

AWARE launches NEST: Network for Empowerment, Solidarity and Transregionality

Public convening on November 7, 2024 at Palais de Tokyo

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research & Exhibitions initiates NEST an alliance of like-minded non-profit organizations (NGOs) and independent structures. Coming from various parts of the world, these organizations collaborate transnationally with the shared aim of highlighting women and non-binary artists and their work in the contemporary art worlds and the histories of art.



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Representing a diverse range of voices, with texts written by over 500 researchers, curators, feminist art historians, art critics and activists from across the globe, AWARE involves different committees and networks in its work. Structuring its international connections, NEST is AWARE's third network, which complements TEAM: Teaching, E-learning, Agency, Mentoring, an international academic network, and AMIS: AWARE Museum Initiative and Support, bringing together museums from around the world.

NEST is a transcultural network based on mutual support and learning, the exchange of feminist practices and methodologies, and aims to explore pressing questions on structural issues such as funding and sustainability as well as resistance under circumstances of political animosity. Through its actions, the NEST network will draw attention to archives and collective research done outside the institutional context to forge alternative methodologies and challenge dominant narratives.

AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research & Exhibitions will host the participating NEST structures for a two-day convening in Paris in November 2024, including a closed-door meeting held at the Villa Vassilieff as well as a public convening at the Palais du Tokyo on November 7 (see below).

NEST promotes an intergenerational perspective and consists of entities that show a diversity of organizational structures, from membership-based organizations to research-based collectives. This network is made possible through support from the Terra Foundation for American Art.

The partnering organisations are:

- Archives des luttes des femmes en Algérie
- AFSAR: Asian Feminist Studio for Art and Research
- A.I.R Gallery
- Asia Art Archive
- AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions
- Centre Audiovisuel Simone de Beauvoir
- City of Women
- Contemporaines
- DAVRA collective
- Fast Forward
- Feminist Center for Creative Work
- The Feminist Institute
- Haven for Artists
- Initiative for Radical Care and Visions
- Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation (Secondary Archive)
- La Lleca
- Mujeres en Artes Visuales (MAV)
- Njabala Foundation
- WOPHA - Women Photographers International Archive
- Women's Art Register
- Zimbabwe Association of Female Photographers



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***A Story named Joy* - Event with members of the NEST network at Palais de Tokyo, November 7, 2024**

A Story named Joy marks the first gathering of NEST, a transnational network of non-profit organizations, collectives, and independent structures working at the intersection of visual arts, activisms, and gender studies, created at the initiative of AWARE. It will bring these non-institutional voices from diverse cultural contexts to enter in dialogue with the French audiences, focusing on practices that underscore the importance of collective work as a feminist strategy.

The title of the event, co-produced with the Palais de Tokyo, honors feminist filmmaker, composer and writer Trinh T. Minh-ha who will participate as a keynote speaker. Building on several months of exchange within three working groups, NEST members will present their work, their archiving practices and their approaches to highlight women and non-binary artists in the contemporary art worlds and the histories of art. The objective of this process is to unite forces and explore alternative methods of creating and disseminating knowledge, rethinking art through a feminist lens.

The discussions will conclude with a performance by Myriam Mihindou, the 2022 AWARE prize recipient, in dialogue with her personal exhibition *Praesentia*, jointly created and produced by the Palais de Tokyo and the Crac Occitanie (Sète), co-produced by AWARE in collaboration with the DCA (French National Network of Contemporary Art Centres).

More information on the participants

Trinh T. Minh-ha

A filmmaker, writer, music composer and Distinguished Professor of The Graduate School at the University of California, Berkeley, Trinh T. Minh-ha was the recipient of many awards, including the New:Vision Award, CPH:DOX Film Festival, 2022; the Wild Dreamer Lifetime Achievement Award at the Subversive Festival, Zagreb, Croatia, 2014; the Lifetime Achievement Award from Women's Caucus for Art, 2012; and the Trailblazers Award.

Her work includes: nine feature-length films (including among others *What About China?* 2022, *Forgetting Vietnam* 2015, *Night Passage* 2004, and *Surname Viet Given Name Nam*, 1989) honored in over sixty-four retrospectives around the world; several large-scale collaborative installations such as *The Ocean in A Drop* (Stuttgart, 2022) *In Transit* (Manifesta 13, Marseille, 2020), *L'Autre marche* (Musée du Quai Branly, Paris 2006-2009), *Old Land New Waters* (3rd Guangzhou Triennale, China 2008); and numerous books, more recently *Traveling in the Dark* (2023), *The Twofold Commitment* (2023), *Lovucidal. Walking with The Disappeared* (2016), *Elsewhere, Within Here* (2011), *Framer Framed* (1992) and *Woman, Native, Other* (1989).

Myriam Mihindou

Myriam Mihindou is a multidisciplinary artist with a diverse range of practices: sculpture, installation, drawing, writing, photography, video, and performance. She addresses themes related to identity, memory, language, ritual, the living, women's condition, spirituality, and ecology. Her practice could be described as both curative and artistic. A traveler and nomad, the artist works with physical empathy with specific environments, situations, and people, focusing on healing individual and collective wounds caused by various forms of subjugation or domination.

Born in 1964 in Libreville (Gabon), Myriam Mihindou lives and works in Paris. She will participate in the Lyon and Gwangju Biennales in September 2024. Her solo exhibition «Ilimb, the Essence of Tears» is on view at the Musée du Quai Branly (Paris) until November 2024. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Epiderme* (La Verrière, Brussels, 2022), *El teatro de las memorias* (CAAM, Las Palmas, 2022), *Silo* (Transpalette, Bourges, 2021). She has also taken part in numerous group exhibitions. Winner of the AWARE Prize in 2022, she was in residence at Villa Albertine (New York) in 2023. She is represented by the Maïa Muller Gallery (Paris) and Saana Gallery (Utrecht).

Presentation of AWARE



AWARE team at the Villa Vassilieff, Photo : Marie Docher © AWARE : Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions

AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research & Exhibitions is a non-profit organization, co-founded by art historian Camille Morineau in 2014, which works to make eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth-century women artists visible by producing and posting free, fully bilingual (French/English) content about their work on its website. In 10 years, the AWARE website has become a unique online resource, aimed at professionals in the art world as well as the general public. This resource currently features over 1,200 richly illustrated biographical texts and has over 100,000 visits per month.

AWARE represents a diversity of voices, with texts written by over 500 researchers, curators, feminist art historians, art critics and activists from all over the world. In order to widely disseminate research on women artists, AWARE also organizes symposiums, round tables and seminars in partnership with institutions, universities, museums and other independent structures internationally, and edits its own publications.

AWARE is located in the Villa Vassilieff in the 15th arrondissement of Paris, where the artist Marie Vassilieff had her studio in the 1910s. In this highly symbolic space, reimagined by designer matali crasset, AWARE has set up a research and documentation center entirely dedicated to women artists and feminist art. The association also hosts residencies, events, meetings and workshops for schools.

Since moving to the Villa Vassilieff, AWARE has developed a specific program based on a dual identity: local, by becoming a forum for debate in Paris, and international, through its research programs and a vast network of authors around the world. With this dual identity, a team made up of women, an associative space and a website offering free, high-quality content, AWARE has become a benchmark recognized by professionals and institutions and a place open to everyone that encourages research, exchange, and discussion.



Chemin de Montparnasse, Villa Vassilieff, Photo : Margot Montigny © AWARE : Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions

AWARE in a few dates

2014

Creation of the AWARE by its co-founders
(for a list of names, see the AWARE website)

2015

Launch of the first version
of the AWARE website

2016

Organization of the first prize dedicated to women artists in France
(then called the Marie Claire prize), which has become
an annual prize given by the association

2017

Launch of the current version of the AWARE website

2019

Publication of the first volume in the collection of interviews
with AWARE prizewinners, dedicated to Nil Yalter

2020

Creation of the international academic network
TEAM: Teaching, E-Learning, Agency, Mentoring

2021

Opening to the 19th century on the website,
thanks to a partnership with the Musée d'Orsay

Inauguration of the new headquarters at the Villa Vassiliev
(research center, association offices)

Janvier 2023

Creation of AWARE-USA

Mars 2023

1,000th entry on the AWARE website and announcement
of three-year financial support from the French Ministry of Culture

AWARE's networks

AWARE involves three transnational networks in its work:

TEAM is an international academic network dedicated to creating resources on women artists with the aim of training a new generation of researchers sensitive to gender issues in art history.

AMIS brings together museums from around the world to collect and share research on women artists produced for exhibitions, acquisitions, and collections.

NEST brings together independent structures from different countries working at the intersection of visual art, activism and gender studies to unite their forces and give visibility to women and non-binary artists.

The AWARE prizes

Since their inception in 2016, the annual AWARE Prizes have focused renewed attention on the careers of women artists and worked towards greater recognition of their work. Two prizes are conferred: the Nouveau Regard prize, awarded to an artist in the middle of her career, and the Outstanding Merit prize, presented to an artist with a career spanning over 40 years.

To reward the work of women artists on the French scene, to respond to the lack of visibility in France and abroad, and to highlight their works and the longevity of their careers, beyond stereotypes: these are the objectives of the AWARE prizes. Through these prizes, AWARE is committed to supporting the recipients over the long term, through the creation of publications, exhibitions and offering production assistance.

The AWARE Prizes are supported by CHANEL and the French Ministry of Culture.



A Archives
W A of Women Artists
R Research
E & Exhibitions



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Practical information

Public gathering *A Story named Joy*
Event with the members of the NEST network
Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 4 p.m.
Palais de Tokyo, 13 Avenue du Président Wilson, 75116 Paris

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