

MANTHIA DIAWARA at SHARJAH BIENNIAL 15 and BERLINALE 2023

ANGELA DAVIS: A WORLD OF GREATER FREEDOM

Sharjah Biennial 15
07.02. – 11.06.2023

Produced by Lumiar Cité / Maumaus, **Angela Davis: A World of Greater Freedom** (2023) reflects on the life and work of the North American activist Angela Davis. Manthia Diawara's camera follows Davis as she walks through a forest of giant sequoias, works in the garden or walks her dog, while reflecting on myriad issues, including ideas of freedom, resistance, rebellion, remaking our world, political blackness, radical black thought, music, (inter)nationalism, (Global South) feminism, abolition, the industrial prison complex, generational shifts, dialectics, contradiction, Africa, sexuality, desire and also friendship. The film is neither a biography nor a fictional narrative. Instead, Diawara's footage, which is interspersed with relevant archival material, presents itself as a poetic compendium of Davis's critical thinking and an inspiration for new imaginaries and new relations within an emergent new world.

Commissioned by Sharjah Art Foundation with major funding from the Mellon Foundation, co-commissioned by TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary with the support of Centro Cultural de Belém Foundation, Lisbon, and Portuguese Ministry of Culture / Directorate-General for the Arts.



Manthia Diawara is a prolific writer and film-maker who was born in Mali, West Africa. He is a distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature and Film at New York University. His notable films include: *A Letter from Yene* (2022), *An Opera of the World* (2017), *Negritude: A Dialogue between Soyinka and Senghor* (2015), *Édouard Glissant, One World in Relation* (2010), *Maison Tropicale* (2008) and *Rouch in Reverse* (1995). His films have been presented at festivals, biennials and a wide range of exhibition venues, including the 34th Bienal de São Paulo; the Centre Pompidou, Paris; documenta 14, Kassel; Museu de Serralves, Porto; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; Serpentine, London; and Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin.



MAUMAUS

AI: AFRICAN INTELLIGENCE

Berlin International Film Festival
16.02. – 26.02.2023



Produced by Lumiar Cité / Maumaus, **AI: African Intelligence** (2022) explores the contact zones between African rituals of possession among traditional fishing villages of the Atlantic coast of Senegal and the emergence of new technology frontiers known as Artificial Intelligence. Considering the confluence of tradition and modernity, Diawara questions how we could move from disembodied machines towards a more humane and spiritual control of algorithms. Could Africa be the context of emergence of such improbable algorithms?

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