

METIS

ARTS & DEVELOPMENT



ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

What did we do and who did we reach?





SUMMARY

Editorial	03
Metis: sharing emotions, creating transformations	04
Metis, 2 areas of action, 4 programs	06
1. Acting in the territories	08
"Carte Blanche" Program	09
"Diapason" Program	09
2. Amplify	12
"Take action" Program	12
"Make visible" Program	16
Surprise and unpredictability as drivers of change	18

Editorial

The year 2024 has been a turning point for the Metis Fund.

Our entire operational strategy is now in place! The team is fully assembled, committed, and building on the experience gained over the past three years.

Our endowment fund was created in mid-2024, and we are proud to have welcomed our first private partners right from its inception.

The growth of our activity is the result of many forms of support. These contributions obviously strengthen and encourage us. They are also a genuine mark of recognition of our impact.

Yet measuring the impact of Metis is no simple task. Our impact is undeniable — after all, who could argue against the need for art and creativity in shaping society? Yet its very nature makes it complex and often intangible, requiring us to approach it from multiple angles.

Let us remember that our work is rooted in a long-term vision, even as we affirm the importance and relevance of funding initiatives that may last only a few weeks or months. Our action unfolds on multiple levels: it seems to create impact locally while also shedding light on and influencing the dynamics at play internationally. Through the arts, our mission is to bring creativity, imagination, beauty, and goodness into the picture — while strengthening our partners' capacity to resist, to express themselves, and to drive change. We are planting seeds, so that everyone may find responses — above all emotional ones — to the major challenges of our time, especially in places where living conditions are particularly harsh. And we make sure those seeds take root, grow, flourish, and spread.

Our work strengthens the humanism the world so urgently needs today. The voices of our partners remain our most reliable compass, alongside the analysis and reflection that are part of our daily practice. Staying attentive to our approach and questioning our ethics are also essential to preserving the quality of our impact.

I invite you to discover our 2024 activity report. It is ours, but above all, it belongs to all those who put their energy, hearts, and minds into these remarkable socio-artistic innovations.

“Our action reinforces the humanism the world needs today.”

**TIPHAINE DE MOMBYNES,
DIRECTOR OF THE METIS FUND**



Metis: sharing emotions, creating transformations



Our mission

Environment, health, education, employment, peace, gender equality, food security, energy... The Metis Arts & Development Fund works toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our specificity: in addition to essential yet insufficient technical solutions, we leverage the arts as an emotional catalyst for individual and collective transformation.

Our impact

The arts connect, liberate, heal, emancipate, educate, initiate debate, shift the gaze and perceptions. Through the arts, Metis strengthens the willingness and ability of its partners to learn, to take ownership of the sustainable development issues that concern them, and to take action in response.

Metis calls for development projects to be viewed as stages for artistic creation. Creating in situ brings forward sensitive, human-centered solutions that amplify their overall impact.

**“This wasn’t just art...
it became something real.
A space where we could reflect,
connect and grow.”**

**FUAD ALYMANI,
PALESTINIAN ARTIST**



Metis 2024

20

ARTISTIC & DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS INITIATED

10

AMPLIFICATION
OPERATIONS

€538,000

OF OPERATING COST, OF WHICH

€100,000

FINANCED BY
PRIVATE PARTNERS

Metis, 2 areas of action, 4 programs

1. Acting in the territories

Attentive to local issues, the Metis Fund finances socio-artistic projects that are as close as possible to the territories and their inhabitants. They provide essential, sensitive responses to the challenges of sustainable development.

"CARTE BLANCHE" PROGRAM



Projects built on artistic co-creation, fostering social impact at the heart of communities and among vulnerable populations.

"DIAPASON" PROGRAM



A series of initiatives promoting an artistic approach with a social impact on a key contemporary issue, from the local to the international level.

The development challenge is emotionally experienced and embodied. Local communities and all stakeholders can work at their respective levels to better respond to it. The arts draw inspiration from social realities and shed light on the development stakes faced by the territories.

**“Dance can break down barriers,
touch hearts, and change mindsets.
It invites us to believe in the
transformative power of the arts.”**

**BAHIR SYLLA,
BENINESE CHOREOGRAPHER**

2. Amplify

Beyond its project-based approach, Metis creates the conditions for the power of the ‘Arts & Development’ encounter to be shared, so that other actors can adopt it and bring it to life in their own ways. A necessary path to achieving greater impact!

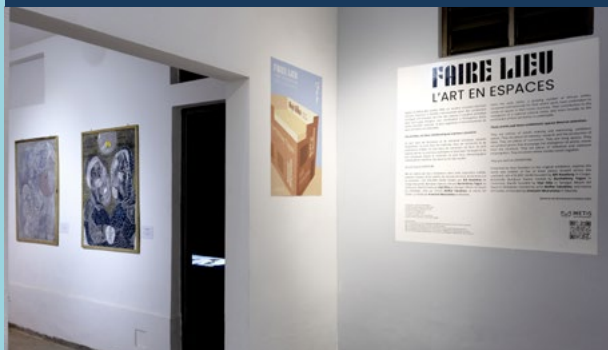


“TAKE ACTION” PROGRAM



Strengthen the ‘Arts & Development’ related skills of cultural and/ or development actors to amplify the impact.

“MAKE VISIBLE” PROGRAM



Show and make visible in order to share the essence of Arts & Development initiatives and amplify the impact.

Creation of an ecosystem of professionals, promotion of the strength of the “Arts & Development” encounter, amplification of the results obtained.

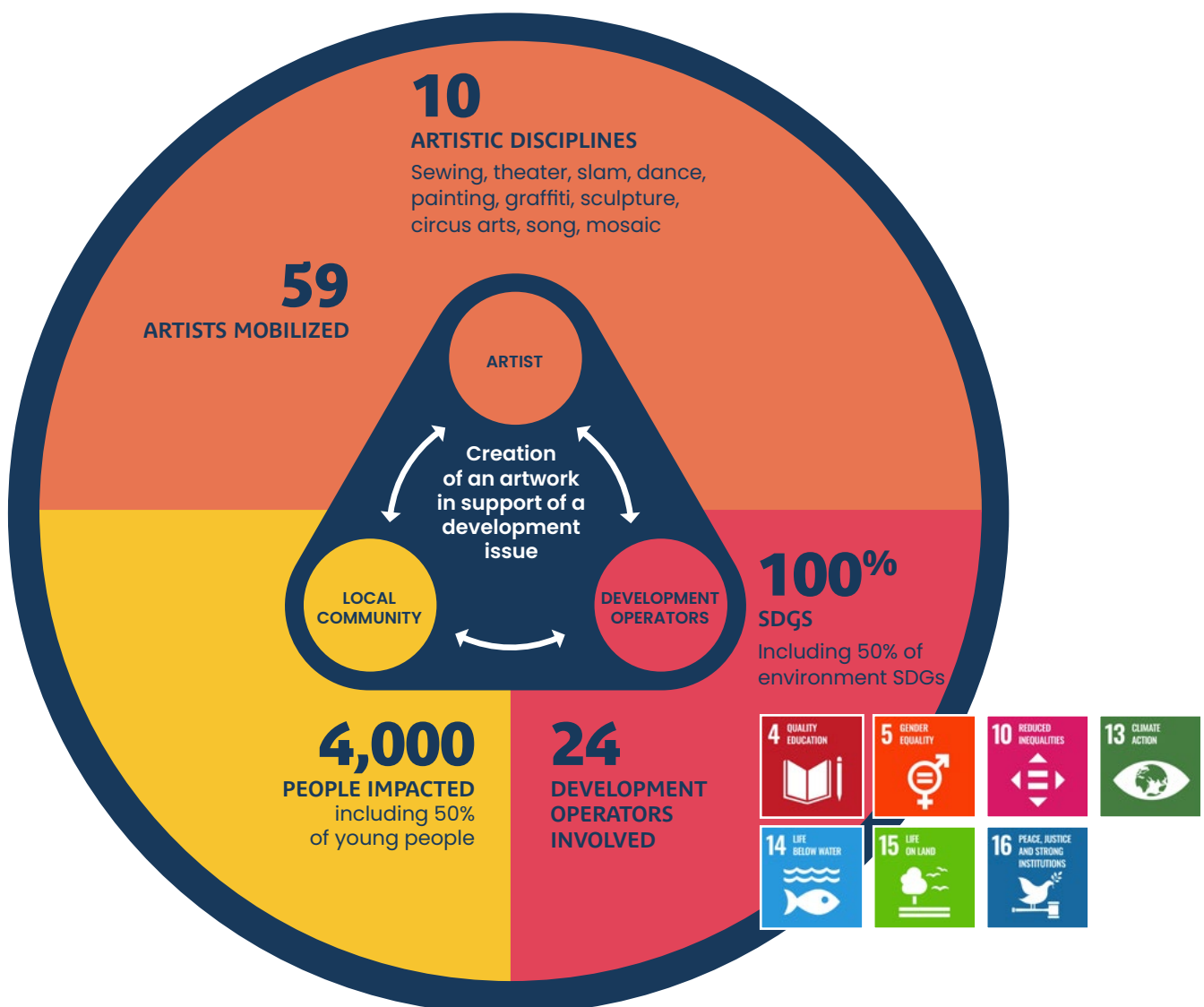
1. Acting in the territories

Attentive to local issues, Metis finances socio-artistic projects that are as close as possible to the territories and their inhabitants. All are based on the Metis engineering method, designed to facilitate spaces for creativity, expression and emotion. These projects transform all their stakeholders - hence increasing their knowledge, will and capacity for action.

Metis: sharing emotions...

An artist, a development operator, and a local community come together in a specific territory. United by a challenge they collectively acknowledge and that directly affects them, they commit to the process and co-create an ambitious artistic work.

This participatory process leads all participants to (re)connect to their sensitive part and to live a singular emotional experience.



“CARTE BLANCHE” PROGRAM

The creation of a work of art made for and with local populations in connection with a development issue that directly affects them.

“In 2024, the Carte Blanche Program was marked by an even stronger involvement of technical operators in the initiatives, through artistic participation alongside artists and the local population. As in Brazzaville, where employees of La Congolaise des Eaux worked with residents of the Sadelmi neighborhood to co-write and produce a play on the theme of water management. A sensitive and successful dialogue!”

**MARIE DIEHL,
HEAD OF THE “CARTE BLANCHE” PROGRAM**

“DIAPASON” PROGRAM

The implementation of artistic initiatives focused on a chosen theme related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

“2024 is the year our Diapason Arts & Océans Program was launched. Twelve initiatives were proposed by artists from Cambodia, Bangladesh, Turkey, the Congo, Morocco, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia, Martinique, Polynesia, and São Tomé... The ocean is there, with us, against us, within us...”

Each time, the artist interacts with a local community and a development actor. And each time, a unique work of art emerges at the end of the journey.”

**TANGUY ABITTAN,
HEAD OF THE “DIAPASON” PROGRAM**

**ZOOM ON
"CARTE BLANCHE"
GUINEA 2024**

Yé (water in Soussou)

Carried out in the city of Kindia, in Guinea, this initiative enabled collaboration with local youth on the issue of access to water, in a region where less than 20% of the urban population is connected to the public network. Through artistic workshops and a show co-created with students, the initiative encouraged young people and residents to take ownership of the issue of sustainable water resource management.

Twenty-five public high school students participated in fifteen workshops led by artists from the Circus Baobab collective. Together, they explored issues related to water, then reinterpreted these questions in the form of circus performances. The show Yé, originally created in 2022, was reworked to include six young participants and presented during a public performance in Kindia. At the same time, a traveling caravan enabled to directly reach local residents through performances in public spaces combining circus, dance, and theater.

20%
OF THE POPULATION IS CONNECTED
TO THE PUBLIC WATER NETWORK

2,500 To 3,000
SPECTATORS ATTENDED
THE PERFORMANCES DURING
THE TRAVELING CARAVAN

"This project enabled these young people to act as messengers to the population on waste management and water use."

**FODÉYA BANGOURA,
TRAINER**



ZOOM ON
"DIAPASON"
TURKEY 2024



Blue Exile Art Project – Oxygen

The Bay of Bodrum is home to some rare marine biodiversity. Among them are Posidonia seagrass beds, a plant essential for oxygen production, carbon sequestration, biodiversity preservation, and combating coastal erosion. However, it is threatened by pollution and mass tourism.

This initiative was a call to action. Five local artists, inspired by workshops that brought together archaeologists, scientists, sailors, shipowners, and students, created sculptures of traditional boats and ancient statues. These were submerged in the depths of the bay, forming a permanent exhibition. They are now ambassadors for the conservation of Posidonia seagrass beds and will, in a few years' time, become habitats for marine life.

70 %

OF THE WORLD'S OXYGEN
IS PRODUCED BY THE OCEANS

5

SCULPTURES PERMANENTLY
SUBMERGED

"For us, the inhabitants of the Bay of Bodrum, art is part of our daily lives. We thus found it particularly interesting to use it to address the issues facing the ocean. Combining art and the ocean is more powerful than distributing brochures or organising seminars in closed rooms."

**SULE KUKRER,
HEAD OF URBAN PLANNING
FOR THE CITY OF BODRUM**



2. Amplify

In addition to its project-based approach, the Metis Fund aims to create the conditions for the power of the Arts & Développement encounter to be shared and amplified, so that other players can make it their own and apply it in their own contexts.

A necessary path to achieving greater impact!

“TAKE ACTION” PROGRAM

Workshops, trainings, research..
Actions to strengthen hard and soft
skills “Art and Development”

LEADING A COALITION OF BANKS FOR “CULTURE, ARTS & DEVELOPMENT”

Metis took part in the animation of the Coalition for Sustainable Development through Culture & Arts, which is bringing together eight public development banks. The coalition’s goal is to raise awareness of the potential of culture and the arts in addressing development challenges and to promote dedicated initiatives. It will be present at the Finance in Common Summit 2025 in South Africa.

LAUNCH OF A FIRST ARTS & DEVELOPMENT STUDY

An in-depth assessment of the arts and development activities implemented by around 40 development banks in relation to arts and culture has been initiated. This research, led by economist Delphine Frenoux, will report on the various approaches and financial tools used by these banks to carry out their activities. It will be published in early 2025.

A METIS TABLE

The aim of these meetings is to reflect, debate, and compare points of view and knowledge in order to better understand the place and role of the arts in our societies. In November 2024, a Metis Table was held in Dakar, bringing together nine stakeholders from the artistic and development sectors on the topic “Responding to societal challenges: what contribution(s) can art and artists make?”



EVALUATING OUR IMPACT

The quest for impact is part of our DNA. The structured engineering we implement, the visual documentation of projects, and the systematic qualitative surveys we conduct post-project support learning and capitalization.

Aware that we are investing in a new and evolving field of action, Metis is at the frontier of action research. This is a position we affirm and embrace.

METIS MOBILITY

The “Metis Mobility” program is unique: it promotes South-South exchanges of experiences between artists who have participated in a Metis initiative.

In 2024, three grants were awarded. They enabled six artists to meet: Mexico and Argentina, India and Togo, France and Togo. These encounters are sources of mutual learning. They strengthen the artists’ commitments, their networks, and their skills.

TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES

Metis organized and led a research discussion entitled “When art and literature redesign our connection to life.”

To advance issues related to arts and development, the Metis fund is hosting a series of training sessions for Master’s students at Sciences Po Paris.

Reflections of water: between cartography and mural art

Three Metis artists combined their knowledge and creativity to fight water scarcity in Mexico. The two Argentine artists from the PIE collective, Sebastián Pascual and Alejandra D'Agostino, traveled to meet Mexican street artists Priscilla Marquez and Jupiterfab.

In Mexico, water scarcity is a daily challenge for the population. Following interviews and observations, the four artists created a video mapping, a visual and audio work, and wall drawings to encourage action. These works gave rise to two exhibitions, including one in a square in the heart of the capital, as well as educational workshops.

Each of these encounters contributed to the construction of a broader movement for the protection of resources and strengthened the artists' commitment to arts and development.

4

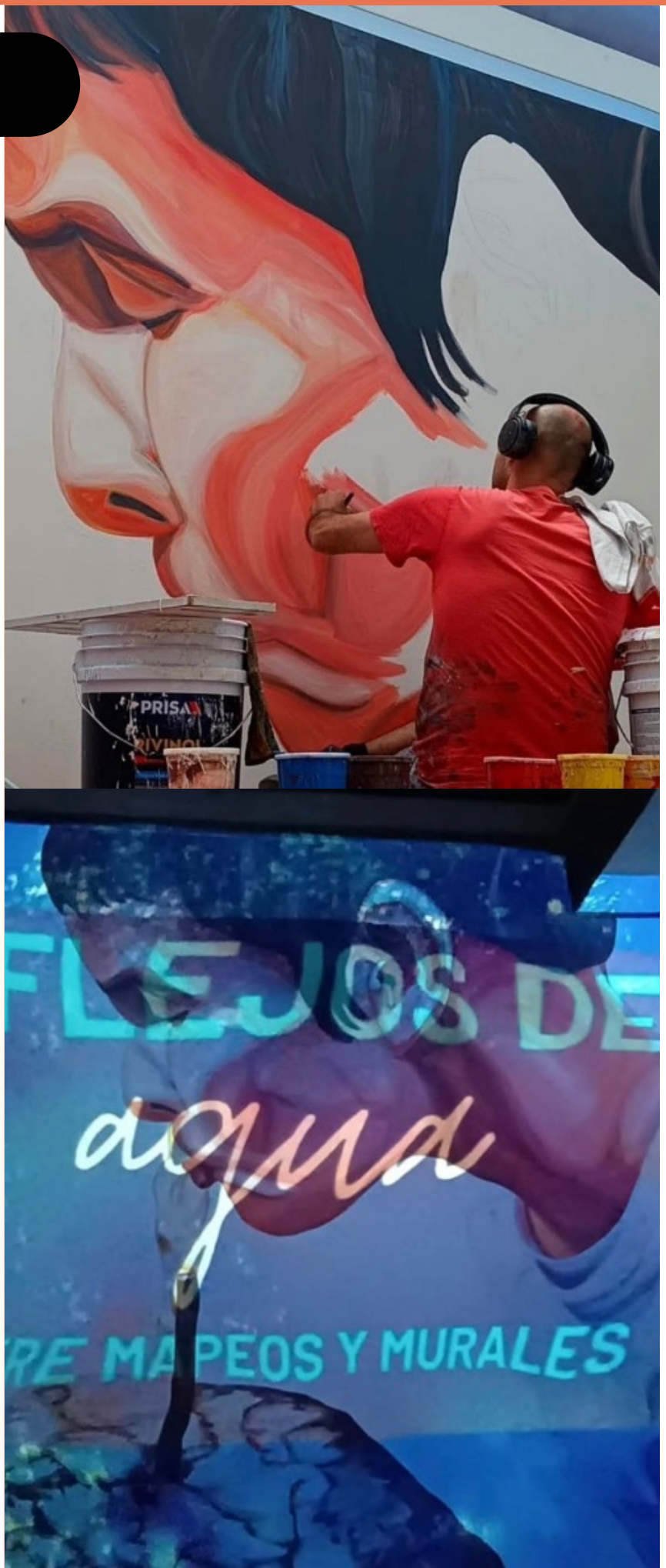
ARTISTS

26th

RANKING OF MEXICO
IN THE GLOBAL WATER STRESS INDEX

"This Metis Mobility project has allowed us to erase the borders between art and the world. The experiences we had and the results of this exchange have enabled us to grow our artistic and educational project. This initiative has proven fruitful and has generated new projects!"

SEBASTIAN PASCUAL,
ARTIST



ZOOM ON "THE METIS TABLE #1"

Responding to the challenges facing society: what contribution(s) can art and artists make?

On November 10, 2024, the first Table de Metis was held in Dakar, bringing together a dozen committed stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds. Together, they discussed the role of the arts in addressing major social and environmental challenges, particularly in contexts marked by precariousness.

The participants emphasized that the arts are not just a supplement to existence, but a lever for rethinking our ways of acting. Through emotion, aesthetics, memory, and identity, they help to reinforce the human dimension of technical projects and create more sensitive forms of innovation. The links between art and craftsmanship, which are often separated, were examined, as was the risk of reducing art to a mere economic function. While the arts can support development, they also retain their own irreducible power.

This meeting nourished Metis' vision of making the arts a space for dialogue, listening, and transformation, closely aligned with the real issues facing societies.

1 QUESTION

9 COMMITTED ACTORS

"The arts can reinforce technical and social dynamics, create value, and support economic development— without losing their 'spiritual' value."

**PARTICIPANT IN
THE TABLE DE METIS #1**



“MAKE VISIBLE” PROGRAM

Videos, communication, events...

We implement actions to share the impact of the arts on development and engage more stakeholders.

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT

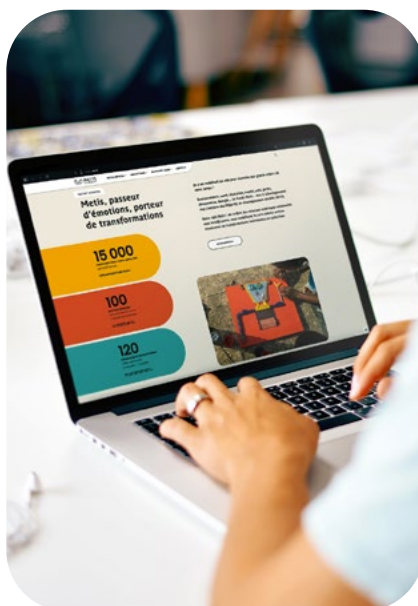
We use Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube to share the power of our projects. Their audience is growing steadily: more than 1,000 followers on Instagram and LinkedIn.

LAUNCH OF THE METIS WEBSITE

Our website presents all of our activities. It showcases our history, our philosophy, and the foundations of our work. It will soon be translated into English to reach a wider audience.

LAUNCH OF OUR NEWSLETTER

Once per season, we select a few highlights and present our inspirations, so that subscribers can better understand our approach and what drives us.



JOIN US!





PRESENCE AT THE DAKAR BIENNALE

An exhibition: *Faire Lieu: Art in Spaces*

brought together five African artists who have founded artistic spaces on their continent. For four weeks, they illustrated the role of these places in the development of their territories.

+ 1,000
VISITORS

5
MÉDIATORS

€18,000
FROM OUR
FINANCIAL PARTNERS

1
OPENING CEREMONY
WITH DANCE, SONG, AND WORDS

A program; *La Relève*

helped spread the creative excitement of the Dakar Biennale throughout the city. For ten days, young people from the Grand Yoff neighborhood learned about photography, painting, and graffiti alongside artists.

60
CHILDREN

6
PARTNERS

**"We are often expected
in the West, but we also
want to be present here,
in our countries and
across the continent."**

MOFFAT TAKADIWA

An award: the Metis Prize

which recognized the work of Burkinabe sculptor Sahab Koanda and the Bogoké Collective, represented by photographer and illustrator Keke and weaver Augustin Diarra, a member of the collective. Their trophy was presented to them in person during the Dakar Biennale by the jury president, Sylvain Sankalé.

An important media coverage:

- Co-creation with Brut Afrique of a video that received over 1.5 million views on social media.
- 14 posts on our social media channels, shared by our partners and the artists.

Metis: how surprise and the unpredictable spark change

“It’s five o’clock, Hanoi awakens.”

The Metis Fund’s challenge?
The projects we finance
bring about transformations
for all those involved.
By providing a human and
emotional solution through
art, we strengthen the impact
of development projects.

THE ARTIST

**“This initiative embodies
creolization. It is a symbol of shared
optimism, celebrating the future of Hanoi,
particularly in terms of public transportation.
My work is the first to be located in Hanoi’s
new suburbs, encouraging city residents to care
about our environment.”**

XUAN-LAM NGUYEN



THE AFD AGENCY

**“Through this Metis project, we wanted to offer a cultural
initiative, free of interest, that demonstrates the closeness
of the AFD to our partners and our desire to develop a joint
project together, outside the cumbersome procedures of our usual
activities. An object that connects France and Vietnam, our shared
history, and our ability to look toward the future.”**

HERVÉ CONAN, DIRECTOR OF THE AFD VIETNAM AGENCY

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

“I hope the city will welcome more works of art in other public places. Works of art are the ones shaping a city.”

**MAI LAP LANH,
RESIDENT OF HANOI**

THE LOCAL ACTOR

“This work not only beautifies the city’s public space, but also conveys a strong message about our responsibility towards nature and sustainable development. Every detail of the work reminds us of the close link between the city and its biodiversity, as well as the commitments made by the city of Hanoi in terms of environmental protection.”

**M DUONG DUC TUAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
OF THE HANOI PEOPLE’S COMMITTEE**

PUBLICATION DIRECTOR
Tiphaine de Mombynes

EDITORIAL TEAM
Tiphaine de Mombynes and Violette Berthod

PROOFREADING
Tanguy Abittan and Marie Diehl

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Les Colégraphes

PHOTO CREDITS
© Metis

PRINTING
AFD / Printed on certified paper

©Metis 2025. All rights reserved.

METIS, GREEK GODDESS OF CUNNING AND WISDOM

Nestled within Zeus, who swallowed her, Metis discreetly contributes to his unmatched power. Mother of Athena and faithful advisor to Ulysses (or “discreet source of Ulysses’ successes”), she is a goddess with many faces. Metis is for us a way of characterizing the potential power of the encounter between the arts and development.

“The intelligent capacity referred to as Metis is exercised in a wide variety of ways, but the emphasis is always on practical efficiency and the pursuit of success in a particular field of action.”

**M. DETIENNE AND J.P. VERNANT,
CUNNING INTELLIGENCE IN GREEK
CULTURE AND SOCIETY(1976)**

