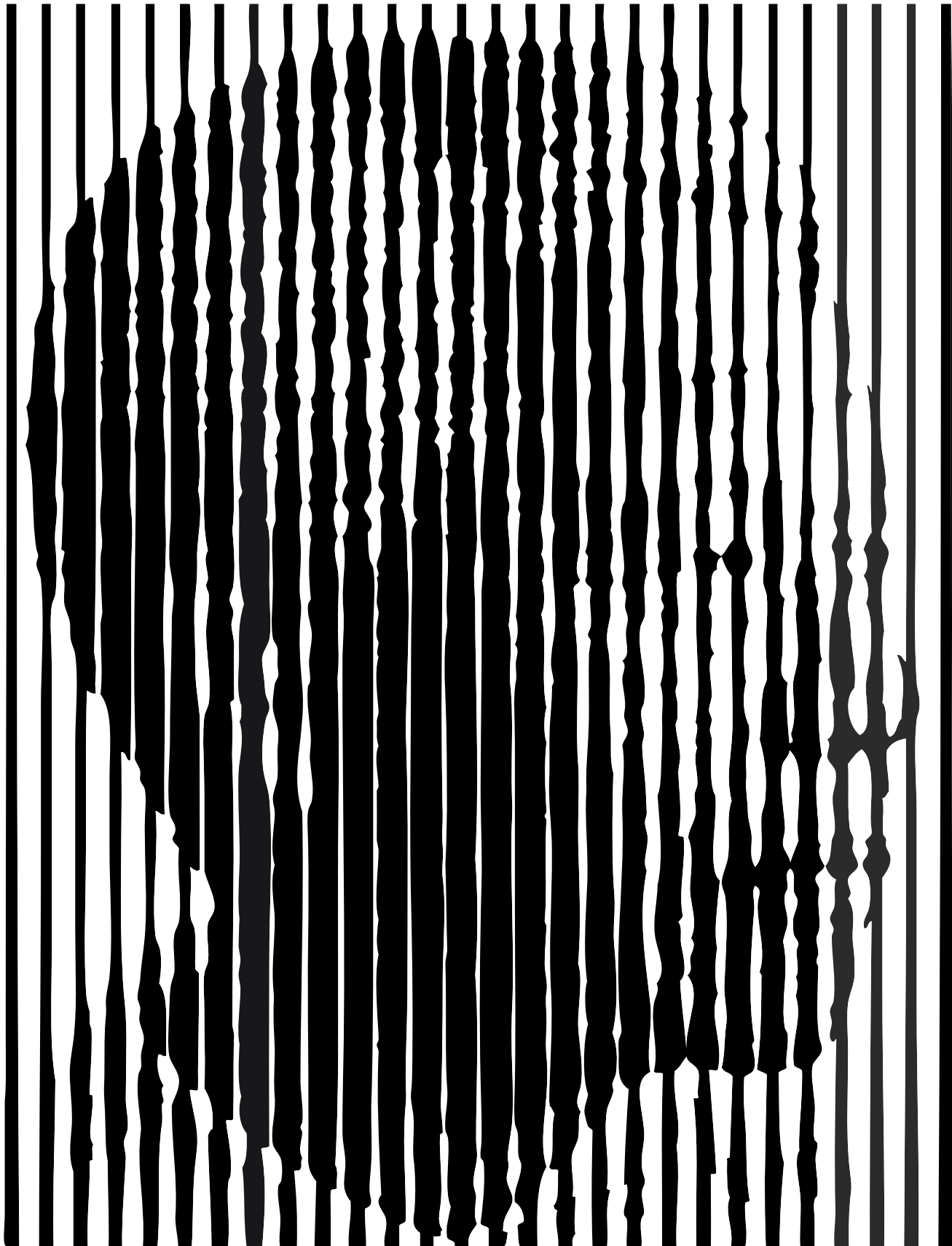


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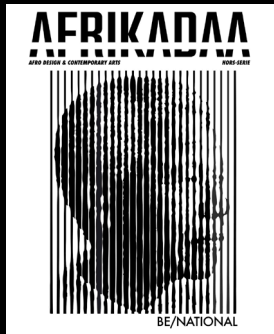


AFRO DESIGN & CONTEMPORARY ARTS

HORS-SERIE



BE/NATIONAL



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Graphisme inspiré du monument Nelson Mandela de Marco Cianfanelli.

Merci à tous ceux qui ont contribué à ce numero:

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EDITO :

A l'occasion de la Saison sud africaine en France, la revue Afrikadaa est heureuse de vous présenter une publication bilingue en collaboration avec la revue sud-africaine Chimurenga. Regards croisés sur la scène artistique passionnante d'un pays singulier, rencontres avec les artistes, articles de fond, textes littéraires, critiques et une bonne dose de création sont au cœur de cette édition hors série. BE NATIONAL est un échange entre des collectifs issus d'Afrique anglophone et francophone, un dialogue de contenus et de formes entre deux Afriques, qui se regardent mais qui ne se rencontrent pas toujours. Cette collaboration inédite entre deux structures de publication sur les arts contemporains permet de produire un pont culturel inattendu au service d'une réflexion sur la création.

Le projet BE NATIONAL a été imaginé sous une approche narrative cartographiée où l'on découvre une scène artistique sud-africaine émergente d'une grande variété. L'équipe rédactionnelle a favorisé différentes formes d'approches narratives avec au centre de tout, le partage des expériences et des savoirs. Laissez-vous guider et surprendre par cette étonnante richesse artistique sud-africaine...

Le 20 décembre dernier nous présentions à la Gaité Lyrique à Paris, le premier acte de cette collaboration; un acte éditorial vivant, à l'image des pratiques artistiques des deux revues, et qui accompagne la saison dans sa temporalité.

Ce premier hors série de la revue Afrikadaa sur la scène artistique sud africaine est un point de départ, une invitation à poursuivre ce dialogue, que nous espérons voir se prolonger longtemps après la saison sud-africaine en France, et étendu à encore plus de pays, de régions, et d'univers créatifs passionnants.

Nous tenons à remercier particulièrement les auteurs et les artistes ayant contribué à ce numéro: Chimurenga, l'Institut Français, le MAC/VAL, le 104 pour son accueil en résidence et la Gaité Lyrique qui nous a permis de réaliser l'acte éditorial de BE-NATIONAL.

In collaboration with the South-African publication Chimurenga and on the occasion of the France - South Africa Season, Afrikadaa is proud to present a bilingual special edition titled "Be National". At the heart of this special edition, you will find our cross-referenced look at the South African art scene, artist interviews, reflective articles, literature, critiques and a good dose of creation. Be-National is a dialogue between artistic collectives and individuals coming both from Francophone and English-speaking Africa. The content in this issue is a dialogue on form and substance between two Africas, who look at each other but do not always meet. This unique collaboration between two publications with a focus on contemporary arts allowed us to build an unexpected bridge of culture, a common reflection around the act of artistic creation.

BE NATIONAL is a project that was envisioned as a geo-specific narrative, where the reader is invited to discover a rich and diverse, emerging South African arts scene. The editorial team worked in favor of various narratives, with the sharing of knowledge and experiences at the core of everything. Let us guide you through an unexpected journey into this amazing place that is the South-African scene.

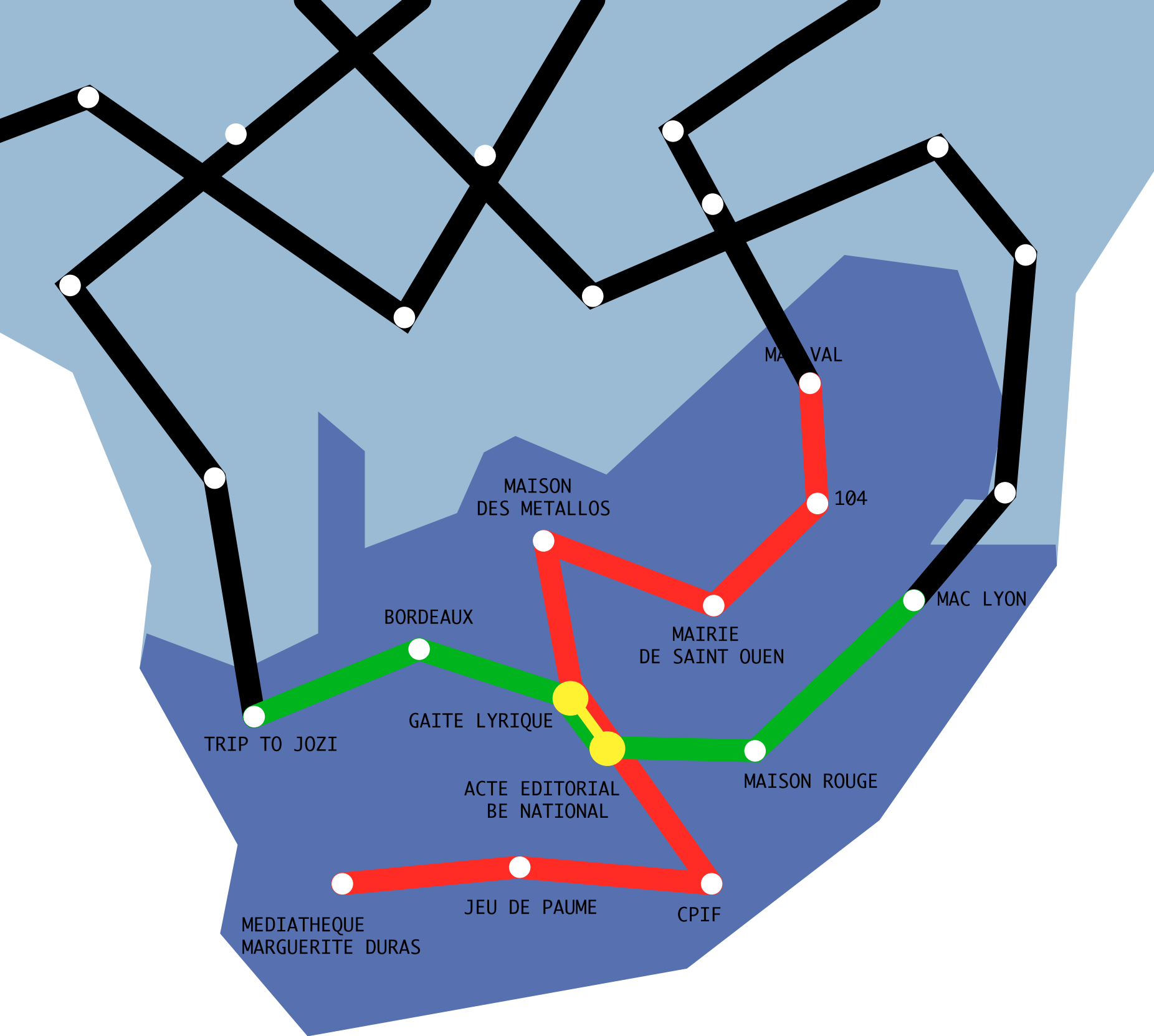
On December 20th, we introduced our audience with the first act of this collaboration, an "editorial act" that drew its life from the artistic practices of both publications, a "living" entity, which we hope, suitably accompanies the Season in its temporality.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the authors and artists who contributed to this special issue: Chimurenga, L'Institut Français, Le MAC/VAL, Le 104 for having us in residency, and La Gaité Lyrique who invited us for the BE NATIONAL live editorial act.

PASCALE OBOLO

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AFRIKADAA BE NATIONAL

mack magagane

«... in this city»

Interview by Pascale Obolo
Images : courtesy of the artist



For the France-South Africa Season in 2012-2013, the Centre Photographique d'Île-de-France collaborated with Market Photo Workshop to invite a young and promising South African photographer for a research and creation residency that lasted three months. Mack Magagane, that's his name, develops his work around urban life, with Johannesburg, the city where he resides, as the starting

point of his research. For his residency, Mack presented his work at the fine art institution Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Arts de Paris-Cergy's Galerie YGREC. The group exhibition, titled "Blombos tot Rooibos" (From Blombos to Rooibos), was held from November 22nd to 30th.

AF: What's your background ?

MM: I matriculated* in 2008. As my family didn't have enough funds to finance my

studies, my sister suggested that I take a gap year. She told me about the Market Photo Workshop, a photography school that was affordable and had a bursary program. I was interested in architecture, and thought that I could develop this interest through photography. That's how everything started, photography chose me without me choosing it.

How would you define your work ?

I usually fail to define my work. My work has been given titles, from docu-fiction, to contemporary photography, to narrative, to surrealism... I play around within those genres and I don't limit myself to a specific one. My background being from the Market Photo Workshop which is a school of documentary photography. I've learned this genre and I was exposed to it but I'm also part of a contemporary era where we need



to find significance in our work... Being part of youth in South-africa, I think that we need to find our own say and the significance of what we choose to say about South-Africa.

Where do you get your inspiration from?

Johannesburg is the basis of my work. It is within this diversity of culture where I grew up, that I get most of my influence. I just can't create a work that would be of another place or another context.

How do you feel about your French experience?

It's my second time in Paris, as I was invited to the Photoquai festival in 2011, but talking about this residency at the CPIF, it was quite amazing. My work has changed, I've learned lot of new ways to use photography, not just as a medium to represent a certain issue or a certain idea but rather a means to other art

genres like music, illustration, multimedia or collages. It's been a very inspiring experience, I've met interesting people and collaborated with a small group of artists from different backgrounds..

Do you think that things will change in South-Africa after Mandela's death?

It's a familiar question, it's been asked a lot. I don't think much will change. Mandela worked very hard for our country so it will be only saddening to see us going down rather than letting is life story inspire us.

Thank you for sharing your Parisian experience with us



Mac Magagane, Photo by Alexandre Couzou