



Kër Thiossane

Project author or developer:
Marion Louisgrand Sylla

Where:
SN / Senegal / Dakar

Website:
www.ker-thiossane.org/

An exceptional space for living, creating and learning, Kër Thiossane focuses its activities on research into art and new technologies, and on their implications for our societies. Kër Thiossane promotes the integration of multimedia into traditional artistic and creative practices and supports the cross-fertilisation of disciplines by linking the development of digital artistic practices to other areas of society, such as education and training, the creative industries, civic engagement, ecology, and town planning. The activities of Kër Thiossane started in 2002 with the aim to provide African artists with access to multimedia tools and with support from Fondation Langlois. At the time, there was already a large amount of cyber cafes in Senegal, and generally speaking, Senegal has been doing quite well in terms of new technologies as compared to the rest of Africa. But still today there is no department for digital art at the National School of Arts in Dakar and people mostly "consume" the internet. Ker Thiossane wanted to propose another approach to media and technology, emphasizing them as tools for knowledge that can be appropriated, and support the development of African multimedia creations on the internet. "Technology doesn't prevent tradition from existing, it's the encounter between the two that is interesting" says Marion. Since 2002, Kër Thiossane has organised various workshops bringing together new technologies and traditional creative disciplines (dance, textile design etc) and has hosted several production residency projects. In 2008, Kër Thiossane organised the first edition of Afropixel, which became the new African node in Pixelache network. As a space where critical and unconventional ways for people to take part in the development of media and technology can be experimented with, Pixelache seemed very interesting and relevant for the Villa. Until last year the Villa had been open on and off, due to a lack of consistent resources, but the work achieved since 2002 gained Kër Thiossane credibility. It made it possible for them to receive funding from the European Union for the first time, to develop the 2-year project "Rose des vents numériques", that opens up the network to other independent multimedia art centres and artists in the rest of Africa and the Caribbean. That is how Afropixel 2010 brought together an amazing mix of organisations and artists from Senegal, Mali, Congo, South Africa, Morocco and the Martinique along with other guest from Europe and the USA.

