



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Diversity of
Cultural Expressions



UNESCO/Nara residency for young African female filmmakers

28 March - 12 April 2020



**“It is important for the film sector to make the voice of Africa heard,
to support the emergence of diverse cultural expressions,
put forth new ideas and emotions, and make sure that women as creators
contribute to a necessary global dialogue for peace, culture and development”**

Audrey Azoulay

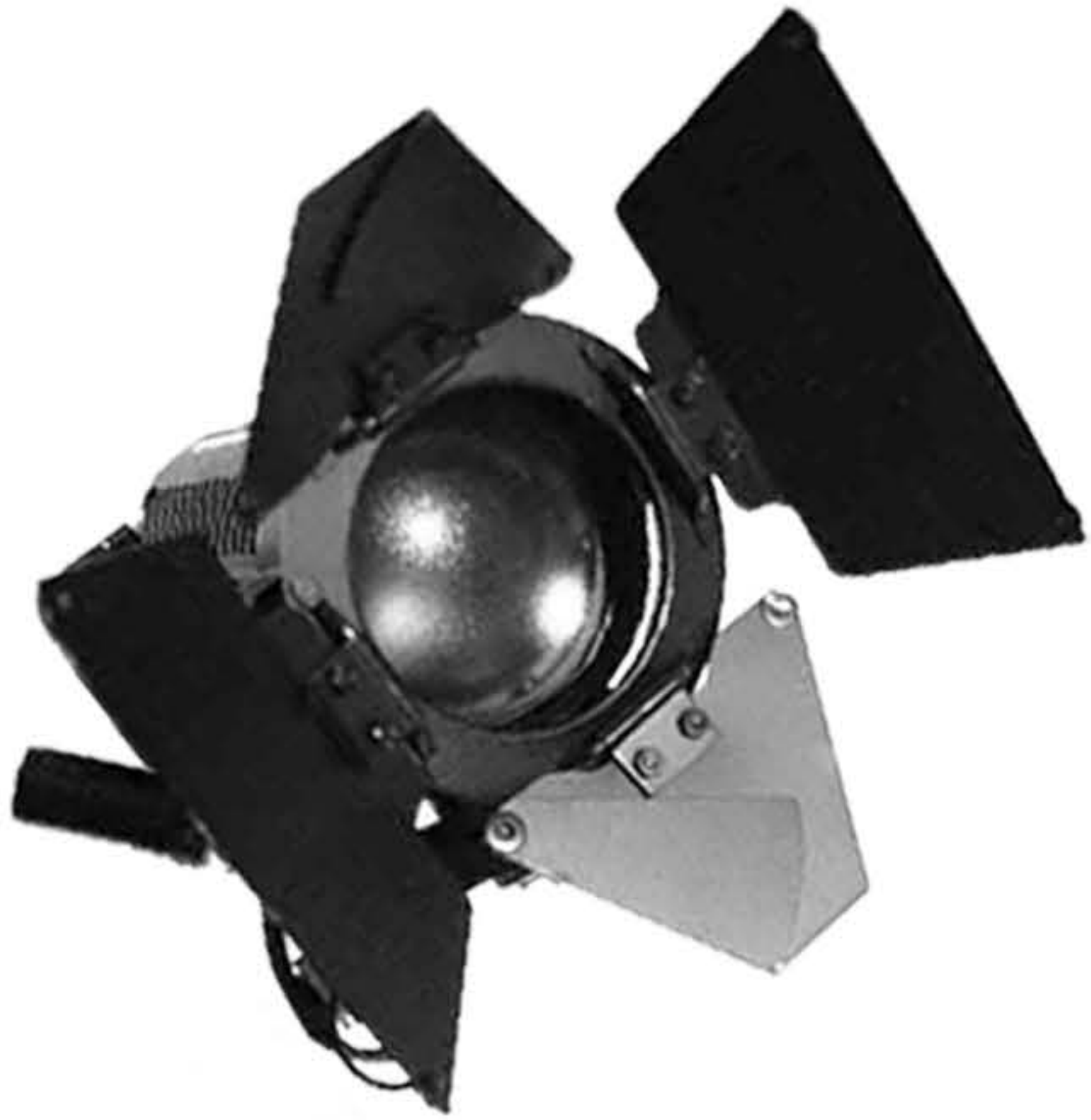
UNESCO Director-General



**“In a way, being a woman made it easier to look closely at my own environment.
Not being in the mainstream or the center, she can make new discoveries.
In my case, I will create things from the sources within myself.
I believe that at the depth of the personal experience, there is something universal”**

Naomi Kawase

Grand Prix Winner for *the Mourning Forest*, Cannes Film Festival 2007
Founder of the Nara International Film Festival



About the Residency

Under the supervision of acclaimed film director Naomi Kawase and her team, this arts residency invites ten young women filmmakers from five African countries to Tawara, Nara, a village surrounded by mountains where *the Mourning Forest* was filmed.

The participants will create films during the two-week programme. From shooting to editing, residents will collaborate and interact with their peers, Naomi Kawase, trainers from the Nara International Film Festival and film students from Japan.

By uniting artists at various stages of their careers, it fosters a **multi-generational community of female filmmakers** that shares knowledge and passion for cinema, and creates a bridge between African and Japanese artists.

Selected residents will be invited back to present their work at the Nara International Film Festival in September 2020, giving emerging filmmakers access to wider market and audience.

Artistic Director
Naomi Kawase
Japan



Mentor
Fatou Kande Senghor
Senegal



Eligibility

1. Female filmmaker
2. Age 21-35
3. Citizen of Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal or South Africa
4. Minimum 2 years of professional film or audiovisual experience
5. Directed at least one film (short, feature-length or documentary)*
6. Oral command of English (Residency working language)

* Preferably shown at a festival or broadcasted



Key Dates

Deadline: 10 January 2020

Announcement: 31 January 2020

Residency: 28 March - 12 April 2020

Nara International Film Festival: 18-22 September 2020

Laureates



Nigeria

Mayowa Bakare has worked as a script writer and assistant director for four years. In 2018, she worked on *Chief Daddy*, the third highest grossing Nollywood movie of all time. Bakare is a co-producer of feature film *Oga Bolaji* which was screened at Real Time Film Festival (Nigeria), New York African Film Festival, Nollywood Week (France) and Zanzibar International Film Festival among others. In 2019, she hosted her first workshop for young, aspiring female filmmakers. Bakare has a degree in performing arts from the Pencil Film and Television Institute in Lagos.

“There are not enough stories about women told by women. I will explore a different narrative for the stories we tell of ourselves”

Okuhle Dyosopu is a documentary filmmaker and founder of *Outsider*, an independent production company. In 2017, she developed a six-part documentary series *Youth Culture* commissioned and aired on South African National Broadcaster. The series was selected for the Encounters International Documentary Film Festival (South Africa). Dyosopu developed and pitched her first feature film *Missing Middle* in 2019 at the Dok Festival Munich residency. She is a graduate in graphic design from the Nelson Mandela University.

“Women are the best kept secret in the film industry. I am the change I want to see”



South Africa



Senegal

Awa Gueye is a freelance film director. She has directed five films including documentaries, fictions and docu-fiction. Gueye is currently developing her first fictional feature film based on her short film *Mo Mola La Brotti*. She is also working on a short film commissioned by a professional association on women's rights and the value of women in the society. She studied film at the University Gaston Berger in Saint-Louis du Sénégal.

“Today, we attach so much importance to appearance. I want to capture a different kind of beauty – beauty in opening up to and accepting others”

Joan Kiragu is a documentary filmmaker. Kiragu has won multiple Best Student Film awards for her films *Detox* and *The First Date*. Her latest film *NUMB* on post-partum depression received a jury mention at the My Kenya My Story film competition and an official selection for the LA Reel Recovery Film Festival (USA) and the Urusaro International Women Film Festival (Rwanda). She studied film at Moi University in Nairobi.

“This residency offers an international platform for the voice of women. I will be an ambassador pushing forward the agenda whilst making stories that matter”



Kenya



Nigeria

Uren Makut is a film director and a producer. Her docu-drama *Life as It Is* won the Best Docu-drama and Best Producer at AFRICAST 2012 and was nominated for Best Documentary at Abuja Film Festival 2015. Makut is currently developing a Skills Acquisition Centre, a training programme for young aspiring filmmakers with preference to female candidates. She has a degree in mass communication from Ahmadu Bellu University in Zaria.

“Women have always had a presence in filmmaking but have consistently been in the background. They are highly creative and will do amazing things when encouraged”



Kenya

Lydia Matata is a filmmaker, writer and journalist. Her directorial debut *Millet*, a short film, won production funding at Shorts, Shots & Shots 2019 (Kenya). Her first feature documentary film, *Better Sundays*, received funding and lab support from the East African Documentary Film Fund and participated in the Durban International Short Film Festival. Matata is a part of the Rogue Film Society, a network of young, emerging filmmakers based in Nairobi.

“Filmmaking, like life, offers constant lessons. I want the confidence that what I explore through my work as a female African filmmaker is just as good and important as my counterparts elsewhere”

Fama Reyanne Sow is a director and a screenwriter. She has worked as an assistant director on multiple feature films including *Marabout* by Alassane Sy, *White Color Black* by Joseph Adsunloye and *Sega* by Idil Ibrahim. As an independent filmmaker, Sow has written, directed and edited short films, commercials, TV series and music videos. She is currently producing her first short film.

“I want to create strong women characters so the youth in Senegal can have heroines to admire”



Senegal



Burkina Faso

Delphine Yerbanga is a director and producer at Burkina National Television. She has produced numerous short documentary films in Burkina Faso, Senegal and Niger, three of which were shown at Les Rencontres SOBATE Documentary Film Festival (Burkina Faso). She has been a member of the organizational committee of Junior Space of FESPACO since 2011 and served as its president in 2019. She is also president of AFRICADOC Burkina association. She studied film at the University Gaston Berger in Saint-Louis du Sénégal.

“This residency will be a creative process that can show me how to grow an idea and give birth to a tangible film”

Thishiwe Ziqubu is a director and a founder of Ngoyama Kapital, an independent production company. She has won multiple South African Film and Television Awards for directing, scriptwriting and acting in television series and films. Her latest film, *The Girl from the Other Side*, was selected for the Pan African Film Festival (USA) in 2019. Ziqubu is currently working on her first feature film *Stellar Collision*. She studied film at The School for the Creative Economy in Johannesburg.

“I don’t want to just be a South African filmmaker, but a global artist who must expand her world view to create work that crosses boundaries”



South Africa



Burkina Faso

Floriane Zoundi is a director and a screenwriter at BF1 Television. She has worked as a director of photography on short and feature films including *L’assassin de ma maitresse* by Emmanuel Routouamba and Boubacar Sangare. Zoundi has participated in writing and directing residencies at Institute Imagine. She is also a member of a young female filmmaker collective. She studied cinema at Institut Supérieur de l’Image et du Son in Ouagadougou.

“They say a director is like a conductor of an orchestra. I want to gain new skills, watch others work, and listen and share among my peers”

Laureates



From
the People
of Japan



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Cultural Expressions

This project is supported by
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JAPANFOUNDATION



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Nara International Film Festival

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UNESCO

Diversity of Cultural Expressions

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