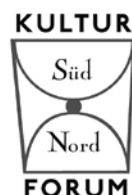
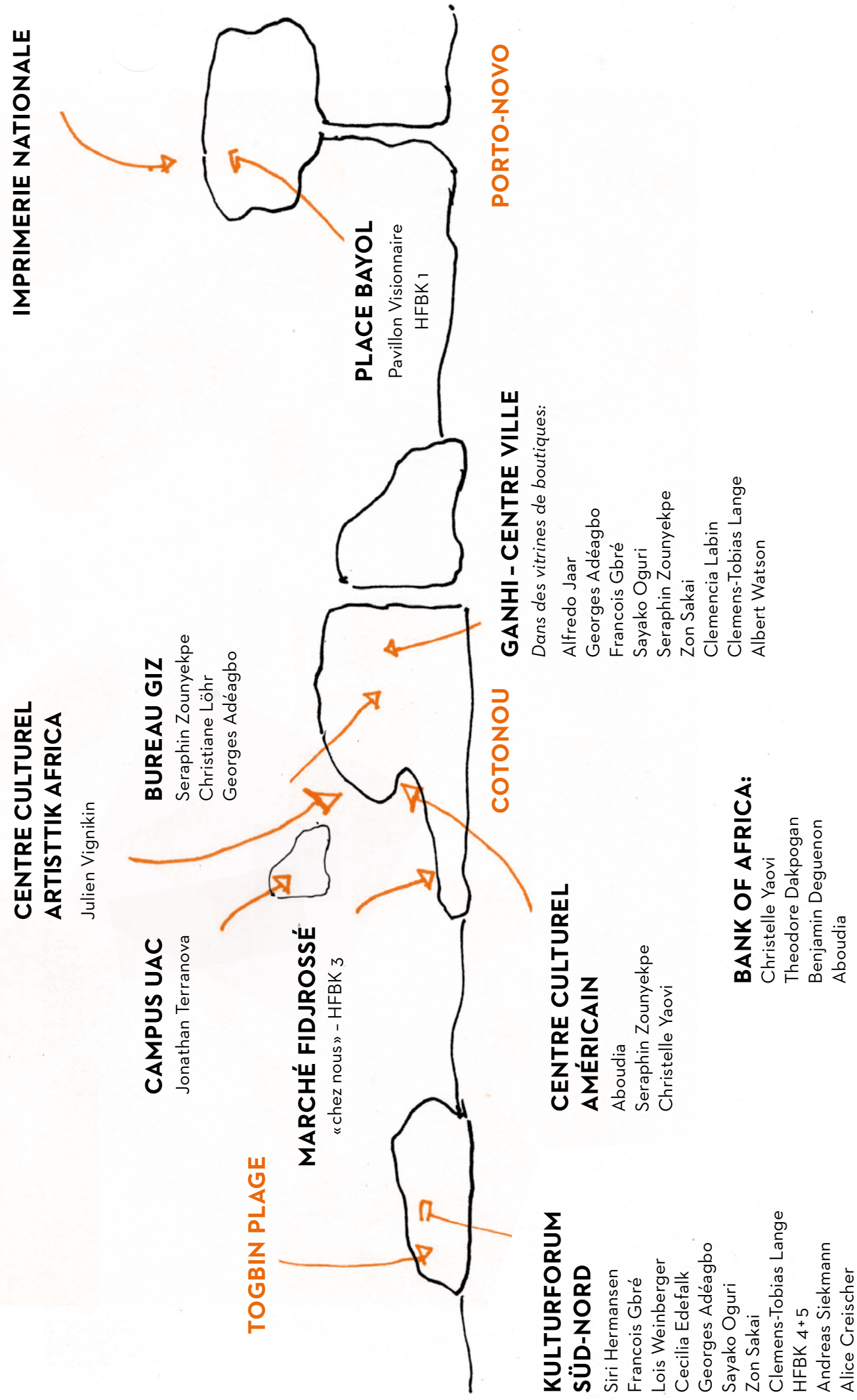


Biennale
REGARD
Bénin 2012

**KULTURFORUM SÜD-NORD AND ASSOCIATES
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE ARTISTS, PARTNERS
AND SPONSORS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.**





A FRUITFUL ADVENTURE:

We are proud to have conceived and realized a decentralized event true to the original idea of Regard Benin that was born in 2010.

With our project *Take, Take, Take and...?* and those of our associates diverse artistic propositions were presented in various venues, many of them in public spaces. The exhibitions spread out like a capillary system. We were thus able to reach an eclectic audience in Cotonou, Porto Novo and Togbin Plage.

No discrimination was made between local and international art and all exhibitions were equally important. The artists from Benin and from all over the world started collaborations that still continue even though the Biennale Regard Benin 2012 is over. Some were even invited to other international shows as collaborators (more at the end of this brochure).

During the Biennale Regard Benin 2012, the students from the Art History Department of UAC - Cotonou had for the first time a chance to appropriate new spaces and work together with artists on site taking active part in this large curatorial laboratory. Now they are eager to move on to new projects.

To sum it up: the Biennale Regard Benin was rich in learning experiences for everyone involved. We would like to thank all the artists, the team, the sponsors, the partners and our friends for their patience, compassion, enthusiasm, valuable criticism and advice.

Georges Adéagbo, *Chairman Kulturforum Süd-Nord Benin*

Stephan Köhler, *Chairman Regard Benin*



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- 1 Albert Watson opening at SONAEC Cotonou
- 2 Artist Daphné Bitchatch and student Narcisse Afouda while installing in Porto-Novo
- 3 Francois Xavier Gbré installs his wall photo at Center Kulturforum Süd-Nord in Togbin Plage
- 4 Georges Adéagbo and student E. Vihounpan install his work at Center Kulturforum
- 5 José Bento explains his work to press in the National Print Shop Porto-Novo
- 6 T. Kouma, director of the National Print Shop gives a speech at the opening ceremony
- 7 Alice Creischer and Andreas Siekmann give an eight-day claymation workshop on land-grabbing at the center Kulturforum Süd-Nord
- 8 Regina Weiss und Benno Hinkes (HFBK project 1) install their work on Place Bayol - Porto Novo
- 9 The Biennale Regard Benin artists follow Zon Sakai performing in downtown Cotonou



9

ARTISTS AND EDITORS PARTICIPATING AT THE BIENNIAL REGARD BENIN 2012 IN TAKE, TAKE, TAKE AND..? A PROJECT BY KULTURFORUM SÜD-NORD

Aboudia - Ivory Coast
Georges Adéagbo - Benin
José Bento - Brazil
Daphné Bitchatch - France
Radovan Cerevka - Slovakai
Alice Creischer - Germany
Théodore Dakpogan - Benin
Benjamin Deguenon - Benin
Cecilia Edefalk - Sweden
Harun Farocki - Germany
Carlos Garaicoa - Cuba
Francois-Xavier Gbré - Ivory Coast/France
Siri Hermansen - Norway
Alfredo Jaar - Chile
Isaac Julien - Great Britain
Clemencia Labin - Venezuela
Tara Mahapatra - Germany
Clemens-Tobias Lange - Germany
Christiane Löhr - Germany
Sayako Oguri - Japan
Zon Sakai - Japan
Andreas Siekmann - Germany
Jonathan Terranova - U.S.A.
Albert Watson - U.S.A.
Lois Weinberger - Austria
Christelle Yaovi - Benin
Seraphin Zounyekpe - Benin

5 PROJECTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS HAMBURG HFBK:

Project 1: **Benno Hinkes, Regina Weiss, René Kanzler**
 Project 2: **Eylien König, Martina Mahlknecht, Doris M. Schmidt, Martin Prinoth**
 Project 3: **Bernhard Hetzenauer, Jonas Schaul, Lisa Sperling**
 Project 4: **Christiane Blattmann, Aleen Solari**
 Project 5: **Gerrit Frohne-Brinkmann, Philip Pichler, Rebekka Seubert**

DESIGN AND SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS:

Carlotta Werner: Improved stove for GIZ
Severin Tchibozo: Research on endangered species in the mangrove belt
 Magazines and Publications that contributed a set of publications to be exhibited in the National Print Shop:
NKA - Cornell University, **Atlantica** - Canary Islands, **Chimurenga** - Capetown, **CTL Press** - Hamburg, **Prince Claus Fund publications** - Amsterdam and **Kawik Publishing** Germany

THE TEAMS:

Curatorial Team: **Stephan Köhler** and **Georges Adéagbo** (Benin), **Yuki Asai** (Japan), **Ines-Johnson-Spain** (Germany) **Ricardo Sardenberg** (Brazil), **Didier Houénoué, Romuald Tchibozo** (professors at UAC, department of Art History)
 The committee of Art History Students of the university UAC Cotonou: **Narcisse Afouda** (educational programmes), **Eliane Aisso** (public spaces Cotonou), **Sidoine Avadji** (protocol), **Richard Gbetey** (assistant - editor), **Job Gbesso** (coordinator Porto Novo venues), **David Gnonhouevi** (hospitality), **Beaugard Koukpaki** (press), **Damien Odeloui** (book-keeping), **Esther Vihounkpan** (registrar)

Ousmane Aledji, Executive Director Biennale Regard Benin 2012

PRESS:

Katharina Kniess, International Press Office
Victorin Fassinou Press, Coordinator Benin

PUBLICATIONS :

The "Journal Officiel" Biennale Regard Benin
 Design: **Alexandra Bauch**, www.alexandrabauch.de
Francois Dossa, *Imprimerie Nationale*, Head of technical division
Ambroisine Dadaglo *Imprimerie Nationale*, Head of data transfer
 Poster and website: **Abel Ayatomé**

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

OUR SPONSORS:

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 Bank of Africa BOA
 BM: UK Ministry of Education and Culture of Austria
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 Europcar Benin
 Federal Republic of Germany - Foreign Office
 Hotel du Port
 ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen
 Konrad Adenauer Foundation Benin
 OCA Office of Contemporary Art Norway
 The Prince Claus Fund - Amsterdam

OUR PARTNERS:

The presidential Office of the Republic of Benin for allowing the association Regard Benin to use the historic halls of the National Print Shop in Porto Novo. The Ministry of Culture Benin, The American Cultural Center Cotonou, The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Brazil, Artisttik Africa Cotonou, CIRTEF Postproduction Center - Cotonou, GIZ- German Cooperation. HFBK Academy of Fine Arts Hamburg, Kawik Publishing Germany, The National Print Shop - Porto Novo, The Radio Unvers Abomey Calavi

THE BIENNALE REGARD BENIN IS SPONSORED BY:



THE BIENNALE REGARD BENIN IS SUPPORTED BY:



AND FOR THEIR PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT:

Hans-Jörg Neumann, *Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany*
 Arnaldo Caixa D'Oliviera, *Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Brazil*
 Douglas Johnston, *The American Cultural Center*
 Alexis Wolff, *The American Cultural Center*
 Brice Sinsin, *Dean of the University Abomey Calavi*
 Prof. Martin Köttering, *President of the University of Fine Arts Hamburg, HFBK*
 Dr. Hanne Loreck, *HFBK Vice President*
 Sabine Boshammer, *co-ordinator for the HFBK projects*
 Miyako Nierenkoether, *GIZ Cotonou*
 Elke Erlecke, *Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Cotonou*
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 Ingrid Klenner, *international exhibition support IFA*
 Elke Tiedt, *Foreign Office - The Federal Republic of Germany culture and media relations with subsaharian Africa*
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 Marvin Anani, *assistant to the Director of Marketing, Bank of Africa*
 Claude Achkar, *Sonaec Library Cotonou*
 Kahlil Azar, *Director of BSS supermarket Cotonou*
 Louis-Philippe Bartet, *Country Manager of VLISCO Benin*
 Lucette Johnson, *Marketing John Walkden*
 Wolfgang de Medeiros, *Director of the Hotel du Port and of Europcar Cotonou*
 Rada Sachs, *Hotel Café Cauris Coquillage, Togbin Plage*
 Rebecca Lee, *English teacher for the art history students*
 John Sinnaeve, *technical support animation for our film workshop*
 Clemens-Tobias Lange, *editing and publishing support*
 Agnes Kohlmeyer, *event support in Venice*

SPACES:

Porto-Novo, The National Print Shop
 Cotonou: The American Cultural Center, GIZ regional Office, Various downtown Shops: Sonaec Bookshop, Woodin clothing, BSS Supermarket, O'Grill Restaurant, The Hotel du Port. The Campus of the University Abomey Calavi,
 Togbin Plage: Kulturforum Süd-Nord, La route des Pêches: Wado Restaurant, Chez Moss, Beach Bistro

WHAT CAME OUT OF IT:

The artist group from the HFBK Hamburg University of Fine Arts **Eylien König, Martina Mahlknecht, Doris M. Schmidt and Martin Prinoth** formed in Benin the group called **YovoYovo** (www.yovoyovo.org) and were invited by Yuko Hasegawa, who came to the opening in Benin in November, to the Sharjah Biennial with their cross-cultural research called "Enframing Home".

Yuki Asai is organizing an exhibition in Japan with **Daphné Bitchatch, Zon Sakai, Francois-Xavier Gbré and Tara Mahapatra**.

Daphné Bitchatch introduced **Christelle Yaovi and Zon Sakai** to the Bakou Art Festival. She also wrote two essays on her experience of working with other artists in the space of the National Print Shop in Porto Novo, and at the center of Kulturforum Süd-Nord in Togbin Plage. They can be found on our websites.

Séraphin Zounyekpe was nominated for an artist in residence program in Stockholm and for an international photo award.

Christelle Yaovi, herself a painter and artist of the Biennial, began to curate exhibitions in various venues in Cotonou.

Romuald Tchibozo, professor of Art History at UAC wrote texts on the process of appropriating public space and on the installation "Sur les pavés, la plage" by Gerrit Frohne-Brinkmann, Philip Pichler, Rebekka Seubert.

Each art-history student team member wrote a text on this experience of working for one year with Kulturforum Süd-Nord on Take, Take, Take and..? in the context of the Biennale Regard Benin 2012. A selection of their texts is posted on our website.

Tara Mahapatra gave a workshop on the theme "Filming the Imaginary"

To see the results: www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2IEWAR72yU

Andreas Siekmann and **Alice Creischer** gave a claymation workshop on the theme of "land grabbing"

To see the results: <http://youtu.be/WaxxOrACzsk>

WHAT COULD BE NEXT:

We suggest a platform in various locations that could be called **"Biennale Regard Benin On the Road"** in order to discuss the potential and the problems of a periodical contemporary art event in Benin from a variety of perspectives. This traveling forum could yield new ideas and be more effective and creative than a discussion of the same themes in an environment of conflicting interests in Benin. We are hoping that far away from local art-politics, new ideas and impulses which are relevant to the free development of artistic research and practice can come up more easily. We think it is worthwhile to try it out: our idea is to develop concepts in this laboratory on the move by involving artists and cultural agents from Benin at each location and by engaging with various artists, curators and audiences from different cities, thus opening up new perspectives that become complimentary and reinforce an open forum in Benin that distances itself from local lobbying and polarization. At the same time, this process can be a worthwhile inquiry about the meaning of the growing number of Biennials and other periodical art events in general. In our opinion, it is essential to protect the original concept of a decentralized event and not allow for it to become a monument for only one dominating part of society. The reference to the work "Wild Cube" of Lois Weinberger, an iron cage in public space that allows seeds but not humans to enter and unfold freely, might be appropriate.

We plan to hold the **"Biennale Regard Benin On the Road"** events in Abidjan, Berlin, Munich, Johannesburg, Lagos, London, Nagoya, Paris other places where our partners are willing to collaborate to make this happen. They will consist of exhibitions with extensions of the projects started in Benin and new proposals for artistic research, debates and workshops on the various aspects of what a Biennial in Benin might mean to the regional art scene and audiences from close and far. Please use our blog on www.kulturforumsuednord.org or our Facebook page to share your ideas.

In 2013/14 Kulturforum Süd-Nord will support artistic research on traditional gender roles, alternative scenarios and new perspectives for human interactions.

- 1 Opening ceremony Porto-Novo 8th of Nov. 2012
- 2 Artists Christiane Blattmann - Aleen Solari discuss with students R. Gbetey, E. Vihounkpan and B. Koukpaki their project
- 3 The participants of T. Mahapatra's workshop in action
- 4 Alfredo Jaar & Georges Adéagbo, Culture = Capital, Neon. Cotonou city center at "Woodin".
- 5 Lois Weinberger's work is reinstalled by Eliane Aissou and fellow students at center Kulturforum



IMPRINT



Georges Adéagbo checks the exhibition sign at Togbin Plage

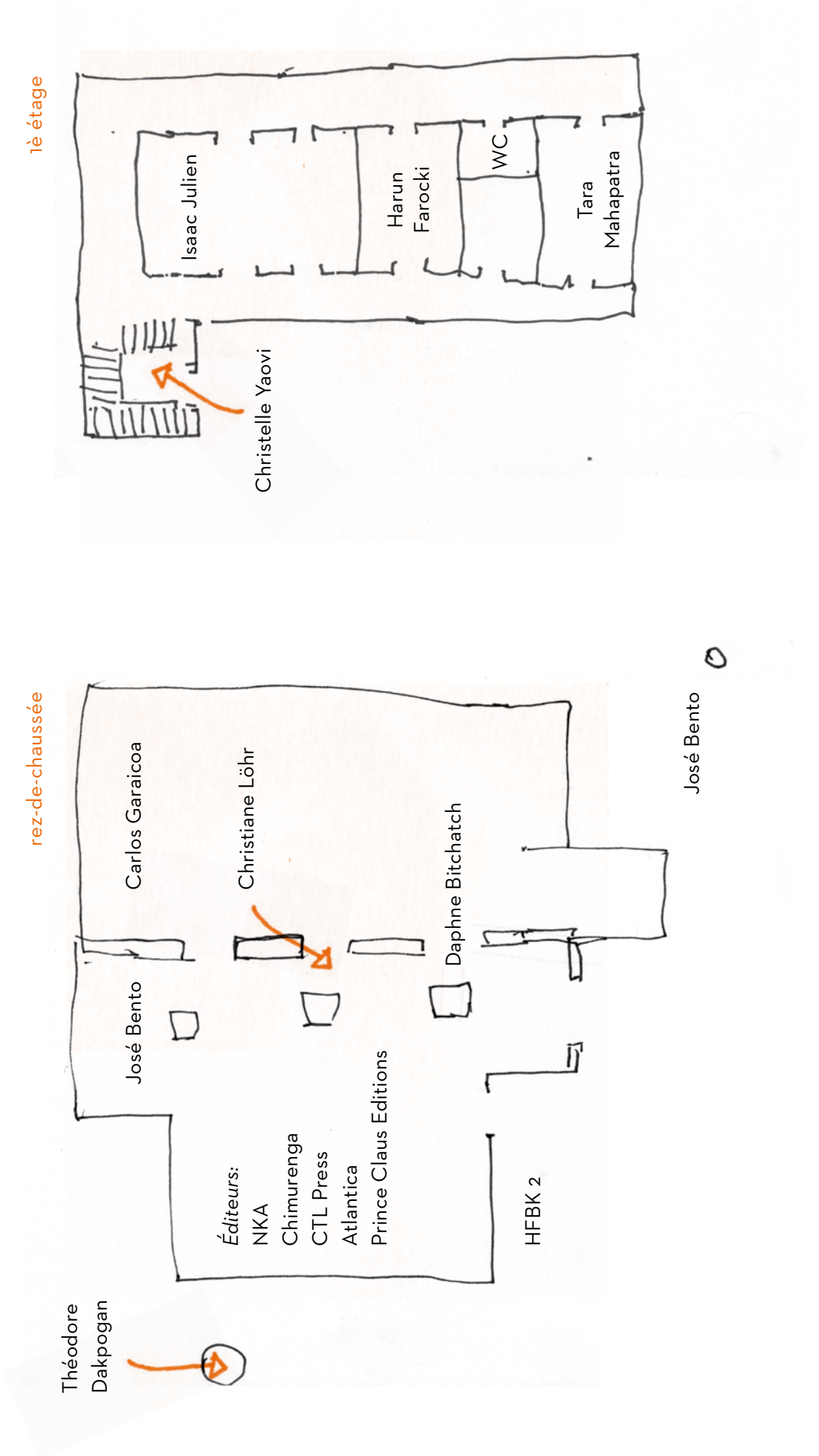
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PORTO-NOVO – IMPRIMERIE NATIONALE



KULTURFORUM SÜD-NORD



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