



Summer 2014 Performing and Studio Arts Proposal

Hip-Hop Culture through the Arts

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Performing Arts Summer Synopsis

Sunu Thiossane's summer program in Senegal goal is to provide a cultural arts program that educates students of various cultures across and within various disciplines of performing, studio art and academic enrichment.

Our performing/ visual arts and academic enrichment curriculum for the summer 2014 program in Senegal is to focus on the historical connections of hip-hop in Senegal through several points of entry(social, political, economical, and educational). This summer we will focus on hip-hop both as a personal/interactive expression and as an expression of culture: how hip-hop affects, and is affected by, notions of ethnicity, class, nationalism, art, gender, and genre. Throughout, we will focus our inquiry through listening to historical recordings, reading first-person and critical narratives, viewing a variety of media, and writing creatively and reflectively. We will develop research, writing, performing, and productions skills associated with hip-hop's major elements: break-dancing, graffiti writing, MC-ing, DJ-ing, and knowledge. Student will create an end of summer showcase focused on the daily summer activities and Sunu Thiossane's original play **HIP-HOPERA "Real Hip-hop is Culture"**.

Brief History of the Influence of Hip- Hop in Senegal (cited work):

The youth of Senegal have been busting out beats since the '80s. Today, they're influencing the rest of the African continent. A genre that has fallen into being defined by wanna-be thugs rapping about money, cars and clothes, hip hop here is more of a cultural movement covering the social and political life in Senegal (kind of the way New York originally intended it to be). Let the sound in, see your thoughts spin and get in the know with the Senegalese flow.

How It All Started

The musically-inclined nation of Senegal traditionally had griots. These are a respected people --separated into their own caste -- who were responsible for speaking about society through song. Oral historians and cultural traditionalists, griots would sing anywhere and about everything; like Twitter, if it was trending, they were covering it. As Senegal modernized by the mid 1980s, its youth yearned for a new voice. Griots faded out and hip hop artists came in.

The Rap

Think of Senegal's capital city of Dakar as the impact point of the hip hop bomb that would explode with flavor and rapidly produce new artists. Largely influenced by hip hop's beginnings in the South Bronx, the native Wolof tongue (along with French and English) is used to produce raps that cover all kinds of serious shit like crime, corruption, HIV/AIDS, poverty and ethnic strife. Beats are often backed by the banging of traditional Senegalese drums and-more so than American hip hop-the art form is widely heard, appreciated and understood.

Studio Arts Summer Synopsis

Summer 2014 is met with a visionary ambition of the organizations overall theme of the "Hip-Hop Opera." Each year both founders brainstorm the overall theme and direction that will be emphasized for the season. This summer's focus is to give reference to Senegal through past, present, and visions of the future through the culture and elements of Hip-Hop. Based on the summer programs overall theme of the Hip-Hopera it is important to recognize that there are



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attributes within Hip-hop culture that are unique within Senegalese society. This summer's overall theme is to ensure historical knowledge of the ever growing artistic culture in Senegal.

There will be three specific activities that the arts department will narrow in on which is fashion, graffiti/printmaking, Graphic Design/Photography. Fashion is very important to Hip-Hop culture it is a representation of one's physical image. In addition the fashion scene is ever growing in Dakar, so much that annual fashion week is held in the spring time. Also this course will render the fusion of traditional wardrobes to modern clothes. Graphic Design started once begins without Photoshop now it's one of the most utilized tools in advertisement. This graphic design course will work alongside the printmaking/graffiti course to show the relevance of image and advertisement to show Senegalese street artists freedom of political expression in Dakar. One of the most major goals is to have the opportunity to meet many other renowned artists of the past that once founded the ever growing movement of street art. With the opportunity to meet art collectives such as Yaatal Art and intergrading with other events as the Dakaar Biennial and Africa Color it will definitely give influence and inspiration to participants of Sunu.

Material is going to be in demand, finding the right resources in Senegal as well as the U.S. are going to be very important. No class in the studio arts portion is going to be able to function without the essential space and materials. Currently various organizations are being researched for assistance and possible donations. Students will be pushed to create large scale works of art that would in return work as SABS Summer Beautification as well as contributions to the end of summer performance.

Performing Arts Program

Activity content:

Through the following activities students will be able to analyze how their own culture and ethnicity has contributed to the Hip Hop culture

Drumming (Djembe and Bucket Drumming):

In Djembe and Bucket drumming students will be able to play various rhythms from West Africa and the U.S. Bucket drumming, or bucket percussion, is a 20th and a 21st century urban manifestation of an age old musical and West African Beat style. Street musicians have been performing amazing percussion sounds on buckets and similar items throughout hip-hop history. Buckets are a simple and easy to find items that can produce some very amazing and entertaining sounds. The djembe is one of West Africa's best known instruments. This goblet-shaped drum is traditionally carved from a single piece of African hardwood and topped with an animal skin as a drumhead. Student will create a mixture of hip hop and Senegalese rhythm with the combination of Djembe and Bucket drumming.

Dance (Hip-hop, Africandance)

Students will experience the true foundations of hip hop and choreography by dancing to 80's and 90's Hiphop music from Senegal and the U.S. Student will experience A thorough break down basics of choreography, flex, poppin, lockin', stepping', stompin', top rockin', breakin' and krump.

Artists of Interest:

- DON CAMPBELLOCK
- MR. WIGGLES
- Luam

- Wildabeast

Step

Students will learn how to step which is a form of percussive dance in which the participant's entire body is used as an instrument to produce complex rhythms and sounds through a mixture of footsteps, spoken word, and hand claps. Though stepping may be performed by an individual, it is generally performed by groups of three or more, often in arrangements that resemble military formations.

Theater (Spoken word & Rap)

Students will create and perform conscious-minded lyrics (education, economy, culture etc.) inspired by Senegalese Hip-hop legends. This course will engage social issues, current events, and personal experience through the study and performance of rap and spoken word

Artists of Interest:

- RUN-DMC
- WU-TANG,
- CURTIS BLOW,
- SUGARHILL GANG,
- GRAND MASTER FLASH,
- MELLE MEL,
- PUBLIC ENEMY
- DUGGY T AND DJ AWADIE OF POSTIVE BLACK SOUL,
- YATFU,MAXI KREZY,XUMAN OF PEE FROISS,
- NDONGO D, FAADA FREEDY, AND ELAJHI MAN OF DAARA J,
- MATADOR AND FATIM OF WA BMG 44,
- GASTON,
- FOU MALADE OF BATHAILLONS BLIN-D,
- DADDY GISBON

Fashion 101: Crash Course in Clothing

Focus- through the use of collage, painting, drawing, book making and many other techniques students will learn various techniques to learn the beginning concepts of fashion. In addition, we are focusing on literacy as a tool for English, many concepts introduced within the activity will give historical reference to any concept introduced to students. **It is important to emphasize on vocabulary that will be practiced in class room critiques students will do weekly to showcase their work and at the same time challenge students to critically answer and question design.**

Projects-

- **Create Fashion sketch Books,**
- **Big Collage Project**
- **Collaging with Fabric**
- **The art of the Sketch**
- **DIY t-shirts**

Fieldtrips/ Guest Designers- As the summer camp progresses the goal is to contact fashion houses and/or established artists in the fashion field to visit the summer camp or the students attend a fieldtrip to their workshops for a tour and talk. With a tour of artistes' studios it allows participants to take a look at what is important in their own process of creating. Also, it renders various influences for participants to create



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Artists of Interest:

- ADAMA PARIS Sénégal
- MAME FAGUEYE Sénégal
- SOPHIE NZINGA SY Sénégal
- NABOU DIAGNE Sénégal
- OUMOU SY Sénégal

End showcase: Students will showcase highlights of their work as well as

Printmaking/Graffiti

Focus- There is various techniques within printmaking that are utilized such as lithography, silkscreen, and embossment, block prints, intaglio, and many more. The idea of producing an image and having the ability to produce it multiply times is what will be utilized within the classroom. In addition, because of the different techniques and processes such techniques would be utilized with older students. Also, students will utilize skills such as graffiti and stenciling. Students will work on large scale prints in groups as well as individual prints.

Projects:

- **Linoleum Prints**
- **The Big Print Project**
- **Giant Wheat paste**
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Artists of Reference:

- **Swoon** <http://joshualinergallery.com/artists/swoon/>
- **Banksy** <http://www.banksyny.com/>
- **Street art** <http://audioslide.wordpress.com>




**Large Scale Block Print with wheat paste paper...by
swoon**



Street art from Africa Color

End Product: Through printmaking's large scale prints the end goal result will be large scale pieces that would be utilized within the Hip-Hop-Opera and showcased at the Sunu Thioossane's end of the summer parent night.

July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	
	 Rahmadan					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28. <i>Korite</i>	29	30	31		



August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Water War	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Most wanted	14	15 Assumption <i>No Program</i>	16
17	18	19	20 Super Hero Day	21	22	23
24	25.	26	27	28	29 End of summer Performance	30

