

# RETHINKING THE SOUTH

## BIOGRAPHIES

**KFW** STIFTUNG





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## RETHINKING THE SOUTH

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Rethinking the South addresses the central issues of our time: the consequences of colonial history, life in increasingly densely populated cities and the effects of climate change. The three-day symposium invites participants to develop new perspectives on global interrelationships.

The event marks the conclusion of a three-year thematic residency programme initiated by the foundation KfW Stiftung in collaboration with Vila Sul at the Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia (Brazil). Based in the region of Bahia and its strong Afro-diasporic influences, KfW Stiftung and Vila Sul designed a transcontinental residency programme that addressed questions of social coexistence. During the symposium in Frankfurt, artists, thinkers and indigenous activists discuss their work, experiences and research approaches in film and performance contributions as well as moderated discussions. How do different realities of life and forms of knowledge shape our understanding of the world?

With Deji Akinpelu, Patti Anahory, Karla Claudio, Diego Crux, Kokou Ferdinand Makouvia, Nyancho NwaNri, Odun Orimolade, Lisa C Soto, Sao Sreymao, Huda Tayob. With contributions from Xohāhi Pataxó and Uine Lopes

Moderated by Yvette Mutumba, co-founder and director of Contemporary And (C&).

## BIOGRAPHIES

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### **PATTI ANAHORY**

Architect

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Working across building, art, education and curatorial practices, Patti Anahory's work challenges dominant notions of place and belonging, foregrounding the intersections of identity, memory, race and gender. Born at sea, aboard a ship en route to São Tomé and Príncipe, Anahory is committed to decolonial frameworks, centring African island worlds as fugitive edges and radical margins. Her practice explores the entanglements of spatial narratives and power in the relationships between people, land and the built and natural environment. She is committed to creating independent, multidisciplinary and collaborative spaces for ideation, experimentation, documentation, dissemination and research centred on Black African and diasporic practices.

Anahory founded the collective *XU:Collective*, *Storia na Lugar*, a platform for storytelling and counter-narrative practices and *her(e)*, otherwise, an experimental platform for African and Diasporan women creatives and spatial thinkers. She was Founding Director of CIDLOT, a multidisciplinary research centre at the University of Cabo Verde and Visiting Professor at Columbia University (2022-23).

Patti Anahory was a KfW Stiftung scholarship holder in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia in 2024 under the theme *The Sustainable City*.

## **DEJI AKINPELU**

Photographer and Documentary Filmmaker

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Deji Akinpelu is a photographer and documentary filmmaker based in Lagos, Nigeria. Standing out as a dedicated artist in the field of sustainable development, Deji Akinpelu is using art as his canvas to portray vivid stories across Africa. His passion for challenging African narratives is evident in his documentary films and photography.

A self-taught photographer who became a filmmaker, he honed his skills at the SAE Institute in Dubai. As the founder of the Rethinking Cities Initiative (RCI), he has created a dynamic, collaborative platform that brings together professionals from the fields of art, media and urban planning to address urban challenges in Africa. Through the knowledge hub "researchinlagos" and the podcast "Yanme", Akinpelu seeks to amplify the voices and advocacy of communities. His work as a photographer and documentary filmmaker is internationally recognised and he has had the privilege of producing and directing documentaries for prestigious international development agencies, such as the Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBS), the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Amnesty International.

Deji Akinpelu was a KfW Stiftung scholarship holder in 2024 in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia under the theme *The Sustainable City*.

## **KARLA CLAUDIO**

Documentary Filmmaker, Artist and Educator

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Karla Claudio is a documentary filmmaker, artist and educator based in Lajas, Puerto Rico. Currently Karla Claudio is producing their first feature film, *Matinínó*, a hybrid documentary directed by Gabriela Arp and supported by Topic Studios, Doc Society, Sundance Film Institute and Ford Foundation.

Claudio's last short film *La nueva ola de añil / The New Indigo Wave* (2024) was an official selection at the 2025 Tribeca Film Festival, 2025 Santa Fe International Film Festival, 2026 Vieques Human Rights and Film Festival and featured in Season 38 of PBS POV Shorts. Their videos and experiments with natural pigments and dyes have been featured at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum (New York City, U.S.A.), Whitney Museum of American Art (New York City, U.S.A.), Design Museum of Miramar (San Juan, Puerto Rico) and Tenerife Espacio de las Artes (Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain), among others. They were selected to participate in the 2023 Sundance Producer's Intensive, the 2024 Sundance Latinx Fellowship and the Caribbean Film Academy Fellowship at the 2023 Third Horizon Film Festival.

Karla Claudio was a KfW Stiftung scholarship holder in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia in 2025 under the theme *Recognised Limits*.

## **DIEGO CRUX**

Visual Artist

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Diego Crux is a visual artist based in São Paulo, Brazil. Quasi-artist born and raised in the outskirts of São Paulo, in the neighborhood of Parada de Taipas. Grandson of Rosa (Rose) and Esmeraldo (Emerald). In his work, he researches intimate and personal invocations, collective experiences, representation, identity and the intersections of these topics. Crux uses various techniques in his processes, such as appropriation, photography, video, design, visual samples and words. Crux is a member of the Vilanismo Brotherhood.

He has exhibited in various spaces and institutions, including the 36th Bienal de (São Paulo, Brazil), Casa das Histórias de Salvador (Salvador Bahia, Brazil), Sesc Belenzinho (São Paulo, Brazil), on the virtual curatorial platform aarea.co, Les Rencontres d'Arles (Arles, France), CHALE WOTE (Accra, Ghana) and the Museu de Arte Moderna (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). In 2020, he participated in the Pivô Pesquisa residency programme in São Paulo, Brazil. He has had texts published by MAM Rio (2021), Revista Rosa (2022) and Contemporary & (2025).

Diego Crux was a KfW Stiftung scholarship holder in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia in 2023 under the theme *Postcolonial Presence*.

## **KOKOU FERDINAND MAKOUVIA**

Visual Artist

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Kokou Ferdinand Makouvia is a visual artist based in Paris, France. As a tireless traveller, Makouvia draws on his explorations of the world to enrich his practice. His artistic path is in the form of an outstretched hand, stubbornly seeking to reconcile the here and the elsewhere: oneself and the other, the near and the far, the memory of origins and the history of their erasure, the spirituality of ancestors and the philosophy to come. Imbued with the animism of his native culture and a deep-rooted spirituality, Makouvia has developed a very personal philosophy between materiality and sensitivity in pursuit of turning the resistance of the material into a creative force, the random into a personal challenge, the accident into a response from the material to be integrated into the work. At the same time, he is developing a practice of performance, of reacting to the world and to things, often in the street, always impromptu.

Makouvia was trained at the Beaux-Arts de Valenciennes, then in Paris, France, where he obtained his degree in 2019. He then joined the prestigious De Ateliers residency in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. In 2021, he was the recipient of the Salomon Foundation Residency Award and in 2023 entered the International Studio & Curatorial Programme (ISCP) residency in New York City, U.S.A. He is also co-founder of the ArtMéssiamé contemporary art residency, an annual event held in Lomé, Togo.

Kokou Ferdinand Makouvia was a KfW Stiftung scholarship holder in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia in 2025 under the theme *Recognised Limits*.

## **NYANCHO NWANRI**

Visual Artist, Documentarian and Cultural Researcher

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Nyancho NwaNri is a Gambian–Nigerian visual artist, documentarian and cultural researcher. Her practice engages deeply with cultural, environmental and social questions. Working primarily through long term research-driven projects that foreground community-centred knowledge, she explores the intersections of Indigenous African spiritual traditions, culture and history with memory, the self, the natural environment and lived human experience. Her work is grounded in sustained collaboration and connection, often unfolding over extended periods of immersion and relationship-building. Alongside her artistic practice and documentary work, she is deeply committed to education and mentorship, facilitating workshops, trainings and mentorship programmes in film and photography.

NwaNri's documentary work has been published by various international outlets such as *The New York Times*, *Reuters*, *The Guardian*, *Al Jazeera*, *The Irish Times*, *Quartz* and *Geographical Magazine*. She is a National Geographic Explorer. In 2021, she received the Reuters Yannis Behrakis Photojournalism Grant and was subsequently nominated for the Reuters Journalist of the Year Award. She was a finalist for the 2021 Art X Prize and the Welcome Photography Prize in 2020 and was shortlisted for Forecast Platform in 2022. Her art has been exhibited widely at museums, festivals and biennials, including the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art (Cape Town, South Africa), Hong-gah Museum (Taipei City, Taiwan), Art X (Lagos, Nigeria), Bamako Biennale (Bamako, Mali), VideoEX Festival (Zurich, Switzerland) and the Ndiva Women's Film Festival (Accra, Ghana).

Nyancho NwaNri was a KfW Stiftung scholarship holder in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia in 2025 under the theme *Recognised Limits*.

## **ODUN ORIMOLADE**

Transdisciplinary Artist and Researcher

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Odun Orimolade is a transdisciplinary artist and researcher based in Lagos, Nigeria. Odun Orimolade engages her practice in an experimental and multifaceted perspective of transdisciplinary approaches, research and collaborations. She keeps an open contexture to her pedagogic, artistic and curatorial practice attending to a mix of ideologies and worldviews cultivated from different resource areas. This leads her into explorations of human behavioural tendencies, orientation and interaction as mechanisms for navigation. Orimolade's research interests revolve around approaches to practice, creative engagement, navigation and influences that challenge and inform creative production for positive external impact. She explores possibilities for professional practice development, learning mediums and pedagogies that provide fresh avenues for flexible creative exploration. Her research also interrogates issues and initiatives that promote or confine practice. She pursues an interest in participatory research practices as an artistic intervention into a range of different spaces.

Odun Orimolade was a KfW Stiftung scholarship holder in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia in 2023 under the theme *Postcolonial Presence*.

## **HUDA TAYOB**

Architect and Curator

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Huda Tayob is a South African architect, theorist and architectural historian, based in London, U.K. Huda Tayob's research focuses on minor, migrant and subaltern architectures. She is co-curator of the open access curriculum [Racespacearchitecture.org](https://www.racespacearchitecture.org), and lead curator of the digital platform the Archive of Forgetfulness.

In 2023, Tayob exhibited at the 18th International architecture exhibition in Venice with the project "Index of Edges", which traces watery archives, methods and stories of migrant architectures along east African coastal edges, from Cape Town, South Africa, to Port Said, Egypt. She is currently working on a manuscript project titled "Opaque Architectures: Black Markets as Infrastructures of Care", which draws out trans-national sites established by African migrants as sites of possibility.

Huda Tayob was a KfW Stiftung scholarship holder in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia in 2024 under the theme *The Sustainable City*.

## **LISA C SOTO**

Visual Artist

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Lisa C Soto is a visual artist, based between Puerto Rico and Ghana. Her work weaves photography, installation and sculpture with the botanical universe. Large-scale installations and convivial settings reimagine landscapes, cartography and rhizomatic patterns to explore connections and disconnections to nature and home.

Soto is currently in the doctorate programme at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, Ghana, in the painting and sculpture department. She has exhibited in abandoned monumental buildings in Ghana such as the unfinished John Kufour Memorial library, as well as in institutions, including, the KNUST Botanical Gardens (Kumasi, Ghana), Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia (Salvador, Brazil), Portland Museum of Art (Portland, U.S.A.), Amasaka Gallery (Masaka, Uganda), Wallach Art Gallery (New York City, U.S.A.), Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) (Los Angeles, U.S.A.) and Corredor Afro (Loíza, Puerto Rico). Soto created her first permanent installation for the McCarter Switching Station project designed by David Adjaye in Newark, U.S.A. She has lectured at MIT, the Ford Foundation and Rutgers University.

Lisa C Soto was a KfW Stiftung scholarship holder in cooperation in 2023 with the Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia under the theme *Postcolonial Presence*.

## **SAO SREYMAO**

Visual Artist

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Sao Sreymao is a visual artist based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She was born in 1986 at a refugee camp on the Thai border. Her multidisciplinary practice includes painting, photography, digital drawing, sculpture and performance. Her works explore personal expression and memories, as well as the changing physical and psychological landscapes of Cambodian urban and rural communities.

Sao graduated from Phare Ponleu Selpak's School of Visual and Applied Arts, Battambang province, in 2006. She has collaborated with various writers in visual storytelling and published several graphic novels.

Sao Sreymao was a KfW Stiftung scholarship holder in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Salvador- Bahia in 2025 under the theme *Recognised Limits*.

## **UINE LOPES**

Activist, Educator, Fisherman and leader of the Bananeiras community on Ilha de Maré, Bahia

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Uine Lopes is a fisherman and leader of the Bananeiras-Quilombo community located on the Island of Maré in Salvador, Brazil.

Lopes holds a degree in Rural Education with an emphasis on Agricultural Sciences from the Federal University of Recôncavo da Bahia (UFRB). He is part of the Artisanal Fishermen and Fisherwomen Movement (MPP), the MPP youth coordination and the MPP Water School coordination and works as a community educator at the Support Centre for the Sons and Daughters of Fishermen and Shellfish Gatherers of Bananeiras, Ilha de Maré. In 2024, he received a scholarship from the United Nations High Commissioner's Indigenous Fellowship Programme (IFP), which focuses on mechanisms for the defense of human rights.

Uine Lopes collaborated in 2024 with former scholarship holder Patti Anahory on the topic of *The Sustainable City*.

## **XOHÃHI GABRIEL FERREIRA GUEDES PATAXÓ**

Artist, Indigenous Communicator and Influencer

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Xohãhi Gabriel Ferreira Guedes Pataxó is a young indigenous communicator and influencer from the Pataxó people, born and raised in the Coroa Vermelha Indigenous Territory in the state of Bahia, Brazil. His work aims to strengthen traditional culture, promote the appreciation of indigenous identity and inspire youth both within and outside the territories.

During his career as a communicator, he worked at COP30 in Belém, within the Blue Zone (the official UN space) representing indigenous youth. He has also established important partnerships with institutions such as the Ministry of Health, Brazil's Indigenous People Articulation (APIB), Movimento Unido dos Povos e Organizações Indígenas da Bahia (MUPOIBA), Núcleo de Pesquisa Mídias e Arte (NUPOMAR) and Midia Indígena, among others.

As an artist, Xohãhi Pataxó develops audiovisual projects and initiatives focused on the memory and history of his people, including workshops, documentaries and the production of educational content about the territory of Coroa Vermelha. He is dedicated to learning and revitalising the Pataxó mother tongue, seeking to pass on knowledge to children, young people and communities, ensuring cultural continuity.

Xohãhi Gabriel Ferreira Guedes Pataxó collaborated in 2025 with former scholarship holder Nyancho NwaNri on the topic of *Recognised Limits*.

## **ARAI POÁ PATAXÓ**

Leader of Pataxó Culture in the Txagrú Mirawê Reserve

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Araui poá Pataxó (Araui Oliveira do Nascimento) is an indigenous member of the Pataxó people from the southern tip of Bahia, in the city of Santa Cruz Cabrália, where he was born and raised in the village of Coroa Vermelha, a sacred territory of resistance and identity.

He is the son of Ivo Ferreira do Nascimento, a Pataxó indigenous man known as the warrior Araui Pataxó, and Gerice Brito de Oliveira, known as Imamakã Pataxó, he grew up under the influence of a legacy of struggle, awareness and pride. From an early age, he learned that being Pataxó means keeping the essence alive, protecting nature and never forgetting who you are. His father was one of the main pillars within the village, constantly encouraging the community to preserve their culture, strengthen their identity and fight for the demarcation of sacred territories. Poa did not just inherit his teachings - he turned them into his life's mission.

Today, he works in the Txagrú Mirawê reserve (sacred place), located in the Pataxó Coroa Vermelha territory. Within the reserve, he is one of the leaders responsible for keeping the culture alive, organising activities, strengthening collective awareness and encouraging the people not to forget their roots, their essence and their identity. His work is marked by his commitment to territorial demarcation, forest protection and his people's struggle.

Araui poá Pataxó collaborated in 2025 with former scholarship holder Nyancho NwaNri on the topic of *Recognised Limits*.

## **YVETTE MUTUMBA**

Co-Founder and Director of Contemporary And (C&)

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Yvette Mutumba is co-founder and director of Contemporary And (C&), a platform founded in 2013 that reflects and connects ideas and discourses on contemporary art from Africa and the Global Diaspora. C& is deeply rooted in an ever-growing network of creative voices from around the world. The platform publishes two magazines in four languages, organizes various educational formats such as workshops and mentoring programs, and develops numerous other projects online, offline and hybrid.

Since 2019, Yvette has also been a lecturer at the Institute for Art in Context at Berlin University of the Arts. From 2020 to 2024 she was Curator-at-Large at the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. Yvette was part of the curatorial team of the 10th Berlin Biennale and visiting professor for Global Discourses at the Academy of Media Arts, Cologne. From 2012 to 2016 she was collection curator and curator at the Weltkulturen Museum, Frankfurt am Main. Here she developed concepts, projects and publications on dealing with the museum's colonial collections as well as its collection of works from the 1960s to 1990s. As part of this work, she co-curated the exhibitions "Ware & Wissen - or the stories you wouldn't tell a stranger", "El Hadji Sy: Paintings, Performance, Politics" and "A Labor of Love". The latter was nominated for the Global Fine Arts Award. As an author and editor, she has published numerous texts and books on contemporary art and art history. Yvette studied art history at the FU Berlin and holds a PhD from Birkbeck, University of London

## OPENING HOURS

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03.03.2026 - 05.03.2026

Tue-Wed 15:00 - 18:00

Thu 18:00 - 21:30

Free Admission

[Registration](#) is required

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The symposium has been developed and organised by KfW Stiftung in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia.

Special thanks to the former scholarship holders, their collaboration partners and all those who helped make the symposium possible.

## **ABOUT KfW STIFTUNG**

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KfW Stiftung was established in 2012 by the KfW Bankengruppe. The foundation addresses major socially relevant transformative issues on the basis of three fields of activity: Ecology & Sustainability, Economy & Society and Arts & Culture. KfW Stiftung aims to actively shape change by offering opportunities to those who are advancing social transformation. Villa 102 in Frankfurt's Westend is the platform for culture and dialogue for KfW and its foundation.

Executive Board: Bernd Loewen & Dr. Michael Helbig

Programme Management Arts & Culture: Daniela Leykam

Project Coordination Arts & Culture: Rose Field

Student Assistance Arts & Culture: Alina Homann

Project Coordination Events: Marie Shanmugarajah &

Judith Mehlich

Project Coordination Communications: Louisa Serwuschok

## **ABOUT GOETHE-INSTITUT SALVADOR-BAHIA & VILA SUL**

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With the Vila Sul, the Goethe-Institut offers a place of residence for cultural workers from various disciplines for content-related exchange and supra-regional networking on the overarching theme of the 'South'. With a regular period of two months, four residents each, i.e. a total of up to 20 per year, are invited to work on their research/planning/idea on the 'South' on site, to experience it and to be enriched by the cultural scene, the city and nature. Due to its historical and cultural diversity, Salvador de Bahia is an ideal meeting place between the local cultural scene and international residents. The goals of the Vila Sul are the long-term and sustainable networking between the cultural scenes at home and abroad and thus the strengthening of intercultural dialogue, the initiation of changes in perspective, the crossing of borders and living in a different cultural context.

Head of Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia: Friederike Möschel

Operational Manager of the Vila Sul Residency Programme:

Leonel Henckes