

Madagascar Pavilion  
at the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia

I have forgotten the night  
Joël Andrianomearisoa



**Press Contact**

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Madagascar will take part in the 58th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia with its own pavilion for the first time in its history.

Joël Andrianomearisoa was chosen to represent his country alongside curators Rina Ralay Ranaivo and Emmanuel Daydé, due to the invention and maturity of his work, his international reputation as well as the unconditional support of his professional network.

This first International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia is a historic event for Madagascar. It is a sign of dynamism and modernity for the Malagasy nation. It reflects a positive image of the country at national and international levels, despite the all too frequent predominance of either exotic or miserable images associated with it. It is a message of hope and willingness to put the creative forces of Madagascar in the mainstream of the world.

Joël Andrianomearisoa, born in 1977 in Antananarivo, Madagascar lives and works between Antananarivo and Paris.

He explores many disciplines, from fashion to design, video to photography, scenography to architecture, installations to visual arts.

This is likely where he draws his polyphonic work from, invading every part of his viewers' sensitive space.

The artist's work develops around a non-explicit, often abstract, narration, which everyone perceives yet cannot put a name to. His world of forms weaves his work into sequences often mired in a deep sadness caused by an absence that is impossible to fill.

And for that he uses, in no particular hierarchical order, sound in its immaterial dimension or the book in its hyper materiality, silky textile or rough plastic, black or the most shimmering colours.

Throughout his career, his work has been shown on five continents, including many prestigious international cultural institutions such as the Maxxi in Roma, the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin, the Smithsonian in Washington, the Centre Pompidou in Paris among many others.

In 2016, he received the Arco Madrid Audemars Piguet Prize.

Joël Andrianomearisoa is represented by galleries Sabrina Amrani (Madrid), Primo Marella (Milan) and RX (Paris)

Madagascar Pavilion - Arsenale Artiglierie  
11 May -24 November 2019

**Website & Social Media**

[madagascarpavilionvenice.org](http://madagascarpavilionvenice.org)  
Instagram : [madagascarpavilionvenice](https://www.instagram.com/madagascarpavilionvenice)  
Facebook Page : Madagascar Pavilion  
Twitter : [mdgpavilion](https://twitter.com/mdgpavilion)

## The project

I have forgotten the night  
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“And we have more beautiful nights than your days”  
Jean Racine

Giving material expression to a journey translated from the night and viewed through the prism of torn papers of love and death, Joël Andrianomearisoa deploys the intangible essence of the invisible, turning around a world of otherness as an iron sun fades into the azure of night; as dark light no longer ushers in the day.

In love “with the different grounds of three contrasting orchards: cold Europe, India with its pink and blue skies and Africa, a clear, deep spring” (Jean Joseph Rabearivelo), Andrianomearisoa endlessly unites their fundamental, component opposites to create elegant, abstract, melancholic forms woven from natural materials devoured by shadow and light.

Child of the nights of “Iarivo the dead” (Antananarivo) and un año de amor on the streets of Madrid, a lone dreaming nomad straying from the bars and restaurants of Paris to the sleeping shores of the Bosphorus or the infinite horizons of Cotonou, the artist without frontiers brings a boundless nostalgia to the modernity of the square, breathing the sentimentality of material things.

Charged with creating the Biennale Arte 2019’s first Madagascar pavilion, Joël Andrianomearisoa does not pay tribute to a country, but to the majesty of beyond black and its mournful wanderings – folding, unfolding, revealing outlines, singing and laughing as melancholy comes. “The geometry of the angle is a point of no return that embraces the present,” he assures us.

Thinking of his distant land, the artist deconstructs the Palace of Iafy, the first royal residence on the twelfth sacred hill of Imerina, separating the heavy planks of black rosewood to build them into twelve organic canopies that tumble in a dark cascade of bags, ropes and ashes. From the lost memory of that royal hut springs a tomb for half a million soldiers at Ecbatana, an allegorical Platonic cave, a labyrinth of passions, a theatre of affections... Gutted blades falling from the sky in waves of soot and rain throw up the wan, grey mists of the dying Creuse or the notched, gullied walls of Tritriva’s lovers’ lake. Turning the world above to the world below.

Rina Ralay-Ranaivo and Emmanuel Daydé

**Artist :** Joël Andrianomearisoa

**Curators :** Rina Ralay Ranaivo & Emmanuel Daydé

**Commissioner -** Ministry of Communication and Culture of the Republic of Madagascar

**Production -** Association Kantoko and Revue Noire

**With the support of :** Rubis mécénat cultural fund, Groupe Filatex, Fonds de dotation Thibault Poutrel

Mrs Nathalie Aureglia, The Zinsou Foundation, Les Abattoirs Museum - Toulouse, Fondation H, Sabrina Amrani Gallery, Primo Marella Gallery, Gallery RX, Air Madagascar, AXIAN, VIMA Vision Madagascar, La Chocolaterie Robert, Pavilion Bosio ESAP Monaco, Pixel Farm and the complicity of the Madagascar Pavilion Friends

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