustainability through Indigenous Knowledge, Craft and
Transdisciplinary Research across the African Continent

CANEX WEEKEND 2024

Venue: Ecole Supérieure des Beaux Arts/ Graduate School of Fine Arts, Algiers

Date: 18 October 2024

Time: 4-6pm

Workshop Title: The Pan-African Research Residency as a Journey Towards Afro-Sustainability through Indigenous Knowledge, Craft and Transdisciplinary Research across the African Continent

Workshop Facilitator: Lesiba Mabitsela (Co-Founder of the African Fashion Research Institute (AFRI) and Project and Lead of the Pan-African Research Residency)

Workshop Overview:

This workshop is both a presentation and a co-learning engagement with the outcomes of pan-African cultural exchange and transdisciplinary collaboration, and how indigenous knowledge can contribute towards the creation of new, sustainable textile and design innovation on the African continent. The workshop is led by the Pan-African Research Residency project, which is conceptualised and facilitated by the African Fashion Research Institute (AFRI), and emphasises indigenous and sustainable methods of afrocentric textile and craft production through cross-cultural collaboration in order to encourage practitioners to think differently about our role in conversations of custodianship of local knowledges and nature. The workshop is built on group work, co-participatory reflections and co-learning exchanges engaging with the outcomes of the residency and our online educational materials.

Workshop Objectives:

- To explore the significance of indigenous textiles and crafts in African culture.
- To discuss practical applications of these elements.
- Foster pan-African collaboration through innovating afrocentric design methodologies.



Workshop Agenda:

1. Introduction (15 minutes)

- Icebreaker Activity: Bone-Box exercise
- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Overview of Workshop Objectives

2. The Pan-African Research Residency (45 minutes)

- Presentation on the pan-African Research Residency.
- Discussing key themes and learnings from the residency.
- Case studies of successful projects Artists, designers and artisans.

3. Reflective Thinking (15 minutes)

- Participants will be asked to define what afro-sustainability means to them, then in relation asks them to note examples from their own experiences of indigenous or informal sustainable practices or design on the African continent. These examples can be personal encounters that are historically, geographically or culturally informed.

4. Collaborative Project (15 minutes)

- Group work: Participants will be grouped into teams and brainstorm an object integrating their definitions. Extra points will be given to ideas that can solve environmental problems.

5. Conclusion and Q&A (30 minutes)

- Participants will then be asked to present their findings to the class and engage in a group discussion on how design can be used to recontextualise the relationship that we have with the Earth and hopefully lead to innovative new methodologies through pan-African collaboration and/with indigenous communities.
- Summary of key takeaways.
- Open floor for questions and discussion.
- Information on further resources and networking opportunities.

Materials Needed:

- Projector and screen for presentations
- Sample textiles and crafts for hands-on activity
- Handouts of key points and resources
- Coloured Sticky notes (Yellow, Pink, Blue), notebooks and
- Markers, pencils, rulers and pens for participants.
- One ream of A4 paper