

Okwui Enwezor

# THE SHORT CENTURY

**Independence and Liberation  
Movements in Africa 1945–1994**

Prestel

ART - OBJECTS / OBJECTS - PHOTOGRAPHY - ARCHITECTURE - MUSIC - THEATRE / LITERATURE - FILM - ANTHROPOLOGY

## Chronology

Compiled by Irene Small

### Independence of Colonies

**Algeria**, 1962 (France); **Angola**, 1975 (Portugal); **Benin**, 1960 (France); **Botswana**, 1966 (Britain); **Burkina Faso**, 1960 (France); **Burundi**, 1962 (Belgium); **Cameroun**, 1960 (Britain, France); **Cape Verde**, 1975 (Portugal); **Central African Republic**, 1960 (France); **Chad**, 1960 (France); **Comoros**, 1975 (France); **Congo, Democratic Republic of the**, formerly Zaïre, 1960 (Belgium); **Congo, Republic of the**, 1960 (France); **Côte d'Ivoire**, 1960 (France); **Djibouti**, 1977 (France); **Egypt**, 1922 (Britain); **Equatorial Guinea**, 1968 (Spain); **Eritrea**, 1941 (Italy), 1952 (Britain), 1993 (Ethiopia); **Ethiopia**, no colonialization (Italian occupation 1936–41); **Gabon**, 1960 (France); **Gambia, The**, 1965 (Britain); **Ghana**, 1957 (Britain); **Guinea**, 1958 (France); **Kenya**, 1963 (Britain); **Lesotho**, 1966 (Britain); **Liberia**, no colonialization (Independent Republic of Liberia, 1847); **Libya**, 1943 (Italy), 1951 (Allied Administration); **Madagascar**, 1960 (France); **Malawi**, 1964 (Britain); **Mali**, 1960 (France); **Mauritania**, 1960 (France); **Mauritius**, 1968 (Britain); **Morocco**, 1956 (France); **Mozambique**, 1975 (Portugal); **Namibia**, 1920 (Germany), 1990 (South Africa); **Niger**, 1960 (France); **Nigeria**, 1960 (Britain); **Réunion**, no colonialization (Portugal); **Rwanda**, 1962 (Belgium); **São Tomé and Príncipe**, 1975 (Portugal); **Senegal**, 1960 (France); **Seychelles**, 1976 (Britain); **Sierra Leone**, 1961 (Britain); **Somalia**, 1960 (Britain, Italy); **South Africa**, 1961 (Britain); **Sudan**, 1956 (Britain, Egypt); **Swaziland**, 1968 (Britain); **Tanzania**, 1964 (Britain); **Togo**, 1960 (France); **Tunisia**, 1956 (France); **Uganda**, 1962 (Britain); **Western Sahara**, 1976 (Spain); **Zambia**, 1964 (Britain); **Zimbabwe**, formerly Rhodesia, 1965 (Britain)

### 1884

Otto von Bismarck chairs the Berlin Conference to stem the scramble for Africa. Only Morocco, Ethiopia, and Liberia are recognized as independent entities. Partition of West Africa and East Africa

### 1896

Ethiopia, under Emperor Menelik II, defeats invading Italian army in the Battle of Adwa

Lumière brothers' demonstration of projected moving photographic images in Alexandria

### 1897

British punitive expedition to the Kingdom of Benin sacks and burns down the city, loots its artworks and artifacts, and exiles the Oba of Benin to Calabar

### 1898

Elias Sitonga composes *Nkosi Sikelele Afrika*, which later becomes the pan-African national anthem in South Africa during apartheid and, thereafter, part of the new South African national anthem

British conquest of Sudan

### 1900

Henry Sylvester Williams convenes the first Pan-African Conference

French circus group projects the Lumière brothers' *L'Arroseur arrosé* in Dakar

### 1902

End of the Anglo-Boer Wars in South Africa

Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum, is founded and offers art lessons

### 1903

Aina Onabolu establishes himself as a modern portrait painter in Lagos and is the first modern Nigerian artist

Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Cairo, is established

Herero revolt in Namibia against German colonial rule is brutally suppressed by German colonial troops; thousands are massacred

### 1904

France consolidates its west African colonies into French West Africa

### 1908

Prince Yousef Kamal founds the School of Fine Arts, Cairo

France establishes French Equatorial Africa

Tunisia becomes a French protectorate

### 1910

Union of South Africa is formed

### 1912

African National Congress founded in South Africa as a political organization to defend the rights of disenfranchised blacks

### 1913

Muhammad bin Abubakar publishes the epic poem *Utendi wa Liyongo Fumo* (Epic of Liyongo Fumo) of the southeastern African oral tradition

### 1914

Modern Nigeria is created when Lord Frederick Lugard amalgamates the Northern and Southern British protectorates to form Nigeria. Establishes Lagos as the central capital of the colony

### 1919

W. E. B. Dubois organizes the First Pan-African Congress, in Paris

### 1920

Nigerian modern art pioneer Aina Onabolu completes art studies at St. John's Wood School of Art, London

Spain is defeated by Abd el Krim's forces in Morocco

Shooting of striking coal miners by colonial troops in Enugu, eastern Nigeria

### 1921

The Society of Fine Arts is founded in Egypt

Second Pan-African Congress is held, in London, Brussels, and Paris; it has a large contingent from Africa

### 1922

Egypt becomes constitutional monarchy

Mohamed Bayoumi's short film *The Civil Servant* is the first to be made by an Egyptian filmmaker

### 1923

The Devonshire Memorandum declares the interests of the natives in Uganda paramount

Third Pan-African Congress is held, in Lisbon

### 1924

Achimota College is founded in Ghana, with G.A. Stevens as its first art master

The film *The Girl of Carthage* is directed by Chikly in Tunisia

### 1925

Thomas Mofolo publishes his third novel, the critically acclaimed *Chaka the Zulu*, written in Sotho

Radio broadcasting begins in Algeria

### 1927

Kenneth Murray arrives in Nigeria at Aina Onabolu's instigation to teach art at King's College, Lagos. His art curriculum is later introduced into other major regional colleges

First Egyptian feature film, *Leila*, is directed by Istephane Rosti

Fourth Pan-African Congress is held, in New York

### 1929

Exhibition of watercolors by Albert Lubaki, from the Belgian Congo, is held at the Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, and travels to three other European venues

Aba Women's Riot, a major revolt in eastern Nigeria against colonialism

### 1930

Tshekiso Plaatsje's novel *Mhudi* is published in South Africa

### 1931

Ghanaian nationalist politician and publisher J. B. Danquah establishes *Times of West Africa*

### 1934

Aimé Césaire and Léopold Sédar Senghor found the Paris-based newspaper *L'Étudiant Noir*

### 1935

Italy invades Ethiopia

MISR Studio, Africa's first film studio, opens in Egypt

Radio broadcasting begins in Tunisia

Nnamdi Azikiwe founds *The West African Pilot*, an African nationalist newspaper in Accra and, later, Lagos

### 1936

Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie flees from invading Italian troops to Geneva, and petitions, unsuccessfully, to win the support of the League of Nations to reestablish Ethiopia's sovereignty

### 1937

Nnamdi Azikiwe publishes *Renascent Africa*, a book dedicated to the idea of African political and cultural independence

Nnamdi Azikiwe and Herbert Macaulay found the National Convention of Nigeria and Cameroon in Lagos, the first nationalist political party, with a broad national base and membership

Kenneth Murray exhibits the work of five of his students, including Ben Enwonwu, at the Zwemmer Gallery, London

The Fine Arts School is founded at Makerere College, Uganda, under the direction of Margaret Trowell

#### 1938

Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya's nationalist leader, publishes *Facing Mount Kenya: The Tribal Life of the Gikuyus*, with an introduction by Bronislaw Malinowski

#### 1939

Aimé Césaire publishes the seminal long poem "Cahier d'un retour au pays natal" (Notebook of a Return to the Native Land), which marks the genesis of the Negritude movement, led by Césaire, Léopold Sédar Senghor, and Léon Damas

Imperial Institute, London, hosts an exhibition of Margaret Trowell's students from Uganda

The interdisciplinary group Art and Freedom is established in Egypt by poet George Hunein and artist Ramses Younan Kamel al-Tilmissani, among others

Ernest Mancoba leaves South Africa and goes into exile, settling in Denmark

#### 1940

Nelson Mandela, future leader of liberated South Africa, is expelled from Fort Hare University for being involved in a student strike

African colonial conscripts join the war against Nazi Germany

#### 1944

Nelson Mandela founds African National Congress Youth League with Oliver Tambo

Italian troops are expelled from Ethiopia and Emperor Selassie returns

Winston Churchill and Theodore Roosevelt issue the Atlantic Charter, which recognizes the right of all peoples to decide what form of government they wish to have

The Group of Contemporary Art is formed around Hussein Youssef Amin in Egypt

Dramatist and satirist Hubert Ogunde stages his first play, *The Garden of Eden*

#### 1945

End of World War II. African soldiers return from Europe, North Africa, and Asia

October 15–21: Fifth Pan-African Congress, held in Manchester, England, is convened by George Padmore (Trinidad); H. Meekonen (Ethiopia); Kwame Nkrumah (Gold Coast); Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya); and Peter Abrahams (South Africa). The result is the unanimous demand for an independent Africa

July–August 37: General strike of government employees over wage demands, Nigeria

Hubert Ogunde founds the first professional theater group in Nigeria, the Ogunde Concert Party, and writes *Strike and Hunger*, set against the backdrop of the general strike of workers against the exploitative wages paid by the colonial administration in Nigeria. The theme song, *Kobo Ojumo* (A Penny a Day), known as "the song of the people," becomes a big hit

Algerian nationalist demonstrations lead to riots, resulting in numerous deaths

United Nations is formed in San Francisco

Arab League founded in Cairo issues Arab Charter, a document of pan-Arab cultural, religious, linguistic, and political solidarity

#### 1946

Trade Unions legalized in the Belgian Congo. Alliance formed between the African National Congress and the South African Indian Congress to oppose white rule

March: New constitution in Gold Coast (present-day Ghana) makes it the first British African colony with a black majority in the Legislative Council

Mouvement pour le Triomphe des Libertés Démocratiques is founded in Algeria by Messali Hadj

Rassemblement Démocratique Africain (RDA) is founded by Houphouët-Boigny (Ivory Coast) with Modibo Keita (Mali) and others

Forced labor is abolished in all French colonies. French citizenship is offered to all inhabitants of overseas territories

Léopold Sédar Senghor's *Chants d'Ombre* is published by Editions Seuil, Paris

#### 1947

T. R. Meekonen founds the *Pan-Africanist Journal* in London

New constitution allows for a black majority in the Legislative Council, Nigeria

Nationalist revolt in Madagascar against the French

United Gold Coast Convention convoked by J. B. Danquah

Kwame Nkrumah publishes *Towards Colonial Freedom*, a manual for the struggle to end colonialism

East African High Commission is formed

Alioune Diop establishes *Présence Africaine* in Paris, a publishing house and a journal promoting African culture and literature, and a major organ of the Negritude movement in the postwar period

Ben Enwonwu becomes the first Nigerian to hold the post of Federal Art Advisor

South African artist Gerard Sekoto leaves South Africa and goes into exile in France

#### 1948

February: Twenty-nine are killed in anti-British riots in Accra, Gold Coast. World War II veterans protest colonial government, and institute a boycott of European goods. These events spur on the fight for independence

Afrikaner National Party, under the leadership of Daniel F. Malan, comes to power in South Africa, and the all-white Parliament begins to legislate apartheid policies

University College Ibadan is founded in Nigeria

The highly acclaimed village of New Gurna, Egypt, is built by Egyptian modernist architect Hassan Fathy. Fathy's philosophy of combining modernist technology with low-cost traditional material is seen as a successful bridge between European and Maghrebian building traditions

Seydou Keita opens his photographic studio in Bamako

Union des Populations du Cameroun (UPC) is formed

Bloc Démocratique Sénégalais is founded by Léopold Sédar Senghor

Alan Paton publishes *Cry, The Beloved Country* about life under apartheid in South Africa

General strike in Zanzibar against colonial occupation

Camden Arts Centre, London, exhibits Nigerian art

Polly Street Art Centre is established in Johannesburg

Léopold Sédar Senghor edits the first anthology of Negritude poetry, *Anthologie de la Nouvelle Poésie Nègre et Malgache*, with an introduction by Jean-Paul Sartre

Ernest Mancoba participates in the "HØST COBRA" exhibition in Copenhagen

#### 1949

Convention People's Party (CPP) is founded in the Gold Coast by Kwame Nkrumah

Gold Coast Film School established in Accra

Makarere becomes a university college

Mixed-race marriages declared illegal in South Africa

#### 1950

South African National Party passes the following apartheid laws: Immorality Act, Population Registration Act, Suppression of Communism Act, Group Areas Act

Sierra Leone People's Party formed by Milton Margai

Aimé Césaire publishes *Discourse on Colonialism*

Kola Ogunmola, Nigerian actor, playwright, and mime, stages his Yoruba-language play *Ife Owo* (Love of Money)

#### 1951

Pressure mounts in Egypt for England to leave occupied Canal Zone

Libya becomes an independent kingdom

Gordon College is affiliated with Khartoum Technical Institute and becomes the School of Fine and Applied Arts and the center of the Khartoum School artists' movement

Poto-Poto school is founded in Brazzaville, Congo, by Pierre Lods

*Drum* magazine is founded in South Africa

Shaaban Roberts writing in Swahili emerges as East Africa's leading poet and essayist with his best-known work, *Kusadikika* (To be Believed)

#### 1952

October 20: State of emergency declared by the British in Kenya after Mau Mau (The Land and Freedom Army) rebellion. Kenyatta is arrested by Kenya's colonial government. Mau Mau guerrilla activity continues until 1959

All non-whites are forced to carry passes in South Africa. Political organizations launch a massive resistance campaign

November 8–9: South African riots suppressed by security forces

Mandela and other colleagues arrested under the Suppression of Communism Act

Kwame Nkrumah becomes prime minister of the Gold Coast

Egyptian revolution overthrows King Farouk

Amos Tutuola's *Palm Wine Drinkard* is published by Faber and Faber

Frantz Fanon's *Black Skin, White Mask* is published

## Chronology

### 1953

June 15: Over 100 Mau Mau fighters killed by British forces in Aberdere Forest, Kenya

October 20: Jomo Kenyatta and five others convicted of organizing the Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya. Kenyatta is sentenced to seven years in prison

Grand Kalle (Joseph Kabasele), known as the father of Congo music, founds Orchestre African Jazz in Léopoldville

E.T. Mensah and his band undertake their historic tour of Nigeria. The band receives enthusiastic welcome in Lagos

Mamlou Touré's short film *Mouramani* is released in Guinea

Algeria and other French colonies oppose colonial rule; FLN issues a manifesto and an armed struggle against French rule begins

Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland is formed

South African government institutes new laws against massive resistance as well as the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act, Public Safety Act, Criminal Law Amendment Act, and the Bantu Education Act

Egypt becomes a republic, with General Muhammad Nguib as president

Julius Nyerere elected President of Tanganyika African Association

France deposes the Sultan of Morocco

The Nigerian College of Arts, Science, and Technology, Zaria, is established

Camara Laye publishes *L'Enfant Noire* (The African Child)

### 1954

Television introduced in Morocco

The first public broadcast of Western Nigerian Television

Cyprian Ekwensi's *People of the City* is published

Colonel Nasser seizes power in Egypt; British troops are removed from Egypt and Nasser is elected Egypt's first president

Algerian War of Independence begins, led by the Front Libération Nationale (FLN)

Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) is formed, with Nyerere as president

Nkrumah's CPP wins general election in Gold Coast; Britain promises independence

Frank McEwen helps establish the National Gallery of Rhodesia (later the National Gallery of Zimbabwe). Thomas Mukarobgwa, employed as a gatekeeper, would later become a pioneering Zimbabwean artist

Akwapim 6 is formed in Accra by six Ghanaian artists

### 1955

June 26: Freedom Charter, a non-racial document for a democratic South Africa, is adopted by anti-apartheid Congress Alliance (African National Congress, Indian National Congress, The Communist Party), South Africa

Sudan gains independence from Britain

Television introduced in western Nigeria

*Odu: A Journal of Yoruba and Related Studies* is founded at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, by Saburi Biobaku and Ulli Beier

### 1956

Various representatives of African nationalist parties attend the Bandung Conference in Indonesia

State of emergency is declared throughout Algeria; Moroccan Army of Liberation attacks French posts in West Algeria

UPC banned in Cameroon

Cameroonian author Mongo Beti publishes critical novel *The Poor Christ of Bomba*

Ousmane Sembène publishes his first novel, *Le Docker Noir* (The Black Docker)

King Mohammed of Morocco is restored to throne by the French

Sudan becomes an independent republic

Oil is discovered in southern Nigeria

Morocco and Tunisia become independent

President Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalizes the Suez Canal, leading to international crisis. British and French invasion of Egypt fails to make Nasser a hero in the Arab and African independence struggle

Dedan Kimanathi, leader of the Mau Mau (Land and Freedom Army), is hanged in prison

African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) are founded

Treason trial against opponents of apartheid begins in South Africa, and lasts until 1961

### 1961

Congrès des Artistes et Ecrivains Noirs is organized by Alioune Diop and Aimé Césaire, and held in Paris at the Sorbonne. Delegates include Frantz Fanon, Léopold Sédar Senghor, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Ben Enwonwu, and Cheik Anta Diop

### 1957

March 6: Gold Coast becomes independent Ghana, the first independent black state in Africa, under Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah. E.T. Mensah's song *Ghana Freedom* is special song of the night

Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference is held in Cairo

Tunisia becomes a republic

Union des Travailleurs d'Afrique Noir founded by Sékou Touré in Guinea

*Black Orpheus*, a journal for African arts and literature, is founded by Ulli Beier in Ibadan, Nigeria

In an effort to affirm cultural continuity with the past, Ghanaian poet Kofi Awoonor begins to translate into English traditional African oral art forms, which he would draw from and recast in his own poetry and fiction

Paulin Soumanou Vieryra's and Mamadou Sarr's film *Afrique sur Seine* (Africa on the Seine), on African students' life in Paris, is the first film made by a black African in Europe

### 1958

Sékou Touré in a historical confrontation with General de Gaulle in Conakry demands outright independence for Guinea

Egypt and Syria formally merge to form United Arab Republic with Nasser as president

All-African People's Conference is convened by Kwame Nkrumah in Accra

South Africa officially gains independence from Great Britain

Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* is published

Egyptian director Youssef Chahine's film *Cairo Station* is released

French military raids Tunisia

General de Gaulle advocates a federation called the French Community with internal autonomy for French overseas territories; announces independence of French Africa at Brazzaville

October 2: Guinea becomes independent with Sékou Touré; all other French African territories remain within the French Community

Zaria Art Society (later known as the "Zaria Rebels") is inaugurated at the Nigerian College of Arts, Science, and Technology, Zaria, by Demas Nwoko, Bruce Onobrakpeya, S. Irene Wangboje, Yusuf Grillo, William Olaesebikan, Simon Okeke, and Uche Okeke. Okeke founds the Cultural Center, Kafanchan (later renamed Asele Institute). The Institute is moved to Nimo at the outbreak of the Civil War

### 1959

Fifty are killed, three hundred wounded in anti-colonial demonstrations in Léopoldville (now Kinshasa), Belgian Congo, organized by the Alliance des Ba-Kongo (ABAKO)

Sanique meeting is held between Presidents Nkrumah, Tubman, and Touré to plan the union of free African states and the establishment of the Monrovia Group, a move toward founding an African Community

Riots in the Belgian Congo

United Nations condemns apartheid

Senegal and Western Sudan (now Mali) demand independence and bring about the end of the French Community

Second Congrès des Artistes et Ecrivains Noirs, held in Rome

Lionel Rogosin's *Come Back Africa*, a film examining the pass laws for blacks in South Africa, is released

### 1960

At the Brussels Round Table Conference in January Belgium agrees to the independence of the Belgian Congo as of June 30

Seventeen African countries gain independence (Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Belgian Congo, French Congo, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta (Burkina Faso), Cameroon, Somalia, Dahomey (Benin), Mauritania, Madagascar, Niger, Chad, Togo, Gabon, and the Central African Republic. The United Nations declares 1960 as the Year of Africa

Pan-African Congress organizes demonstration in Sharpeville; South African police kill sixty-seven National Anti-Pass Law Campaign demonstrators in what becomes known as the Sharpeville Massacre. The PAC and the ANC are banned

South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) is formed, with Sam Nujoma as president

Army mutiny in newly independent Congo; Katanga province secedes as an independent nation from former Belgian Congo, under Moïse Tshombe; UN troops deployed in Katanga to end secession from newly independent Congo. Unrest continues as another revolt against Congo's central government in Kasai province breaks out

September 14: Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba is overthrown by Colonel Joseph-Désiré Mobutu in the former Belgian Congo

Ulli Beier organizes the independence exhibition in Lagos, where the works of key members of the Zaria Society are shown

E.C. Arinze and his Music Band records *Freedom Highlife* to commemorate Nigerian independence Grand Kalle (Joseph Kabasele) composes *Independence Cha Cha*, the popular theme song of Congolese independence

Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka writes *A Dance of the Forests* and forms the theater group 1960 Masks (later renamed Orisun Players) to perform it

D.T. Niane publishes *Soundjata ou l'Epopée Mandingue*, a French translation of the Soundjata epic

Chief Albert Lutuli, former African National Congress President, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

Harold Macmillan delivers "Winds of Change" speech in Cape Town and commences his "Winds of Change" tour around British Colonial Africa in anticipation of independence

African heads of state meet in Monrovia to discuss the formation of an African Community

Insurrection by French population in Algeria against de Gaulle's government

## 1961

Patrice Lumumba, Congolese prime minister, is murdered while in detention in Katanga

Angolan independence struggle against Portugal is begun with an attack on a Luanda prison

Chinua Achebe's *No Longer at Ease* is published

New Congo Federation is declared by President Kasavubu and Prime Minister Iléo

Resistance struggle against Portugal begins under UNITA in northern Angola

Kwame Nkrumah publishes *I Speak Freedom: A Statement of African Ideology*

South Africa becomes a republic and, under apartheid, withdraws from the Commonwealth of Nations

July Mbari Club is founded in Ibadan by a group of young writers and artists, including Wole Soyinka, John Pepper Clark, Christopher Okigbo, Demas Nwoko, Uche Okeke, and Ulli Beier. Ezekiel Mphahlele, a South African, is its first president. Mbari also establishes a publishing house that issues first editions of many of the writers' and dramatists' early works, and exhibits the work of many modern African artists, such as Ibrahim el El-Salahi (Sudan), Malangatana Ngwenya (Mozambique), Skunder Boghossian (Ethiopia), Vincent Kofi (Ghana), Jacob Lawrence (USA), Susanne Wenger (Austria), among many others

Kenyatta is released from prison by British colonial authorities

Tanganyika and Sierra Leone become independent states. Members of the Commonwealth UN forces attempt, unsuccessfully, to capture the capital of secessionist Katanga

Million-acre scheme instituted in Kenya, whereby the government buys land from settlers and redistributes it to Africans in Kenya

Frantz Fanon's influential *The Wretched of the Earth* is published, in which he examines the psychological and material costs of colonization in Algeria

Armed forces announce that they have taken control of Algeria; OAS terrorism begins; Algerian peace talks begin in Switzerland

South Africa's Athol Fugard publishes *The Blood Knot*

Mandela forms and becomes commander-in-chief of Umkhonto we Sizwe—Spear of the Nation—an organization to lead the ANC's armed struggle

Cecil Skotnes, Sidney Kumalo, Giuseppe Cattaneo, and others form the Amadlozi Group in South Africa

Frantz Fanon dies of cancer at the age of thirty-six in Washington, D.C.

Rajat Neogy founds *Transition: An International Review* in Kampala

## 1962

Uganda becomes an independent state and a member of the Commonwealth

Fela Ransome Kuti and a group of West African musicians form the Koola Lobitos in London

Rwanda and Burundi become independent

Kenya Constitutional Conference in London

Christopher Okigbo's *Labyrinths* is published

Algeria wins independence after eight years of fighting; over 900,000 French settlers leave

First African government is formed in Northern Rhodesia

Frelimo headquarters are set up in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika

Mbari Mbayo Club in Oshogbo, Nigeria, is opened with a performance of dramatist Duro Ladipo's first play, *Oba Moro*. Many artists, including American painter Jacob Lawrence, Georgina Beier, Dennis Williams, conduct workshops there

First International Congress of African Culture, organized by Frank McEwen, is held in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Harare, Zimbabwe). It seeks to address the contemporary aesthetics of African art and music. Among the participating artists are Vincent Kofi, Ben Enwonwu, and Malangatana Ngwenya. Alfred Barr, William Fass, S.O. Biobaku, Roland Penrose, and Tristan Tzara attend

Art from the Commonwealth is exhibited at the Commonwealth Institute, London

Historic and controversial Conference of African Literature in English language is held at Makerere University, Kampala, to debate the state of post-colonial African literature. Those who attend include Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, Ezekiel Mphahlele, Lewis Nkosi, James Ngugi, Rajat Neogy. Several nationalist writers fail to acknowledge any literature written in non-African languages as being African

## 1963

Ousmane Sembène's first film, *Borom Sarret*, is released, winning first prize at the International Film Festival in Tours, France

UN troops capture Katanga. Moïse Tshombe goes into exile

Heads of thirty African states sign Charter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa, creating the first inter-governmental African organizing body

Jomo Kenyatta becomes prime minister of Kenya after the country gains its independence from Britain

Nigeria and Uganda become republics and members of the Commonwealth

Egypt and Syria merge to become United Arab Republic, a short-lived experiment in pan-Arab unity, with Gamal Abdel Nasser as president

Central African Federation of Nyasaland, Southern and Northern Rhodesia is dissolved

Dennis Brutus, prominent South African poet, publishes *Sirens Knuckles Boots*

Josiah Kariuki publishes the autobiographical work *Mau Mau Detainee*

Zanzibar becomes independent

Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Ahmed Kathrada and other prominent liberation leaders are tried for conspiracy and sabotage at the Rivonia trial. All are found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment. Mandela addresses court from the dock and refuses to renounce violence as self-defense in the fight against apartheid

Conference on the Curriculum of Higher Education held at Fourah Bay College, Freetown. Obi Wali continues to question the state of postcolonial literature and calls for the decolonization of African literature

## 1964

Kwame Nkrumah publishes *Consciencism: Philosophy and Ideology for Decolonization and Development with Particular Reference to the African Revolution*

UN forces leave the Congo

Kenya becomes a republic, with Jomo Kenyatta as its first president

Nyasaland becomes independent as Malawi, with Hastings Banda as prime minister. Northern Rhodesia becomes independent as Zambia, under Kenneth Kaunda

Frelimo begins armed struggle against the Portuguese in Mozambique

Revolution in Zanzibar; Sultan overthrown and Karume becomes President. Tanganyika is united with Zanzibar to form Tanzania

Ama Ata Aidoo's *The Dilemma of a Ghost* is published

The three books in Duro Ladipo's trilogy on the history of the Kingdom of Oyo, *Oba Koso* (The King did not Hang), *Oba Moro* (The King of Ghosts), and *Oba Waja* (The King is Dead), are published to critical acclaim. Ladipo and his theater make a successful appearance at the Berlin Festival with his Yoruba Operas *Oba Koso* and *Eda*; the group tours other European cities, including Brussels

## Chronology

### 1965

General strike and demonstrations force resignation of President Youlou of the Congo Republic

General Mobutu comes to power in the Congo by ousting President Kasavubu in a second military coup

Organisation Commune Africaine et Malagache (OCAM) is formed at conference of French-speaking heads of state

One-party state is adopted in Tanzania

Wole Soyinka's first novel, *The Interpreters*, is published

Fela Ransome Kuti returns to Nigeria and begins his experiments with a new, postcolonial sound, which he calls Afrobeat

Ian Smith declares Unilateral Independence for whites-only Southern Rhodesia to stop the movement toward majority rule

Commonwealth Arts Festival, London, features performances of plays written by Wole Soyinka, Duro Ladipo, and J.P. Clark

Papa Ibra Tall establishes the Manufacture Nationale du Tapisserie in Theis, Senegal

### 1966

Nigeria's first military coup d'état ousts elected civilian government. Prime Minister Abubakar Tafawa Balewa and Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto, are assassinated, leading to a Nigerian crisis that culminates in civil war

While on a state visit to Romania, President Nkrumah is overthrown by a military coup, bringing an end to the first historic pan-African government in the independence era

New Nigerian constitution replaces federation with unitary state. Twenty-nine die in inter-ethnic conflict between Hausas and Ibos in northern Nigeria

Second military coup in Nigeria by northern officers. Head of military government Major-General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi is assassinated and succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Yakuba Gowon

Gambia, Botswana, and Lesotho gain independence

Commonwealth Conference in Lagos

Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* is translated into Swahili by Julius Nyerere, President of Tanzania, during the same period that poet Jean Joseph Rabearivelo begins to use vernacular ballad forms of Madagascar rather than French-inspired forms

First novel by a Nigerian woman is published, Flora Nwapa's *Efuru*

First Festival Mondial des Arts Nègres, is held in Dakar, Senegal, under the patronage of President Senghor

Journées Cinématographiques du Carthage, the first major pan-African film festival, is launched by the Tunisian Ministry of Culture at the urging of Tahar Cheriaa

Gillo Pontecorvo's film *La Battaglia di Algeri* (The Battle of Algiers), which is about the Algerian War of Liberation, is released

*African Arts* magazine founded by John Povey at the University of California, Los Angeles

Ama Ata Aidoo's *Dilemma of the Ghost* is published

### 1967

Conference at Aburi, Ghana, fails to prevent secession of Biafra from Nigeria

Biafra, under Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu, declares independence from Nigeria. Federal troops attack on July 6. A three-year civil war ensues

New Ugandan Constitution abolishes traditional kingdoms. Kabaka of Buganda is restricted to internal exile, creating constitutional crisis

Tanzania's President Nyerere proclaims the "Arusha Declaration," calling for a policy of self-reliance and the dedication of Dodoma as the new capital of Tanzania

Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda form the East African Community

Six-day war between Egypt and Israel ends in Egyptian defeat, a blow to Nasser's pan-Arabism

### 1968

President Modibo Keita, first president of independent Mali, is replaced by National Liberation Committee following a coup led by Lieutenant Moussa Traoré

James Ngugi (later Ngugi wa Thiong'o), Henry Owuor-Anyumba, and Taban Lo Liongo publish a statement demanding that the English Department at the University of Nairobi be abolished and a Department of African Literature and Languages take its place

Ousmane Sembène's first color feature film, *Mandabi* (The Money Order), is released

Mauritius and Swaziland gain independence

Leading Nigerian poet Christopher Okigbo is killed in conflict during the civil war in Nigeria

Equatorial Guinea gains independence from Spain

### 1969

The Pan-African Film Festival in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (FESPACO), is inaugurated

Charismatic and beloved African nationalist leader of independence and Kenyan Minister for Economic Planning and Development, Tom Mboya, is assassinated in Nairobi

Restoration of civil rule in Ghana; general election establishes Kofi Busia as prime minister

Popular Revolutionary Movement (MNR) is declared sole legal party in the Republic of Congo

Athol Fugard's *Boesman and Lena* is published

King Idris is deposed by a military coup in Libya; Colonel Gaddafi comes to power

First Festival Culturel Panafricain is held in Algiers

President Gamal Abdel Nasser resigns from office, relinquishes all official political titles and functions, and withdraws from public life. He is succeeded by Anwar Sadat

The Ghanaian government of President Busia expels Nigerian residents; tens of thousands are displaced

### 1970

End of civil war in Nigeria, which claimed more than one and half million lives. The surrender of Biafra President Obote's "Common Man's Charter" is introduced in Uganda

President Nasser dies in Cairo; thousands attend his funeral

President Mobutu begins "Authenticité" campaign, changes his name from Joseph-Désiré to Mobutu Sese-Seko, renames the Congo Zaïre, and orders the removal from public view of all symbols of colonial rule, including the bronze monument of Belgian King Leopold II in the center of Kinshasa

Fédération Panafricaine des Cinéastes (FEPACI) is formed in Algiers

Burkina Faso nationalizes film distribution and production, creating SONAVICI

### 1971

Idi Amin deposes President Milton Obote of Uganda, in a military coup, beginning one of the most repressive regimes in Africa

Central African Republic recognizes South Africa; receives economic aid

Declaration of Mogadishu issued by eastern and central African states announcing their intention to continue armed struggle to liberate South Africa

African National Council formed in Rhodesia by Bishop Abel Muzorewa

### 1972

Kwame Nkrumah dies in exile in Guinea

Wole Soyinka publishes *The Man Died*, his prison memoirs

Hutu guerrillas in Burundi kill over 10,000 Tutsis in an attempted coup

Tanzania and Uganda sign peace treaty

Safi Faye makes her first, short film, *The Passerby*, as the first black African woman to direct a feature film

Chad and Nigeria sign treaty of cooperation and mutual assistance

Asians expelled from Uganda by General Amin

Pearce Commission in Rhodesia reports that the African population says "no" to settlement proposals

### 1973

Mali and Nigeria sign treaty of cooperation and mutual assistance

Zambia-Rhodesia border closed by President Kaunda

Massive strikes by black mine workers in South Africa

First All-African Games held in Lagos

Djibril Diop Mambety's seminal film *Touki Bouki* is released in Senegal

Youssef Chahine's *Sparrow* is released

Ethiopian director Haile Gerima's *Harvest 3000* is released

Prime Minister Ian Smith of Rhodesia begins talks with African nationalists in an attempt to reach an internal settlement

### 1974

Emperor Haile Selassie is overthrown by a military coup ending the rule of the world's longest royal dynasty

Sixth Pan-African Congress held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, with representatives from various liberation movements, including the ANC, South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), and Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO)

**1975**

Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Angola gain independence from Portugal

General Yakuba Gowon is overthrown in Nigeria's third, bloodless military coup, to be replaced by Brigadier Murtala Ramat Muhammed

Dahomey is renamed People's Republic of Benin  
Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia dies in detention; his body is secretly buried by a military junta  
Lomé Agreement signed between the EEC and thirty-seven African states

Great year for African cinema: Ousmane Sembène releases his influential film *Xala*; Lakhdar Hamina's film *Chronique des années de braise* is awarded the Palme d'or at the Cannes Film Festival

Economic Community of West African States is founded; Treaty signed by fifteen states

Tanzam Railway is opened between Zambia and Tanzania

Four "front-line" presidents at Quilemane pledge support for the Zimbabwe National Liberation Army  
South African troops invade Angola in support of UNITA forces

**1976**

Nigerian head of state, General Murtala Muhammed, is assassinated in unsuccessful coup d'état and succeeded by Lieutenant General Olusegun Obasanjo

Israeli Commandos raid Entebbe Airport in Kampala and successfully rescue Israeli hostages held by Palestinian Liberation Organization guerrillas

Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia sign an agreement on regional defense cooperation

Soweto uprising begins in South Africa; Hector Peterson, aged eleven, becomes first student killed  
South Africa declares Transkei, one of the Bantustans created by the apartheid regime to enforce further black segregation from the white population, independent

Safi Faye directs her first full-length feature film, *A Letter from My Village*

Institut Africain d'éducation cinématographique (INAFEC) is set up in Burkina Faso to train filmmakers

**1977**

Steve Biko, founder and leader of Black Consciousness Movement, dies in police custody

UN imposes embargo on arms trade with South Africa

Djibouti becomes independent state; final withdrawal of the French from African territory

Central African Empire proclaimed by Jean Bedel Bokassa, who crowns himself emperor

Assembly meets in Nigeria in preparation for return to civilian government

Second World Black Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC), the largest cultural event ever on the African continent, is held in Lagos, with over 17,000 participants from over fifty countries

**1978**

South African Black Consciousness Movement's Azanian People's Organization (AZAPO) is formed

South African forces attack South West African People's Organization refugee camp in Angola

Jomo Kenyatta, statesman, nationalist, independence and anticolonial leader, pan-Africanist, and Kenya's first president, dies in Mombasa

Transitional government under Bishop Abel Muzorewa is formed in Rhodesia

Anwar Sadat of Egypt signs the historic Camp David Peace Treaty in Washington, D.C., with Israel's Menachem Begin, and becomes first Arab leader to visit Jerusalem

Malian film director Souleyman Cissé makes *Baara*  
Ivorian sculptor Christian Lattier dies in Abidjan

**1979**

Tanzanian and Ugandan exiles, as part of Ugandan Liberation Front, invade Uganda to overthrow Idi Amin, who flees from the country after the fall of Kampala

Ethiopia and Kenya sign cooperation treaty

Souleyman Cissé is arrested by the Malian government for making the film *Den Moussa*

Civilian rule is restored in Ghana after Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings attempts, for several months, to seize power in his first attempted military coup

Elections and return of civilian rule in Nigeria and the inauguration of second republic

Emperor Bokassa is overthrown and Central African Republic is established

Consortium Inter-Africain de Distribution Cinématographique (CIDC) is formed to create a common market for cinema in Francophone Africa

**1980**

Ceasefire in Rhodesia ends civil war; Robert Mugabe's ZANU wins fifty-seven of eighty contested seats in the Rhodesian election. Rhodesia gains independence from Britain, becoming Zimbabwe

Reggae star Bob Marley performs at the independence inauguration of Zimbabwe

President Senghor of Senegal resigns from office. Vice President Abdou Diouf succeeds him

Federated Union of Black Artists (FUBA) Academy is founded in Johannesburg

**1981**

Kenya and Somalia sign cooperation and border agreement

Jerry Rawlings seizes power in Ghana, in his second military coup, remaining president of the country until 2000

OAU demands the withdrawal of Libyan troops from Chad

President Kaunda of Zambia meets South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha on the border of Botswana and South Africa

Kenya officially becomes a one-party state

Libyan jets are shot down by United States aircraft  
South African troops advance into southern Angola to fight against SWAPO guerrillas

President Anwar Sadat of Egypt is assassinated in Cairo by an Islamic fundamentalist

**1982**

FEPACI meets in Niamey (Niger) and issues the Niamey Manifesto

Split in South Africa's National Party occurs following opposition to Prime Minister P.W. Botha's proposals for constitutional change

South Africa raids ANC bases in Mozambique

**1983**

Souleyman Cissé's *Finye* wins the Grand Prix at FESPACO in Ouagadougou

Centre International des Civilisations Bantu (CICIBA) is established in Libreville, Gabon

South African antiapartheid organization United Democratic Front is launched in Cape Town

Nigerian civilian government of President Shehu Shagari is overthrown in fourth coup led by Major-General Muhammadu Buhari

New Constitutional Bill in South Africa

Captain Sankara seizes power in Upper Volta to initiate radical reforms in the country, which is renamed Burkina Faso

Discussions begin over the future of Namibia between South Africa and the United Nations

**1984**

Mozambique and South Africa sign Nkomati Accord, a mutual non-aggression pact

President Sékou Touré, Guinea, dies. Military Committee for National Recovery, under the leadership of Colonel Lansan Conté and Colonel Diarra Traoré, seizes power

Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, and Togo sign cooperation agreement

First Cairo International Biennale

P.W. Botha becomes President of South Africa

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is awarded Nobel Peace Prize

Lomé III Treaty is signed to order trade relations between European Community and African States

"A Hundred Years after the Berlin Conference: Perspectives on Africa's Liberation" is held at Makerere University

**1985**

December 25: Six-day war between Mali and Algeria over disputed Agacher strip

State of emergency is declared by South Africa's apartheid government. The Congress of Trade Unions (COSATU) is launched in response. South African troops withdraw from Angola

Transitional government is set up in Namibia

President Nyerere resigns from office in Tanzania

The government of Israel conducts an airlift of Ethiopian Falasha Jews to Israel

First Biennale of Contemporary Bantu Art, Libreville, Gabon

A seminal exhibition opens in Johannesburg, "Tributaries: A View of Contemporary South African Art," curated by Ricky Burnett, which brings together for the first time the work of both mainstream and rural African artists

## Chronology

### 1985-87

Ousmane Sembène (Senegal), Souleyman Cissé (Mali), and other African filmmakers found the West African Film Corporation (WAFCO) as an inter-African film body instrumental in cultural advancement and preservation

First People's Parks created in Soweto, South Africa

### 1986

Military leader General Babangida announces civilian rule shall be restored in Nigeria in October 1990

Popular Nigerian journalist and editor Dele Giwa, who is critical of Babangida's government, is murdered by a letter bomb

Pass Laws—which have, for more than two decades, required black South Africans to carry official cards, without which they could not move freely in cities—are abolished

Bishop Desmond Tutu is awarded Martin Luther King Jr. Non-Violent Peace Prize for antiapartheid activity

Yoweri Museveni is inaugurated president of Uganda following the capture of Kampala by National Resistance Army

Edward Perkins is appointed first black American ambassador to South Africa

US military forces bomb Tripoli, capital of Libya; Gaddafi escapes injury

Referendum in Central African Republic approves establishment of one-party state

Nigerian writer Wole Soyinka is awarded the 1986 Nobel Prize for Literature

South African backed coup in Lesotho; South African raids into Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana

Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, holds exhibition entitled "From Two Worlds," which includes the works of Sokari Douglas Camp, Gavin Jantjes, and other African artists

Widespread boycotts and violence lead to declaration of state of emergency in South Africa; hundreds killed by government forces, over 8,000 detained. United States implements trade sanctions and disinvestment by US companies begins

President Samora Machel of Mozambique is killed in plane crash and is succeeded by Joaquim Chissano

### 1987

Ugandan government forces kill 350 Uganda People's Front opponents in Battle of Corner Kilak  
Nigerian military government postpones restoration of civilian rule from 1990 to 1992

Award-winning Zimbabwean writer Dambudzo Marechera dies in Harare

Conservative Party becomes official opposition after whites-only elections in South Africa

Souleyman Cissé's *Yeleen* wins the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival

Meeting in Dakar between ANC leaders and dissident white Afrikaners

Army coup in South African Bantustan of Transkei

Military coup in Burkina Faso; President Thomas Sankara is assassinated

Conference in Amsterdam to form Culture in Another South Africa (CASA); sponsored by the ANC and the Dutch Anti-Apartheid Movement, and is occasion for more than 300 South African artists to meet and discuss the future of a multiracial South Africa

### 1988

Egyptian novelist and writer Nabuib Mahfouz is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, becoming the first African writer and winner with Arabic as native tongue

Barbican Art Gallery, London, shows contemporary stone sculpture from Zimbabwe

Nigerian photographer Rotimi Fani-Kayode dies of AIDS in London

Talks in London, New York, Geneva, and Brazzaville lead to agreement of Cuban withdrawal from Angola and independence for Namibia

Strikes in South Africa against government anti-strike laws

Cuban and South African troops withdraw from Angola

Civil War begins in Somalia

Ousmane Sembène's *Camp de Thiaroye* is refused entry at Cannes Film Festival

Férid Boughedir directs *Camera Arabe*, a major documentary on Arab cinema

President Botha meets President Chissano of Mozambique, agreeing to end South African aid to rebels in Mozambique

### 1989

Ban on political activity lifted in Nigeria; two government-sponsored political parties—the Social Democratic Party and the National Republican Convention—are formed in Nigeria

Arab Maghreb Union common market set up by Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania

"The Other Story: Afro-Asian Artists in Post-War Britain," curated by Rasheed Araeen, is shown at the Hayward Gallery, London

Idriss Ouedraogo's acclaimed film *Yaaba* is released

President F.W. de Klerk conducts secret talks with Nelson Mandela, who remains imprisoned  
P.W. Botha resigns and is succeeded by F.W. de Klerk; after elections de Klerk announces program to reform the apartheid system

Walter Sisulu of the ANC is released from South African prison

"Magiciens de la Terre" is held at the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

### 1990

President F.W. de Klerk lifts ban on over sixty opposition organizations in South Africa, including ANC, Pan-Africanist Congress, and the Communist Party

Mandela is released from prison after twenty-seven years in jail

Negotiations between ANC and the South African government threatened by police killing of eleven black demonstrators in Sebokeng

Mandela heads ANC delegation to begin formal talks with the South African government

The ruling Parti Congolais du Travail (PTC) abandons Marxism, Leninism and monopoly of power  
ECOWAS peacekeeping force (Ghana, Guinea, Gambia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone) of 4,000 men is deployed to Liberia

South West Africa People's Organization candidates win forty-one of seventy-two seats in pre-independence Constituent Assembly

South West Africa becomes independent Namibia. South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) wins majority of votes in parliament; Sam Nujoma, its president, becomes president of Namibia

Idriss Ouedraogo's film *Tilai* wins the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival

Férid Boughedir's film *Halfouine* is released

Studio Museum's "Contemporary African Artists: Changing Tradition" opens in New York. Work of African artists, except those from Egypt and South Africa, is shown at the Venice Biennale

### 1991

Over 200 are killed in rioting between Christians and Muslims in northern Nigeria

Ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) abandons Marxist-Leninist platform for socialist democracy

Estoril Accord ends sixteen-year civil war between Angolan government and UNITA rebels

Repeal of Land and Group Areas Act marks official and legal end of apartheid in South Africa

Oliver Tambo is succeeded as president of ANC by Nelson Mandela

Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD) forms opposition groupings. Kenya Opposition Democratic Party is formed in Kenya by former minister, Mwai Kibaki. General strike in Kenya is called by Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD), demanding release of political prisoners and multiparty elections

ANC announces end of thirty-year struggle against apartheid regime in South Africa

Convention on a Democratic South Africa (CODESCA) representing nineteen parties begins meeting in Johannesburg

Apartheid is abolished; South Africa prepares for multiracial elections.

South African writer Nadine Gordimer is awarded Nobel Prize for Literature

Susan Vogel curates "Africa Explores: 20th Century African Art" at the Center for African Art, New York

"Africa Hoy," curated by André Magnin opens at the Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria; it is mounted at other venues under the title "Africa Now" and, at the Saatchi Gallery, London, as "Out of Africa"

Nigerian writer Ben Okri's *The Famished Road* wins the Booker Prize for Literature

*Revue Noire*, a magazine of contemporary African art, is published in Paris by Jean Loup Pivin, with Simon Njami as editor

### 1992

Boutros Boutros-Ghali becomes first African Secretary General of the UN



Two-day general strike in Lagos against rule of President Babangida

ANC begins "mass action" campaign to remove F.W. de Klerk from power

Forty people are killed in South African township Boipatong by Inkatha Freedom Party supporters

National Assembly elections, Nigeria, won by government-sponsored Social Democratic Party against government-sponsored National Republic Convention

Four million black workers support two-day general strike against white government called by Congress of South African Trade Unions

President Eduardo dos Santos is reelected in Angola

Kenyan opposition party Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD) splits into FORD-Asili and FORD-Kenya

Constitutional Amendment Act, entry of black South Africans to cabinet

1,000 killed in fighting between MPLA government and opposition UNITA forces, Angola, after disputed election results

Jerry Rawlings elected president of Ghana; Rioting by opposition

President Daniel arap Moi returns to office in first multiparty election, Kenya

DAK'ART, the Dakar Biennale, is founded as major exposition of contemporary international art

First Egyptian International Print Triennale, Cairo

*The Eye: A Journal of Contemporary Art* is published in Zaria, Nigeria, by the Eye Society

Mo Edoga's and Ousmane Sow's participation in *documenta IX*, Kassel, marks the first African presence there

### 1993

Eritrea, a former region of Ethiopia, becomes an independent state

Democratic election results are annulled by the military dictatorship in Nigeria. Nigerian Transitional Council under Ernest Shonekan sworn in instead

Kenyan opposition parties Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD), FORD-Asili, FORD-Kenya, and the Democratic Party forms a united front

High Council of Republic of Zaïre declares Mobutu guilty of treason for dissolving cabinet

South African artist Gerard Sekoto dies in exile in Paris

Second International Symposium on Nigerian Art, Lagos

The Museum for African Art, New York, presents five African artists at the Venice Biennale

Haile Gerima's *Sankofa* is released

First black members of South African cabinet appointed, by F.W. de Klerk

Chris Hani, South African Communist Party leader and ANC executive member, is assassinated

Election for civilian president in Nigeria is won by Chief Moshood Abiola of Social Democratic Party. Nigerian military government announces presidential elections to be invalid. Demonstrations in Lagos demanding end of military rule. Nigerian

military leader, Major-General Ibrahim Babangida, relinquishes power to interim president, Ernest Shonekan

Nineteen die and twenty-two are wounded in shooting at Wadeville industrial area, Johannesburg.

Thirty-one are killed in "Day of Terror" as South African Parliament begins discussing establishment of a Transitional Council

Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk are awarded Nobel Peace Prize

Nigerian interim president, Ernest Shonekan, is replaced by General Sani Abacha. Banning of political parties, restoration of civilian rule delayed until August 1993

### 1994

At least 500,000 Tutsi civilians are massacred by Hutu vigilantes in Rwanda

500 Nigerian troops occupy Diamond Island and Djabane, Cameroonian islands in the Gulf of Guinea

Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army offers to surrender for resettlement aid

Ghanaian diplomat Kofi Annan replaces Boutros-Ghali as UN Secretary General

Nigerian artist Ben Enwonwu dies in Lagos

*Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art* is founded by Okwui Enwezor in New York

Kunle Tejuosho publishes *Glendora Review: African Quarterly on the Arts* in Lagos, Nigeria

*Forces of Change: Artists of the Arab World*, a major show of Arab women artists opens at The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.

Pan-African Congress announces end of armed struggle in South Africa

Oginga Odinga Kenyan Nationalist leader dies

1,000 people die, 150,000 are displaced in a week of clashes in northern Ghana between Konkomba and Namumba ethnic groups

President Mangope is forced to resign in South African "homeland" of Bophuthatswana

First multiracial elections in South Africa end 350 years of white domination

Mandela is inaugurated as president of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki as first deputy-president, marking the first institution of black majority rule in South Africa. First multiracial cabinet is appointed

Moshod Abiola, winner of 1993 Nigerian presidential elections, is arrested for treason after calling for an uprising

Peace accord signed between MPLA in Angola and UNITA forces

November 17: Bomb explodes at Lagos International Airport

"1ères Rencontres de la Photographie Africaine" in Baunako, Mali

### 1995

US lobbying organization TransAfrica condemns Nigerian military regime for its infringement of human rights

Truth and Reconciliation Commission established to investigate apartheid atrocities, with Bishop Desmond Tutu and Alex Borraïne chairmen

ANC candidates win more than two-thirds of the votes in local elections in South Africa

First Africus Johannesburg Biennale held in Johannesburg

Africa '95, a festival of art in England. Major accompanying shows include, "Seven Stories about Modern Art in Africa," Whitechapel Art Gallery, London; "Self Evident," Ikon Gallery, Birmingham; and "Africa: The Art of a Continent," Royal Academy of Arts, London

Ghanaian sculptor El Anatsui wins the Kansai Telecasting Prize at the Osaka Triennale

Nigerian-born artist and photographer Iké Udé founds the international magazine *aRUDE* in New York

### 1996

South African Supreme Court orders the predominantly white Potgietersrus Primary School to admit black pupils in a landmark post-apartheid ruling

Lord's Resistance Army guerrillas kill over 200 people in attacks in northern Uganda

First Nigerian president and independence leader, Nnamdi Benjamin Azikwe, dies at age ninety-two

"In/sight: African Photography, 1940 to the Present" is held at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

Isaac Julien's *Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Masks* is released and broadcast on BBC in London

Cameroonian novelist Calixte Beyala wins the Grand Prix du Roman award in France with her novel *Les Honneurs Perdus*. She is the first black person to win the prize

White National Party withdraws from South African Government of National Unity with the ANC

Kudirat Olayinka Abiola, wife of imprisoned victor in 1993 Nigerian presidential elections, Chief Moshood Abiola, is murdered in Lagos

President Mandela signs sweeping and liberal new South Africa Constitution in Sharpeville

Writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and the "Ogoni Nine" are hanged by the military dictatorship in Nigeria

Ouattara (Ivory Coast) and Magdalene Odundo (Kenya) are included in Marilyn Stokstad's *Art History*, marking the first occasion on which the work of contemporary African artists is included in a major survey of world art

### 1997

Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of 1993 democratic elections in Nigeria, dies in detention after more than three years in captivity

Acclaimed Nigerian musician, composer, and political activist Fela Anikulapo Kuti dies of AIDS in Lagos. Tens of thousands attend his funeral in Lagos

Senegalese film director Djibril Diop Mambety dies in Senegal

Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel wed  
Second Johannesburg Biennale is held in Johannesburg and Cape Town

Fifteenth FESPACO film festival attracts some 400,000 visitors

William Kentridge (South Africa), Abderrahmane Sissako (Mauritania), and Oladélé Ajiboyé Bamgboyé (Nigeria) exhibit at *documenta X* in Kassel

Mobutu Sese Seko is overthrown by the rebel forces of Laurent Kabila, fleeing from Zaire after more than three decades in government. Laurent Kabila assumes power and changes the name of the country to the Democratic Republic of Congo

#### 1998

Okwui Enwezor is appointed artistic director of *documenta XI*

Fifth Dakar Biennale is held

Nigerian artist Chris Ofili wins England's premier art award, the Turner Prize

Nigerian dictator General Sani Abacha dies in office of apparent heart attack; a new transitional government begins the process of restoring democracy and civilian rule

#### 1999

After sixteen years of military rule, Nigeria returns to civilian rule. Olusegun Obasanjo wins general elections and becomes president of the fourth republic

Bodys Isek Kingelez, Kendell Geers, and William Kentridge exhibit their work at the Carnegie International in Pittsburgh. Kentridge wins the prestigious Carnegie International Prize

Peace Treaty is signed in Lome, Togo, officially bringing to an end the civil war in Sierra Leone

King Hassan of Morocco dies

Ghada Amer wins the UNESCO Prize at the Forty-Eighth Venice Biennale; Georges Adéagbo receives an honorable mention

#### 2000

A three-day seventieth birthday *Festschrift* for Chinua Achebe at Bard College. He is honored by three Nobel laureates—Wole Soyinka, Nadine Gordimer, and Toni Morrison—and many international scholars, writers, and artists in a symposium acknowledging Achebe's seminal role in contemporary African literature

War lord Fode Sankoh breaks the treaty of Lome and resumes fighting in Sierra Leone. He is captured a few weeks later by government forces

J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace* wins the Booker Prize, the author's second

Eritrean and Ethiopian border war marks the end of a fragile peace in the horn of Africa. The war officially ends with a peace treaty brokered by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations and signed in Algiers

Abdoulaye Wade is elected president of Senegal, marking the end of Léopold Sédar Senghor's forty-year presidential term and Abdou Diouf's Socialist Party

Peaceful transition in Ghana: J.A. Kufour's New Patriotic Party wins Ghanaian presidential elections, ending two decades of Rawlings's presidency

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