

OVER THE RAINBOW (Four generations)

Project

Rehabilitation of the home of DIAGNE MAPATHÉ

&

Creation of the studio/home of DIAGNE CHANEL
SEDHIOU, CASAMANCE.



Casa di Mansa: half-Portuguese, half- Mandingo name, it is the "House of the King"*

Title of the Mali Empire sovereigns and, in particular, those of the Keïta dynasty that governed West Africa between the XIIIth and XIVth centuries. The Mansa's power included responsibility for dispensing justice and a commercial monopoly, especially over gold. Soundiata Keïta was the first to hold this title.



Summery

- DIAGNE MAPATHÉ in the Hall of Fame of French West African writers
 - OVER THE RAINBOW
 - (Where the rainbow flashes out, the Casamance)
 - OVER THE RAINBOW program
- Rehabilitating the LIFE AND WORK OF Amadou Mapathé Diagne

- Création of artistic park
- RESTORATION OF VEGETABLE CROPS PLANTINGS
- Workshop & RÉSIDENCE
- ALLEY OF QUEEN
- IMPACT



Ahmadou Mapathé Diagne

Auteur de "Les trois Volontés de Malick,



Diagne chanel artiste et auteur

DIAGNE MAPATHE

LISTE DES ŒUVRES CONNUES A CE JOUR



Un Pays de Pilleurs d'Épaves :

Le Gandiole dans le bulletin du Comité d' Etudes historiques
Côte P.177919 Bibliothèque I.F.A.N Université de Dakar.

Les Trois Volontés de Malick :

Côte 10802 et 10804 : Bibliothèque I.F.A.N Universitaire de Dakar.

L'Origine du griot

Les Coutumes Balantes : Outre- mer

Les Coutumes Diolas : (bulletin enseignement)

Les Coutumes Mandingues : (bulletin enseignement)

Les Problèmes de la riziculture au Sénégal

Esquisse de l'Évolution Culturelle des Peuples de la Casamance

DIAGNE CHANEL PARIS JUIN 2015
MUSEE POUR UNE REINE SEULE

Rehabilitating the LIFE AND WORK OF Amadou **Mapathé Diagne**

In November 2015, the leading lights of Black-African literature were in the process of registering the late Amadou Mapathé Diagne in the Hall of Fame of French West African writers.

Famous for his French-language novelistic literature, he was in fact the first writer of French West Africa. Sédhiou College, of which he was the mentor, celebrated him by a Symposium launched by a local researcher from the hinterland of Sédhiou, Fally Diaïté Kaba, in the presence of the poet, Amadou Lamine Sall and of many other cultural luminaries.

This Symposium marked the start of the process of rehabilitating Amadou Mapathé Diagne's life and work, as the first Black African writer of French West Africa, first Black inspector of French West Africa, first Black Senegalese inspector of primary education and first municipal Secretary of Sédhiou



On April 4, 2016, the Departmental Youth Week in the region of Sédhiou, chose Diagne Mapathé as their sponsor.

OVER THE RAINBOW (Where the rainbow flashes out, the Casamance)

Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high,
There's a land that I heard of, once in a lullaby.
Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue,
And the dreams that you dare to dream, really do come
true... That's where you'll find me.

The 'floating' land of Casamance, its forests irrigated with mangroves and rivers, reveal our eternal quest: an untouched territory, a **Garden of Eden**. This one was celebrated by Malraux in 1966, echoing a ballad... *"From the great tree, the silken snow of the Kapok fell solemnly and caught on the green toga [of Queen Sebeth] under which her necklaces rang in the silence (...) in the hall of wooden pillars of her palace of earth and thatch [...] the sensation of sacrifice felt more powerful to me here in this column of majesty than in any other temple..."* (Antimémoires, 1967).

The shape of dreams in mist.

The home of Diagne Mapathé, my grandfather, is in Sédhiou, a city of Lower Casamance and a high place of Mandingo culture. On the right bank of the river Casamance, Sedhiou is a city whose history is closely linked to that of the river that gives its name to this region of Southern Senegal.

Its originality lies in the nature of its landscapes and the diversity of its communities that make Sédhiou the cradle of numerous several-centuries-old civilisations.

The land is a long band some 40 km. wide. It stretches over a large and flourishing network, bounded on the North by Gambia, on the South by Guinea-Bissau, on the East, the Fouladou, land of the Peuls, separates it from Niokolo-Koba National Park; and finally, on the West it opens onto the Atlantic Ocean by a majestic delta around which sparkle the nocturnal tales of the indecipherable Casamance.

It is thus that, in the course of its windings and of its countless wetlands, on either side of a vegetation of coconut trees and mangroves, the region offers a landscape mosaic ranging from the arborescent savannah to the gigantic forests scattered with caicedrats, eucalyptus, Tamarind trees, immense baobabs, but also of course cotton trees without which African forests would be deprived of their founding myth. Sédhiou at dawn, dressed in the few vestiges of the ancient regional capital, bordered by the peaceful river Casamance, reveals its past and the ancient grandeur of the civilisations that established it.

The Casamance inspires dreams and already, a number of artists think of coming to work in the “Rainbow” House of Diagne Mapathé in Sédhiou. A place where painting, sculpture, literature and nature come together. This is a part of the cultural history and the natural heritage of the Senegal that can here be rediscovered and protected.

This heritage deserves to be rediscovered so that the work, both literary and civic, of the first French-language African writer may be better known and forever remembered.

CASAMANCE / A CULTURAL SPACE

DIAGNE MAPATHÉ, FIRST FRENCH-LANGUAGE AFRICAN WRITER

Born in 1886, my ancestor, Amadou Mapathé DIAGNE was the first Black writer of French-speaking Africa. In 1916, in the *Education Bulletin of French West Africa*, his article on the Origin of griots (storytellers/poets/musicians) was published in the “Folklore” column. He was the first of a long line of researchers who rehabilitated the teachings of those historians, genealogists and chroniclers. After his education at the Normal School of Saint Louis du Sénégal, he became, in 1907, a teacher in training in the schools of Saint Louis, Dakar, then Podor. In 1915, the Director of Education of French West Africa, Georges Hardy, invited him to serve as his “Senegalese right hand man” to structure teaching there. For the Larousse Bookshop, he then wrote the first African novel: “The Three Wishes of Malik”, published in 1920 in the Pink series for the young with Hamet Sow Telemaque and still preserved in the Overseas archives.

Today, the secondary school of Sedhiou bears his name.

OVER THE RAINBOW PROGRAM

- Restauration of the home of Diagne Mapathé
- Creating a studio-residence
- Creating a library
- Restoring the plantation and rehabilitating its plants.
- Synergies with international networks of artists and craftsmen facilitated by Diagne Chanel.
- Residences for regional and international artists
- Cooperation and exchanges with regional and international partner structures
- A biennial of Contemporary African Art in Dakar, Dakar Village of the Arts, the National Senegalese Art Gallery, the Thies Decorative Arts Works.
-

The Workshop, the library and the plantation will create jobs for the city of Sedhiou.

RÉHABILITATION OF DIAGNE MAPATHÉ'S HOME

With no maintenance for over 25 years, the house is sadly dilapidated. For a start, the house, as well as the studio, requires work to conform to standards

- A. Necessary repair budget de restauration of the building & required equipment :
 - Phase 1: Overall construction plan and survey, roof, masonry, door & window frames and fencing.
 - Phase 2: Extension 'Catchment cabin for Impluvium', Plumbing, power supply, hydraulics.
 - Phase 3: Éco-gardening, portal.

- B. Sustainable rehabilitation of the house, creating a library (in which to consult the works of Diagne Mapathé), of the workshop, inspired by the '*impluvium cabins*' and the one-story cabins in adobe and wood, two prototypes of Diola architecture, in which to welcome resident creators.

Rebuilding the surrounding wall: decorated with enlarged pages and drawings from the book "**The Three Wishes of Malik**", and of books for young people by Diagne Chanel, published by Paris-Musées: "*Myriam Mafou Mixed-Blood*", "*Unending Story of the Mafous and the Ratafous*"...

7 weeks and half of sculptures. Phase 1



ALLÉE DE LA REINE

DIAGNE CHANEL 2016





Les Médicis
Acacia sculpté







I shark I acacia wood







Staff allée de la reine



The workshop under the mango trees



Assistant sculpture Diang woury



Gardener keeper Bala
Planting and preparation of bamboo for protection

Student in poultry farming and agriculture, Issaga Dialio wants to cultivate a field on the estate. Exploiting vegetable crops will provide him with a training period and experience during his 3 years of study at a girls' training school in Sedhiou.



The carpenter, MR Coly

Mr. Coly rents a small studio on the plantation. He is in charge of restoration work in the villa, reproducing the windows, shutters, doors, as they were created in 1945.

He also makes the furniture prototypes and participates in creating sculptures by engraving signatures.
He has also contributed to setting up the Empire period factory.



The tailor Papis Diop, his assistant



Cutting wood with the buck



Transporting wood for sculptures





Manufacturing bricks stamped backwards
for building the perimeter wall.



The welder mechanic,



The beekeeper, Mr. DiaThe bee keeper has just set up 20 hives among the mango trees, the orange and the lemon trees in order to test the feasibility of exploiting honey on the



estate.



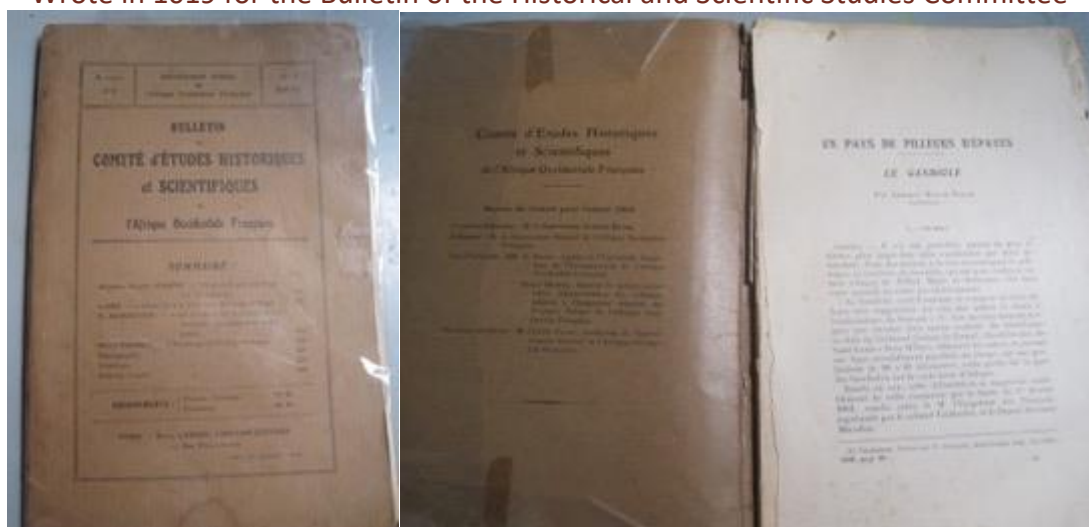
The painter, Kekouta Sadio who works at the Sedhiou Cultural Centre has begun to reproduce the writings of Diagne Mapath, as well as my paintings on metal plates. These will be installed on the surrounding wall of the estate. This is the start of a project which will demand 4 years to be completed.



Un Pays de Pilleurs d'Épaves :

Article de Diagne mapathé

Wrote in 1919 for the Bulletin of the Historical and Scientific Studies Committee





Last but not least ,my cyber café
and the web-master !!!!

Empire factory

The reconstituted Empire factory in situ.

These works are also seen as the result of excavations of a rediscovered and reconstituted past.

The factory can be reconstituted in situ with bricks stamped and manufactured on the spot.



Termite mounds on the estate are 3 meters high. Its red soil will be mixed with the concrete of future statues. This concrete will thus be refined and coloured.



A factory inspired by the **pavillons of the 18th century**.

During the following years, these factories will be built on the domaine to resurrect the dream of Diagne Mapathé who conceived this place as a perfect enclosure, an example of novelistic culture and of preservation of **horticulture typical of Casamance**.



Daily public visitors in the Studio.



Daily public visitors in the Studio.

Children before or after school, amateurs, professors, students, the curious, workers, merchants, artists, everyone, each day will come spontaneously, more and more numerous. In Sedhiou, the first capital of Sedhiou and a former bastion of colonial rule, fallen asleep in history, cultural life had been extinguished.

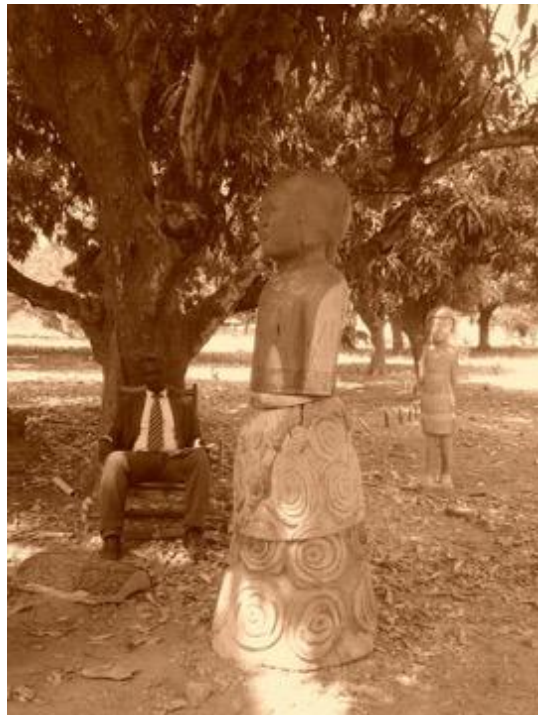
In this workshop, under the mango trees, open from 8:00 a.m., it is reborn and thrills the population.



Before the new sacred wood with its installation of roof tiles from the Marseille factory



the empire manufacturing, white and pink.



the art teacher.

Objets quotidiens d'une artiste parisienne



dresses and skirts





















In the Queen's Alley



Roof tiles and lemons from the plantation

On being installed the tiles are washed before rebuilding the roof. These tiles from the Martin Frères factory situated in the Séon Saint André neighborhood or Marseille were brought from France to build the house in the 1940

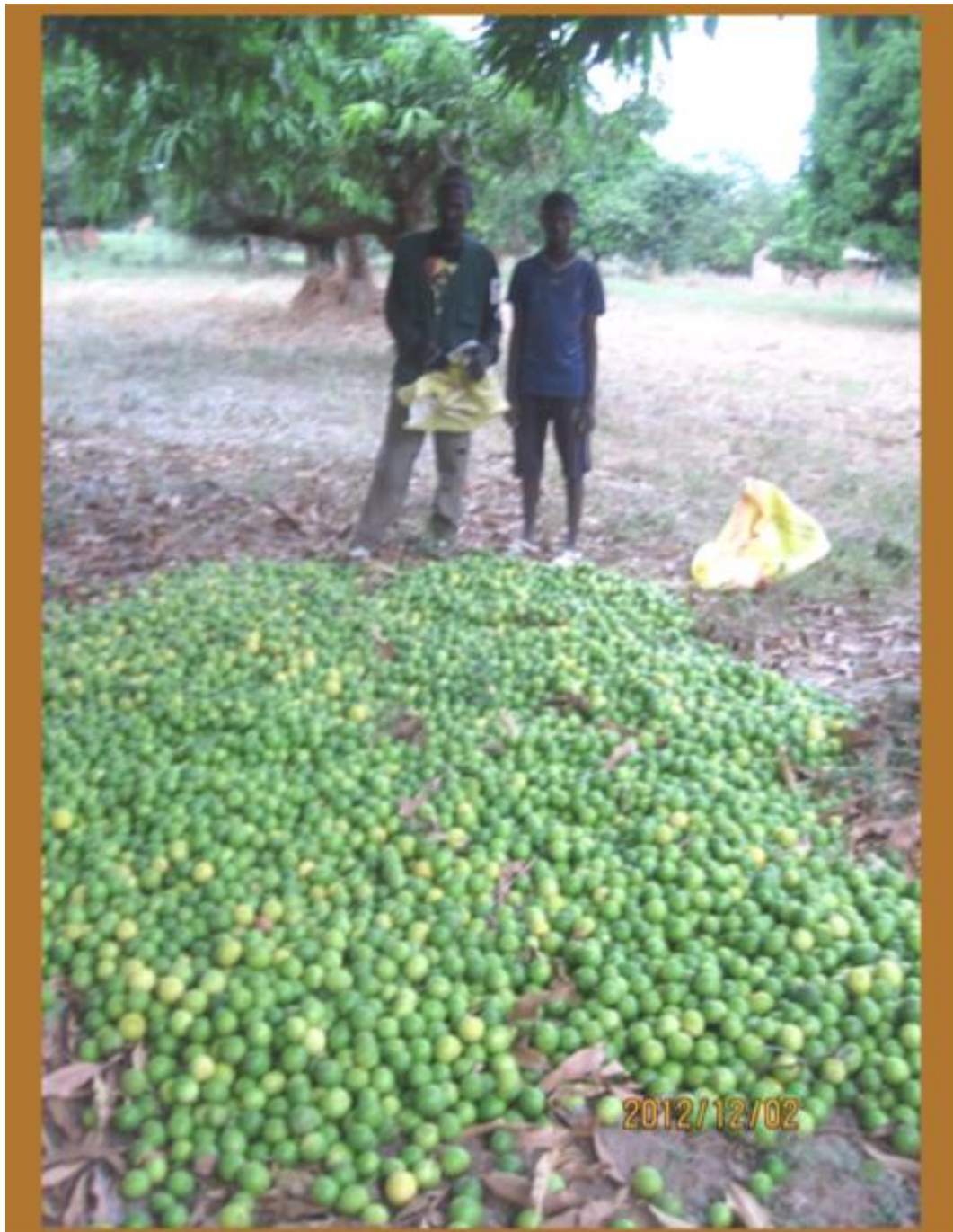


Vases for species of wood in the Queen's Alley
are stamped like the bricks.

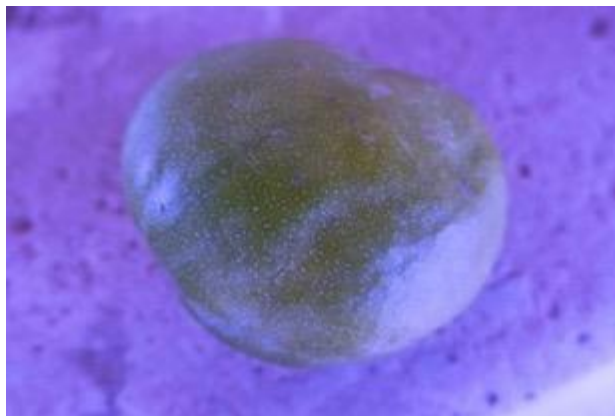


Beginning of the Queen's Alley...

Plantation



Harvesting lemons





The magic mangos of the estate. April 2016



L'ALLEE DE LA REINE

(Projet – Phase 1)

Une installation de Diagne Chanel

En hommage à Sédhiou, ancienne capitale de la Casamance

Dak'art, 3 mai – 2 juin 2016
Les Jardins de l'Hôtel de Ville de Dakar

Vernissage le mardi 3 mai à 17h00

(Projet - Phase 1)

an installation of Diagne Chanel

The Queen's Alley was carried out by the artist Diagne Chanel. Presented in the gardens of the City Hall of Dakar, within the OFF program of the Dak'Art Biennale of 2016, this exhibit was produced in collaboration with Clarisse Djionne, coordinator and Lydie Diakhaté, Exhibition Curator.

In several months, Diagne Chanel made several trips to Sedhiou, former capital of Casamance, in the family home built by her grandfather, Amadou MaApathé Diagne (1899-1976). Her various stays there enabled her to produce a first series of some twenty monumental sculptures in wood. This set of figures syncretises the work she has been carrying on for some three decades now in painting and in sculpture.

In a masterly installation, Diagne Chanel wants to put her sculptures, the local colonial history and the style of the Italian Renaissance in a dialogue.

Lydie Diakhaté

Critic and Curator



Sculptures in the Sedhiou studio,
ready to leave.



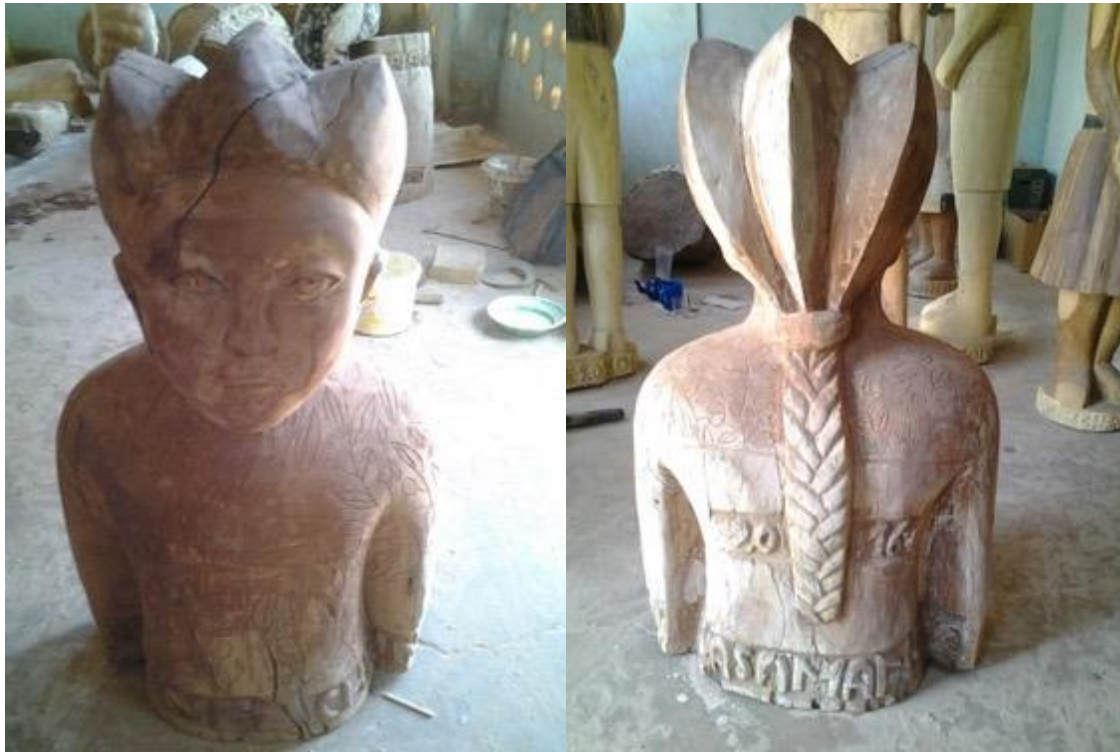
Packing of the sculptures to be sent
to the Dakar Biennale.



On the 29 April, loading the 19 sculptures
in Casamance into the bus for Dakar.



After 20 hours of travel, arrived at 3am on April 30
in front of City Hall of Dakar



The Queen in front of City Hall





the Queen

acacia wood



tribute to Jean Moulin

Rosewood



Along the river Seine



Dogs crowned
Red Wood I shark





Grandmother as a young girl in rosewood.



Grandmother as a young girl in rosewood.







Diagne Chanel
www.diagnechanel.com



The dogs of the Queen's Alley.

Before the Atlantic, at the Dakar Sheraton.