

# LINGEER

"LINGEER", yesterday, today and tomorrow, African women leadership and versatility through the lens of art and creativity





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# SPEAK UP AFRICA'S FOREWORD

Speak Up Africa is an African-led, Senegal-based organization working with leaders and change-makers in Africa and beyond to solve Africa's pressing sustainable development challenges. Speak Up Africa is dedicated to supporting African leaders and citizens to take an active role in identifying and developing solutions to tackle the challenges facing our continent. Speak Up Africa's aspiration is to be unparalleled in lifting African actors to drive equitable and sustainable change towards healthy and thriving African societies. Driven by the conviction that women and youth will drive the next wave of social and economic development in Africa, Speak Up Africa is here to unleash the untapped potential of the continent's women and youth.

Speak Up Afric'Art serves as a beacon for collaboration and engagement for artists, experts, policymakers, and the public to unleash the potential of a healthy and thriving Africa where change happens by Africans for Africans. This artistic endeavor aims to use art as a catalyst for showcasing Africa's most innovative ideas and giving a stage to Africans by inviting a diverse collective of creatives including painters, sculptors, photographers, filmmakers, performance artists, and digital creators to interpret these themes creatively.

Speak Up Afric'Art aims to raise awareness, inspire, enable and mobilize people to address the root causes of social problems and to consider and create alternative solutions. Art can challenge stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination, and celebrate diversity, identity and culture. Art can amplify the voices and stories of marginalized, oppressed or silenced groups, and create spaces for dialogue and collaboration across differences.

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a crucial component of sustainable development. The theme for 2024 edition is "Celebrating African LeadHERs" to support the inclusion of women and girls on public platforms and in leadership and aims to encourage women's and girls, in all their diversity, to significantly participate in decision-making spaces for improved public health.

By naming this first showcase of Speak Up Afric'Art "LINGEER" we pay a tribute to all women innovators, athletes, visionaries, and changemakers.





## Goal 5

**Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**

**Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.**

## Championing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and is vital for a prosperous world and a thriving Africa.

Women representing half of the world population, it is more than necessary to empower them to actively engage in all areas of society.

Gender equality supports all the essential foundations for a healthy economy and prosperous nations and is vital to the collective success of Africa against the sustainable development goals.

Currently, it is expected that gender gaps will take over 120 years to close in Sub-Saharan Africa, and over 135 years for pay and leadership equity to be reached.

Historically women have been excluded from decision making spaces and programs that affect their health and well-being. Voice, participation, and leadership are vital for the empowerment of women. Achieving gender equality is beneficial for everyone, giving each person equal opportunities at work and in the public sphere. It is about reaching better education and health outcomes, lower mortality rates and a higher per capita income.



# Linu





# LINGER

**The LINGER Exhibition represents the vision of Speak Up Africa'Art to bring together a collective of artists to unleash the potential of a healthy and thriving Africa where change happens by Africans for Africans. The LINGER exhibition serves as a convening platform for collaboration, engagement and action to cement our contribution towards gender equality.**

LINGER, presented by Speak Up Africa is captured by talented artists Khalifa Hussein, Mark Wambui and Christianne Murengerantwari and curated by Mohamed Cissé aims to showcase the multiple facets in the everyday life of women who are African innovators, athletes, and changemakers and spotlight curating art for social impact and transformational change in Africa.

LINGER features a myriad of artistic contributions to further enhance our message, including the artistic direction of the incredible Audrey D'Erneville and original poems and stories of the exceptional women featured by Poetess Samira Fall.

This exhibition aims to also introduce you to the work of Speak Up Africa to achieve gender equality. As a women-led organization, gender equality is in our DNA. Unless women and girls – in all their diversity – can meaningfully hold leadership positions, making decisions and allocating resources, our continent will never fully thrive. We support the inclusion of women and girls on public platforms and as leaders. We encourage them to significantly participate in decision-making spaces. We support our own team, and the civil society organizations we work with, to better understand the role gender plays in everything we do, and to ensure all our interventions take gender into account. Women and girls' participation is the key to unlocking our continent's future. It drives everything we do.

Our work in this space includes driving change and conversations around gender equality across the continent and creating moments and movements to elevate women and girls' voices in decision-making spaces for health, engaging communities.

In May 2024, Speak Up Africa launched the LINGER Exhibition to pay a tribute to women who are playing a central role in societies. Through the first exhibition, 8 Senegalese women are portrayed championing their important role in achieving our common sustainable development goals. For the second edition, titled "Women in Basketball", we are partnering with the Basketball Africa League to showcase the multiple facets of women in their professional lives to advocate for better inclusion of women across the basketball industry at all levels.



# LINGER

## *Representation.*

Earlier this year, on May 18th, to be precise, Speak Up Africa launched the first edition of its "SpeakUpAfric'Art" programme.

The theme was gender equality, and the exhibition aimed at paying tribute to height women from with singular socio-professional backgrounds, such as the arts, music and sport.

The exhibition was entitled "Linger", in homage to the queen of the Waalo - a former kingdom of Senegal - who led an all-women troupe in the sadly famous battle of Nder.

Because sport, by its very nature, promotes inclusion, with the same rules applied to all, it's the sportswomen that we want to shine the spotlight on this time. And what better venue than the NBA headquarters!

Clare Akamanzi, CEO NBA Africa, Awa Cissé, Marketing Manager BAL, Fatuma Mukamugema, Community Engagement & Basketball Development, Shooting Touch, Dossou Ndiaye, Women's programme Coordinator at the NBA Academy Africa and Rajah Sy, Director, Special Olympics Senegal.

But it's also because it's undeniable that there needs to be a shift in the way women are represented in the field, that we felt it was vital to pay these ladies the tribute they deserve.

To do this, we have collaborated with three talented artists from Senegal, Kenya and Rwanda: Khalifa Hussein, Mark Wambui and Christianne Murengerantwari.

Each with their own complementary styles, they have captured a part of their daily lives as women in Africa who are shaking things up.

Linger is an itinerary exhibition, intended as a visual plea for representation.

Representation, because more than ever, it cannot be acceptable for dreams, talents and vocations not to see the light of day because they seem impossible...

Because yesterday's dreams are today's realities...

And because, above all, tomorrow already is now...

Prologue by

*Mohamed A. Cissé*

## MEET THE CURATOR **MOHAMED A. CISSÉ**

Mohamed Amine was born in 1988 in Dakar. Between 2016 and 2018, he developed the MJM platform in Douala, which includes Galerie MAM and MOSS, a literary salon, which regularly hosts African novelists and essayists. He therefore conceived, locally and internationally, many exhibitions. It is also during this period that he represented Galerie MAM at many international events such as AKA, Art Paris Art Fair, ART X Lagos and Dak'Art. Since January 2019, he has been developing cultural projects through his agency KCISS. He was also assistant curator, in 2019, of the exhibitions "Aujourd'hui", of the World Bank at the National Museum of Yaoundé (30 artists), alongside Simon Njami. In 2020, he was selected to curate the contemporary art exhibition of the "Generation A" festival, at the Théâtre Paris Villette (Africa2020 Season). In 2022, he co-curated Picasso Remix, at Galerie le Manège, featuring the work of 16 contemporary artists, during Dak'Art biennial. He has been selected to be assistant curator of the first Guadeloupe Intercontinental contemporary Art Biennial (BIAC), scheduled to take place in 2023.





## MEET THE PHOTOGRAPHER **KHALIFA HUSSEIN**

Khalifa is a young photographer artist living in Dakar, more precisely in the famous Medina neighborhood. He started painting in 2014 and it was in 2016 that he began to specialize in photography. Very difficult to classify him in a photographic movement: he is often a still photographer, photojournalist, fashion photographer and finally surreal artist. Talent, imagination, original composition, everything is found in the young photographer's finished products. He has the ability to present reality in a form that surprises most viewers. He regularly collaborates with companies for the creation of digital content and has also led several projects for NGOs, Institutes and Foundations, particularly in the production of documentaries, photographs, institutional films among other. To date, he has more than ten solo or group exhibitions to his credit, distinctions, and continues to work on different themes and styles.





A portrait of Mark Wambui, a Black man with a beard and short hair, wearing a black t-shirt with a white horizontal stripe across the chest. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

## MEET THE PHOTOGRAPHER **MARK WAMBUI**

Over the past decade, I, Mark Wambui, born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, I've had the privilege to collaborate with esteemed clients such as the World Bank and USAID, Comic Relief, Scania, earning the esteemed title of Filmmaker of the Year at the African Youth Awards in 2015. My directorial journey has taken me to illustrious stages, with my work celebrated at renowned festivals including the Arusha and Zanzibar Film Festivals, Vienna International Film Awards, Cannes International Pan African Film Festival. The year 2022 marked a significant milestone as I was shortlisted among Netflix & UNESCO's Top 20 Emerging Filmmakers. Adding to this, I run a production company based in Nairobi, Re-tuning Cinema in Africa, that has worked extensively across the African continent. Pushing the boundaries of storytelling and inspiring global audiences. As I navigate the ever-evolving landscape of visual storytelling.

A portrait of Christianne Murengerantwari, a Black woman with short hair, wearing a dark blue t-shirt. She is smiling warmly at the camera.

## MEET THE PHOTOGRAPHER **CHRISTIANNE MURENGERANTWARI**

Christianne Murengerantwari is a content creator with a passion for storytelling, specializing in social media management, photography, and videography. She believes that storytelling is one of the best ways for people to connect and relate to each other. Christianne enjoys helping businesses share their stories through social media and film. She is especially focused on sports storytelling and has created Rebound Realms, a platform dedicated to sharing sports stories. Whether working on her own or with a team, Christianne is committed to creating meaningful content that speaks to a wide range of audiences.

# LiNU

## The Power of Sports - Teaming Up 4 Gender Equality and Inclusion in Basketball

### TEAMING UP: African LeadHERs meet BAL4HER

Speak Up Africa's African LeadHERs initiative was launched on the occasion of the Generation Equality Forum which took place in 2022, organized by UN Women and co-chaired by the governments of France and Mexico in partnership with civil society and youth. The aim of the event was to make concrete commitments to gender equality, following the previous ones made in Beijing in 1995. African LeadHERs supports the inclusion of women and girls on public platforms and in leadership and aims to encourage women's and girls, in all their diversity, to significantly participate in decision-making spaces for improved public health. Through the African LeadHERs program, we partner with leaders from all sectors of society, including sports, fashion, culture and art to creatively work together to build a stronger, fairer and more inclusive world.

Sport promotes equality since the same rules apply to everyone. Amidst issues of gender imbalance in society, Sport is a prime lever to accelerate gender equality as it confronts gender norms both on and off the field. Female participation in sports challenges common stereotypes and social roles associated with women. Gender imbalances in the sports industry remain considerable. On top of their low representation in sports, very few women are in decision-making positions such as head coach, club manager or referee. They are less represented in management, marketing, management, or other disciplines in the sports industry.

"Teaming Up: African LeadHERs meet BAL4HER" launched by Speak Up Africa and the Basketball African League (BAL) focuses on leveraging sport as a key driver of gender equality and social and economic transformation in Africa. Through this mentorship program, 6 young African female athletes from Senegal, Egypt and Rwanda benefited from the leadership and networking experience of six female leaders in the sports industry. Over a period of six months, the mentees were coached by mentors to strengthen their skills and knowledge on issues such as gender inequality in sport, mental health, public speaking, and storytelling.

#### Teaming Up for gender equality, inclusion and improved health in Africa

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a crucial component of sustainable development and public health. In Africa, women and girls face disproportionate health challenges, including higher risks of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and malaria. These health inequities are compounded by limited access to decision-making roles in various sectors, including sports and health.



# LEADER



## **The Opportunity: Leveraging Sports for Gender Equality and Health**

Sport, particularly basketball, serves as a powerful catalyst for addressing both gender norms and public health challenges. Teaming Up provides a unique platform to:

- Raise awareness about critical health issues affecting women and girls, such as NTDs and malaria
- Challenge stereotypes and social roles associated with women in sports and society
- Create pathways for women's engagement in decision-making across various sectors
- Inspire young girls to pursue their ambitions in sports and beyond

## **Speak Up Africa and BAL: A Game-Changing Partnership**

Speak Up Africa, known for its impactful health initiatives like the "Zero Malaria Starts with Me" and "No to NTDs" campaigns, is joining forces with the BAL to create a transformative program that bridges sports, gender equality, and public health.

### **Key Program Elements:**

- **Health Advocacy:** Utilizing BAL's platform to amplify messages about NTDs, malaria, and other critical health issues affecting women and girls
- **Leadership Development:** Expanding the "Teaming Up: African LeadHERs meet BAL4HER" Mentorship Program to include health sector leaders
- **Policy Influence:** Leveraging the visibility of women in basketball to advocate for increased representation in policy-making bodies





# LINGER

## Light

Imposing beam	Using the past as a tool
Growing in Uganda to South Africa	And the goal?
First and foremost,	As the ultimate end
Beams of excellence	Lighting up everything in its path
Lighting the way	Imposing.
Insured in search of justice and equity	Illuminating,
Electromagnetic energy	Enlightening
To quell dark doubts	Shattering all obstacles
Dun sole radiance.	Envelopes fear,
Diffused beam	And draws its roots
On the world	In the bottomless pit
That it inhabits	of the family.
Sitting at the corner of the “we”	Subtle disturbance
Conjugated by DNA.	That blinds the eye
Bold adornment	And brings to light
Ornament where deconstructions	All women who are invisible.
With banknotes.	Radiant strength
For the soil of humanity,	That flickers
An integral part of history.	But never fades
Visible specter	To the rhythm of battle
That embraces and urges	Daily criss-crossing
To visit Rwanda	The path that separates
Wavelength	The home and the office.
One step ahead	

## CLARE AKAMANZI

NBA AFRICA, CEO

Clare Akamanzi is an accomplished business executive and international trade and investment lawyer who was named NBA Africa CEO in December 2023. In her new role, Akamanzi oversees the NBA's business and basketball development efforts in Africa and is responsible for continuing to grow the popularity of basketball, the NBA and the Basketball Africa League (BAL) across the continent, including through grassroots basketball development, media distribution, corporate partnerships, and social responsibility initiatives that improve the livelihoods of African youth and families.

Akamanzi has served on several company boards, including the World Health Organization (WHO) Foundation, ECOBANK and Aviation, Travel and Logistics (ATL) company. She was recognized by Forbes as one of Africa's Top 50 Powerful Women in 2020.







# LINGER

## Return, or "Come Back"

Contemporary Linger	Between biology and sport
Young African leadHER	She juggled tirelessly
I chose the letter <b>R</b> for her	And when the injury
Which marks the return	Marked the end and made her chose
Of the valiant fighters.	She invoked
From Thiès to the world	The <b>R</b> of returning to her native country
Her Family as a compass	Rooting after opening
Very oriented and supervised	She gives back to the community
Her passion is her fuel	What she received and acquired
Basketball taught her	To the sweat of hard labor
The necessary discipline	Impact the most vulnerable
When we walk down the path	And offer support
Of champions in the making	To young African athletes
To study abroad	This has become the motto
Made her understand	Of our sporty Linger
The meaning of hard work	

## NDEYE DOSSOU NDIAYE WOMEN'S PROGRAM COORDINATOR AT THE NBA ACADEMY AFRICA AND MENTEE OF THE "TEAMING UP" MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Dossou Ndiaye is the Coordinator of the Woman's Program at the NBA Academy Africa. She additionally plays a key role on the basketball operations team, supporting the daily functioning of the Academy. Dossou attended Missouri Western State University on a basketball scholarship where she majored in Biology and Pre-Med.

After graduating College in 2019, she briefly worked in the medical field before coming back to her native Senegal to mentor student athletes on the continent for she believes whole heartedly in the untapped potential of Africa's young people. In order to prepare the next generation of leaders she mentors kids in leadership, confidence building, goal setting, and is a big advocate for mental health and wellness to Academy students and local youth outside the Academy seeking creative outlets and structured activities.





# LINGER

## Hope

Taking the plunge	Tilling the fertile soil
From agribusiness	To reach full potential
To basketball	In fields of possibility
Taking the ball	To the coming season
From passion,	Of social change.
To rebound	Playing the big game
To run away	Of life
From all stereotypes of gender,	To the rhythm
To break free	Discipline
From a conservative community	Emotional intelligence
Opening up to the world	And hard work.
Learn and grow through sport.	In the lively stadium
Break down social barriers	Of life
And build bridges of Espoir (hope).	Winning is impacting.
Hope sown	Before the final whistle
Among the youth	And that's what she did.
And girls,	Of her daily life.

## FATUMA MUKAMUGEMA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & BASKETBALL DEVELOPMENT, SHOOTING TOUCH AND MENTEE OF THE “TEAMING UP” MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Fatuma Mukamugema, is a passionate basketball coach and community development advocate in Rwanda. She devotes her time to changing the lives of youth and women through her work with Shooting Touch, the global organization dedicated to creating social change through the power of basketball. With a degree in Agribusiness, Mukamugema had the mind set to make a difference before she switched to basketball. She believes in the ability of basketball to inspire hope and bring the community together. She is passionate about imparting the values in shooting touch's mission to help youth and women reach their full potential, emphasizing life skills, health, and leadership.

Today, Fatuma continues to bring her enthusiasm and drive to her work, inspiring youth and women to create the social changes that are necessary to empower people to lead healthier, happier, and more productive lives.







# LINGEER

## Digital (Numérique, in French)

Modern-day Lingeer  
For whom the letter **N** (for "Numérique", or  
Digital)  
Suits her perfectly  
Awa Cissé personifies  
The multiplicity of its facets  
In her blog "Oul and soumpe"  
Far from quinoa and tofu  
She takes the color of the decor  
And adapts it story to her reality  
Content sharing  
Searching for impact,  
On her environment.  
Her passions are as important  
As her well-being, which she depicts  
As a mother and a wife  
And beyond her hard work

She is in quest for the perfect balance  
Between the family cocoon  
A great place for fulfillment and learning  
And the body, the primary habitat  
Which requires upkeep  
And reassessment.  
By combining motherhood and work  
She remains alert in the face of new  
challenges  
That she takes on, in community.  
She brings us back to the **N**  
Symbolism of digital (Numérique)  
Because beyond sharing  
All this with her followers  
Awa Cissé showcases daily  
What it is to be a Lingeer

### AWA CISSÉ

#### MARKETING MANAGER, BASKETBALL AFRICA LEAGUE

Awa Cissé was born in Dakar, where she grew up. A jack of all trades, Awa did attend a boarding school in Paris, before turning to law and ending up obtaining a diploma in Management, with a specialization in Marketing, at ISM Dakar. Since 2010, Awa has been working in marketing, within different sectors of activity: communications agency, agri-food and sports. Passionate about sport and well-being, a few years ago she launched the blog "Oul & Soumpe", intended to share advice and tips on her life as a woman and mother living and consuming locally. Married and mother of two little girls, Awa is Marketing Manager of the Basketball African League, based in Dakar. She lived and worked in Senegal, France, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Morocco.

Inclusion is one of Speak Up Africa's core values, and one that we embody throughout our organization, our work and our partnerships. We recognize the urgent need to build communities and societies in which individuals with disabilities are protected and valued. Special Olympics is a remarkable organization and we are privileged to have been working with them in Senegal since 2014 on a number of key programs promoting inclusive health.

With Special Olympics, we saw first-hand the transformative power of sports and unity to instill confidence and improve health. With more than 200 million people with intellectual disabilities around the world, it is critical to have tailored advocacy strategies to ensure that we leave no one behind. This partnership allowed us to better understand the needs of people with intellectual disabilities and reinforced our commitment to advocate to ensure that their specific needs are accounted for in national policies and programs.







# LINGER

## Inclusion

Contemporary linger  
Whose life is punctuated  
By the / of inclusion.  
A baby was born,  
The umbilical cord was cut  
More than 26 years of accounting and audit  
To bring Rajah closer to her life mission,  
Khadija.  
She has awakened resilience and  
combativeness  
Of a mother, committed to a revolution,  
That of the letter / for inclusion  
So that the handicap of any children,  
Would not be an obstacle anymore!  
And for society to take off its blinders  
To see the difference and accept it.

In order for perceptions to shift  
And that all children be equal  
And thrive.  
Help overwhelmed parents to stop  
Hiding the fruit of their womb  
And support them  
Towards the dreams of the valiants  
For them to train and surpass themselves  
On the immeasurable field of possibilities,  
Located behind the winding paths,  
Of fear and judgment  
Unknown to our contemporary Linger  
Rajah Diouri Sy for whom  
I chose the letter /  
Of inclusion

## RAJAH SY DIRECTOR, SPECIAL OLYMPICS SENEGAL

Rajah Diouri Sy has been National Director of Special Olympics Senegal since 2011. After graduating from the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Rouen, she worked for 26 years in the field of accounting and finance, as Administrative and Financial Director of 'an industrial company. In June 2019, she decided to dedicate herself, as a volunteer, full-time to Special Olympics Senegal.

Alongside her professional life, she is involved in community life by being, from 2000 to 2015, successively, an active member of the office of the Parents' Association of the Sainte-Jeanne d'Arc Institution, General Secretary and Vice President.

She joined Special Olympics Senegal in 2006, as a parent of a child with Down syndrome, by volunteering to support the association administratively.

In 2009, she was appointed General Secretary and in 2011 National Director.











“

*Through the Lingeer exhibition, we wanted to highlight the women who make Africa, a varied group of creatives, athletes, activists, artists and organizational leaders, who through their daily actions fight for the rights of all women. Art is a powerful platform for creating lasting change for gender equality. Together, through diverse voices and pathways, we can achieve an Africa where every woman can realize her full potential.*

”

**YACINE DJIBO**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SPEAK UP AFRICA

# LINGEER

“

*I had a great pleasure in leading the Artistic Direction of this project. I say project, because it is more than an exhibition. It is first of all the fruit of meetings between people from different horizons and backgrounds, who have found complementarity and purpose together. It is then the development of a common vision, in the service of a noble cause: gender equality. All of this will have finally resulted in this exhibition which, we hope, will resonate widely.*

”

**MOHAMED A. CISSÉ**

ART CURATOR AND CO-DESIGNER OF THE LINGEER PROJECT





# LINGEER



Join the conversation online by using the hashtags:  
#AfricanLeadHERs, #SpeakUpAfricArt et #Lingeer

For more information, please visit  
[www.speakupafrika.org](http://www.speakupafrika.org)

