



CONSULAT  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### Symposium

### « Networks of the Black Atlantic »

Quebec, October 20, 2025 – *For immediate release*

**Nigra Iuventa, a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting contemporary Afro-descendant and African art, the Consulate General of France in Quebec City and the Goethe-Institut Montreal are organising a symposium from Tuesday 18 November to Friday 22 November in Montreal on the topic 'Black Atlantic Networks: Heritage, Knowledge, Solidarity'.**

### Event description

The “Black Atlantic”, based on the concept coined by Paul Gilroy, refers to a vast network of cultural, intellectual, artistic, social and historical connections that transcend geographical borders. This approach highlights the interactions between the different regions of the African diaspora and reveals the migratory flows, cultural exchanges and resistances that have shaped these societies. It emphasizes the enduring legacies of slavery and colonization while celebrating the resilience and creativity of Afro-descendant communities. These legacies continue to shape our world today. Our initiative therefore aims to explore the connections between Afro-descendant communities on both sides of the ocean and to juxtapose French, German and Quebec perspectives on these issues.

This ambitious three-day symposium will bring together artists, researchers, cultural workers and members of civil society to discuss strategic issues such as the **restitution of cultural heritage** and the **role of digital technologies in preserving and disseminating this heritage**.

By adopting a collaborative approach and drawing on the expertise of local and international actors, the project seeks to develop a space for dialogue and co-construction of knowledge. With the aim of strengthening ties between communities on both sides of the Atlantic and building sustainable solidarity networks, this symposium aims to contribute to furthering discussions on these issues in France, Germany and Quebec.

The programme is distinguished by its richness, combining plenary lectures, screenings, participatory workshops, round tables, exhibitions and artistic performances.

Three main themes structure the event:

1. **Restitution of cultural heritage:** The restitution of cultural heritage is a central issue in contemporary debates. The report by Felwine Sarr and Bénédicte Savoy, commissioned by France in 2018, launched a critical reflection on the procedures for the restitution of African heritage. Based on the 2023 Martinez report, France has undertaken a reform of its legal framework for restitution, which has resulted in the adoption of two framework laws. A third law, relating to the restitution of cultural property, has yet to be submitted to Parliament. Canada and Germany, which are engaged in similar processes, still face challenges in realising their intentions. The aim is to stimulate an in-depth debate on cultural restitution and the circulation of works, while examining their impact on Afro-descendant and African communities.
2. **Co-construction of knowledge:** By combining academic approaches and community knowledge, the aim is also to renew current theoretical and practical frameworks on these issues. The restitution of cultural heritage, as a dynamic process, requires collective reflection, the production of new knowledge, and the creation of new tools, as illustrated, for example, by the establishment of the Franco-German research fund on the provenance of cultural property from sub-Saharan Africa. It will also be a matter of bringing together German, French and Quebec perspectives in order to advance the debate on these issues.
3. **Building solidarity networks:** Finally, the project aims to strengthen ties of solidarity between communities in Africa, Europe and the Americas. These networks will then be able to support social justice initiatives aimed at reducing systemic inequalities and promoting the empowerment of communities of African descent. Thus, the symposium Black Atlantic Networks: Heritage, Knowledge and Solidarity is part of a broader movement to reflect on the decolonisation of institutions and the construction of a more inclusive cultural sector. By bringing together actors from diverse backgrounds, this project aims to strengthen ties between communities and promote a better understanding of issues related to the Black Atlantic heritage, while encouraging concrete initiatives in which arts and culture play a central role in social transformation.

## Practical Information

Spread across 13 venues, the symposium offers a varied programme at each location.

You can find the full programme here: [Nigra Iuventa - Programming for the RAN Symposium](#)

Here are some highlights:

- **Panel** — Establishing connected cultural spaces dedicated to African, Caribbean and diasporic creations and cultures with Liz Gomis, Amandine Nana and Mariama Conté, at articule, Tuesday, 18 November 2025 at 6 p.m.
- **Workshop** — Art Criticism: Deconstructing, Contextualising, Reinventing with Chris Cyrille, at the Goethe-Institut Montreal, Tuesday, 18 November 2025, at 4 p.m.
- **Panel** — This Womxn's Work: Fashioning a Diaspora with theo tyson, Diane Gistal, and Nadia Bunyan, at the McCord Museum, Wednesday, 19 November 2025, at 6 p.m.
- **Panel** — Curating the Afrosonic with Satch Hoyt, Edna Martínez, Safia Siad and Mark V. Campbell, at the Goethe-Institut Montreal, Thursday, 20 November 2025, at 4 p.m.
- **Screening** — The Empty Grave by Agnès Lisa Wegner and Cece Mlay (Germany, Tanzania, 2024), at the Goethe-Institut Montreal, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, 22 November 2025.
- **Closing lecture** — With Ngoné Fall, in collaboration with the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, 22 November 2025.

## About Nigra Iuventa

[Nigra Iuventa](#) is a non-profit cultural organization based in Montreal that supports African, Caribbean, and Afro-diasporic artistic practices. The organization supports artists in creating, disseminating, and preserving their works while strengthening their visibility and influence on local and international scenes. A winner of the 2021 CAM Equity Award for its commitment to equity and inclusion, Nigra Iuventa organizes residencies, exhibitions, collaborative projects, and archiving programs. These programs create spaces for encounter and dialogue, where artists, partners, and audiences co-construct collective narratives and explore new cultural perspectives. Nigra Iuventa acts as a catalyst for innovative initiatives, promotes reflection on current issues, strengthens the social fabric, and values artistic heritage. The organization celebrates the historical and contemporary contributions of artists of African descent and African artists.

## About the Consulate General of France in Quebec City

[The Consulate General of France in Quebec City](#) oversees and manages relations between France and Quebec, primarily the rich political and economic exchanges and, more broadly, ongoing dialogue between leaders and civil societies on contemporary issues.

The relationship between France and Quebec is rich, not only in terms of ties at the governmental level, but also in terms of a presence in all regions.

The Consulate General of France in Quebec City's current priorities include environmental protection, gender equality, the French-speaking world, innovation, youth, education and the exchange of ideas.

### **About the Goethe-Institut Montreal**

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany, active worldwide. With 157 institutes in 98 countries, it promotes knowledge of the German language abroad, fosters international cultural cooperation and conveys an image of contemporary Germany. Thanks to its network of institutes, cultural societies, reading rooms and examination centres, the Goethe-Instituts around the world are the first point of contact with Germany for many people.

### **Cultural and institutional partners of the project**

Afrosonic Innovation Lab | Association des galeries d'art contemporain (AGAC) | Alliance française de Montréal | arTech Education | Artexte | C& | Centre Canadien d'Architecture Centre Marc Bloch | Cinéma Public | Le Conseil des arts de Montréal | La Couleur de l'Art daphne | Le Festival international du film sur l'art (FIFA) | Maison des mondes africains Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal | Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal | Musée McCord Stewart | Musées d'Angoulême | Phi | Pièces jointes Éditions | Les Rencontres internationales du documentaire de Montréal (RIDM) | Savvy Contemporary | The Shade | Transplantation Project

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