



AISSA
DIONE

DAKAR SÉNÉGAL





The textile designed by
AISSA DIONE TISSUS
is woven by Manjack
master craftsmen



Representing the culture of West Africa

West Africa consists of the countries located to the south of the Sahara desert (image 1).

It has been a flourishing center of trade for gold and salt since the ancient times. One of the first kingdoms built here was is 1000 B.C along Guinea coast by Nok culture. From 1st century AC to 3rd century AC, the Ghanaian kingdom flourished in southeastern region of current Mauritania and western parts of Mali. Until 16th century, many kingdoms such as the Mali kingdom and Songai kingdom were founded, flourished, and deceased in the history of West Africa.



AISSA DIONE
AISSA DIONE TISSUS
Textile Designer

The woven textile culture has existed in West Africa from ancient times. Its has its roots in the hand-woven textiles of ancient Egypt. The



Image 2: Textile from Kante culture

few available records show that there was a tradition of weaving in the Kante culture from around

middle of 15th century. (image 2) Hand-woven textile have been used for the ceremonies, and are considered a spiritual object. These textiles were woven by only select group of people hence they were precious as such, and were used as money, and as a representation of wealth. (image 2)

In Senegal, there has been hand-woven textile tradition in Manjack people who emigrated from Guinea-Bissau. 27 years ago, a French and Senegalese artist and designer, Aissa Dione, who exists at the crossroad of two cultures, started a workshop with one of the last remaining groups of these craftsmen and a single hand-weaving machine of Manjack weaving; thereby creating Aissa Dione Tissus. She has applied the technical knowledge she acquired trough her study in fine art, to the traditional hand weaving. Working along with these craftsmen, she widened the width of the textile which was traditionally only 15cm - 20cm, to 90cm -140cm to make it commer-

cially viable. In addition, she adopted a sophisticated color palette and developed newer patterns for the textile, while improving the quality of the traditional raw materials such as cotton and raffia. All of this mixed with her innate artistic sense and design knowledge now gave the Manjack weaving an added nobil-



Image 3: Women from Wolf and Kasonke in woven textile

ity, brightness and opulence. This propelled Manjack weaving to new heights of success as a textile for decoration and furniture upholstery. Aissa Dione Tissus has today grown to be large successful atelier, with about 40 machines, 80 people on staff; and has received orders from the likes of Hermès, Fendi Casa, and other renowned designers like Jacques Grange, Christian Liaigre, Peter Marino. Nowadays in Africa where these fabrics were imported, it shows that the continent is rich in materials, know-how of textiles. Aissa Dione Tissus utilizes the best materials, the skills and

knowledge that is originally from West Africa, while at the same time being to adapt to the industrialized nature of the Western world. Aissa Dione's vast knowledge of the local textile industry, and her ability to collaborate with large number of notable artists from around the world, has created new designs which have led Aissa Dione Tissus to be one of the few real success stories from Senegal.

That said, the hand-weaving tradition have been steadily decreasing for a number of years. Aissa Dione has been actively working with the government of Burkina Faso and Togo to develop and save the existing weaving cultures by creating sophisticated designs, improving quality, and training the weavers in order to propel those traditional weaving arts to the heights of textile for the commercial use while maintaining the uniqueness which each culture has.



Image 1: Map of West Africa

Le Tour du Monde, 1882
Gallien, "Exploration du Haut Niger"



✧ The materials from the nature of Africa ✧



The organic cotton used by Aissa Dione Tissus is handspun in the area of Tambacunda, South of Senegal



Raffia is a variant of a palm tree. This fiber is traditionally used for the weaving in West and Central Africa. Found in forest country.



Kinaf is a herb. Since the fibers are long, it can be used for wide textiles. Imported from Mali and Burkinafaso.



The mud used for dye is from Nboro located 100km north of Dakar. It's collected in the dry season from the bottom of the lake.



Haye, a source of red



Cashew tree, a source of brown



Ngagne, a source of indigo



NEEM, a source of yellow

THE BACKSTAGE OF AISSA DIONE TISSUS



The atelier is located in Rufisque, 30km east from Dakar.



The facility was built for French army in 19th century, which then became a peanuts factory, then an ice cream factory, and then finally became the atelier.



Mr. Diene is the technical director (left), and N'Diaye, is the quality control director (right) manages the weavers and operations of the factory



Mr. Ndoya is a dyeing specialist. With his wide knowledge about plants, he creates new colours everyday.



HERMÈS

Textiles from the collection of **AISSA DIONE TISSUS** have been selected by Hermès for their project "Year of Africa" in 1997 and for other projects during the following years.

Magazine Hermès

Complice de la
maison, la
couverture Hermès
s'affiche au mur,
se jette négligemment
sur le lit ou sur le
fauteuil, en coton et
raphia, ci-contre.
En laine colorée, elle
garde son allure
équestre, et se dé-
tourne l'espace
d'un instant. À droite



AISSA DIONE UNE ARTISTE TEXTILE

Un proverbe souahéli dit que le cœur ignore les frontières. La mère d'Aïssa Dione est française, son père, sénégalais. Elle grandit entre les brumes de Nevers et de la Loire, se passionne pour l'histoire de l'art puis part pour le Maroc, traverse le désert de Mauritanie, s'installe à Dakar. En 1965, Aïssa découvre le travail d'un tisserand manjaque em-

ployé par sa grand-mère. En Afrique de l'Ouest, les pagnes manjaques, très sophistiqués, accompagnent traditionnellement les grands moments de la vie. On les arbore aux naissances, aux baptêmes, aux décès.

Parfois, jusqu'à quarante lames sont utilisées dans le processus de séparation des fils pour le tissage de dessins toujours géométriques. Mais, depuis la nuit des temps, les pagnes sont réalisés à partir de bandes tissées sur vingt centimètres de large. Aïssa Dione fait évoluer les métiers et réussit à obtenir des bandes de quatre-vingt-dix centimètres de large. Elle travaille aussi les couleurs, renouvelle les motifs, enrichit le coton, matière traditionnelle, de raphia qui donne au tissage noblesse, brillance et opulence sans ostentation. Et propose ainsi ces tissages manjaques au rang de textiles de décoration. En Afrique où ces tissus ont toujours été importés, elle démontre que le continent est riche de matières. Sa conviction et son talent sont internationalement reconnus: l'Unesco lui décerne, en 1992, le premier Prix au Salon international de l'artisanat de Ouagadougou. En 1996, ce sont les médailles qu'elle a commencé à éditer qui sont distingués au SIAO. Aujourd'hui, Aïssa Dione réalise plaids, sets et tissus pour Hermès. Une expérience nouvelle où, avec ses vingt-huit artisans, elle prouve que l'Afrique est capable de se dépasser. Pourvu qu'on lui fasse confiance.

1997

Hermès rend hommage à l'Afrique



Francine Vornice



PAMELA V BY HAKVOORT SHIPYARD

Aissa Dione Tissus provided textile for their furniture. Netherland 2012



BARNES FOUNDATION

Aissa Dione Tissus provided textile for their furniture. Philadelphia, USA 2012



EXHIBITIONS

Organic Textile Exhibition

Saint Louis, Senegal 2013

20th Anniversary of

Aissa Dione Tissus

Dakar, Senegal 2012

International Contemporary

Furniture Fair

New York, 2011

Biennale des Editeurs

de la Décoration

Paris, 2005, 2011

Expo "M'Afrique" MOROSO

Salon del mobile, Milan 2009

La Lune Bleue

with Aboubakar Fofana, Dakar 2007

Salone « Fibres et Matières »

Ouagadougou, 2006

Stand « Fleur de Coton »

Ouagadougou, 2006

Rooms on View

Johannesburg, 2003

Takashimaya

New York 2002

SIAO, Ouagadougou

1990 - 2008

& many more



ROSE TARLOW

Aissa Dione Tissus has been carrying a collection for them. Los Angeles, USA 2013



HOTELS

Hotel Saxon

Johannesburg, South Africa

Hotel Cap Est

Martinique, France

Hotel Meridien

Bora Bora, France

Hotel Meridien

Tahiti, France

Hotel Troigros

Roanne, France

Hotel Aurelio

Lech, Austria

Hotels Onomo

Dakar, Senegal
Libreville, Gabon
Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Hotel Radisson Blu

Dakar, Senegal

Hotel des Almadies

Dakar, Senegal

Hotel Djoloff

Dakar, Senegal

Hotel Lagon 2

Dakar, Senegal

& many more



HOTEL SAXON

Aissa Dione Tissus provided textile for their guest room furniture. Johannesburg, South Africa



OMONO HOTEL GROUP

Aissa Dione Tissus provided textile for their furniture for Omono Hotel in Senegal, Gabon, and Ivory Coast.



THOUMIEUX, JEAN-FRANÇOIS PIÈGE RESTAURANT

Designed by India Mahdavi, Aissa Dione Tissus provided textile for seating. Paris, France



ELLE DECOR

The Grand Book of French Style
England, USA

MAISON FRANCAISE

France

Magazine Hermès

France

Canopée

France

Madame FIGARO

France

AD-Architectural Digest

France

Marie Claire

France

Intramuros

France

Balafon

journal de bord d'Air AFRIQUE
France

& many more

Madame Figaro October 2010
 Decoration by Caroline Sarkozy

AD-Architectural Digest 2013
 Decoration by Jacques Grange

ELLE DECOR: The Grand Book of France Style



de nous y installer... Enfin, c'est en présentant les choses de cette façon que je suis arrivé à convaincre Yves L...» Camille Pierre Bengt. Saint-Pierre, «ville des étrangers», au sein même de l'Érige, porte de l'habitat individuel, européen, est impregnée d'une douce mentalité méditerranéenne. Le célèbre couple y occupa la mythique villa Mauboussin, une vaste demeure sur les hauteurs, boudée d'un grand parrain, mais aussi de la débauche de la jeunesse de son pays. Mais Pierre Bengt peut aussi être d'un aspect opposé pour faire l'acquisition de la villa Lino L'Adriatic. Une maison plus petite, plus facile à vivre, plus éconazole et en plein centre-ville, à quelques pas du marché de fish. Cette habitation de style néo-classique en vigileant nous nous à Hassan el-Wazzani, dit Lino L'Adriatic, diplomate et explorateur de

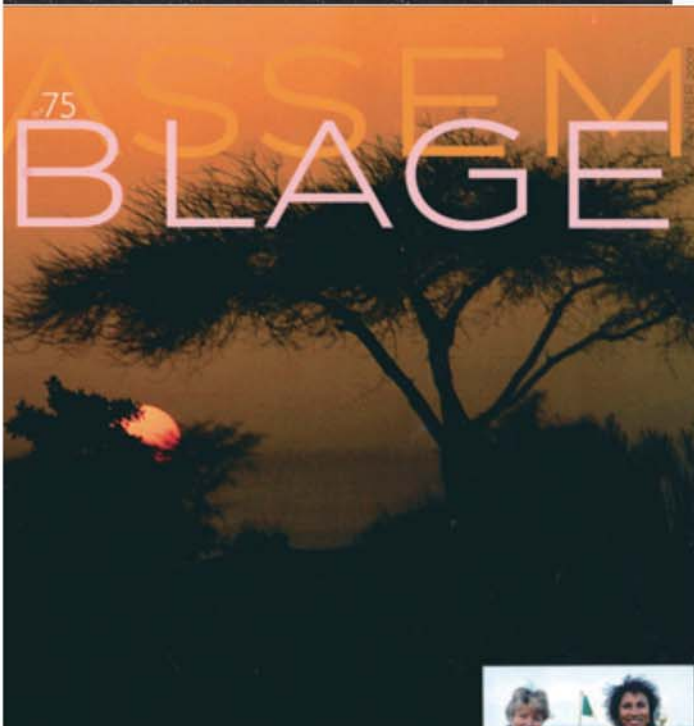
an investigation into the mind,
heart and soul of takashimaya's
design gurus

Aissa Dione exists at the crossroads of two cultures. Part French and part Senegalese, this highly acclaimed textile designer and artist applied the technical knowledge she acquired through her work and study in fine art, batik, ceramics and jewelry design to traditional African hand weaving. Working with local craftspeople, she has transformed the customary narrow bands of fabric into wider widths, more applicable to Western needs.

The fabrics are entirely hand made, from weaving to dyeing. Aissa uses only cotton and raffia in clean yet complex patterns derived from age-old motifs. Rich in texture and color, her designs reflect her own unique heritage, combining the raw character of Africa with a modern sophistication. Her fabrics have won international competitions and are in great demand by Christian Lacroix, Fendi, Hermès and Didier Gomez.

Takashimaya is proud to offer bags, scarves, babouches, pillows and throws by Aissa Dione. Her collection will be featured on our First Floor throughout the month of June.

- q : Who taught you your most valuable lesson?
a : Life, as it goes...
- q : With which artist do you most identify?
a : It would be fantastic to identify myself with Ruhlmann.
- q : What is your favorite color?
a : Dark red ocher.
- q : What is your idea of perfect beauty?
a : An alliance of raw material, generous shape and my favorite color.
- q : What is the first thing you see in the morning?
a : Rays of light.
- q : What is your favorite journey?
a : Going through the Sahara desert, towards Mopti or Quedone.
- q : Which ancient civilization intrigues you most?
a : Nubia, for being very mysterious.
- q : Whom do you want for your desert island companion?
a : Lots of tools, paper, pens and paints.
- q : What is your most treasured possession?
a : The house I have conceived and built.
- q : What would you like to leave as your legacy?
a : My enterprise, and all the style and spirit attached to it.



"Prix des Trois Continents"
Le Sénégal honoré avec la
nomination d'Aissa Dione !

CHRONIQUE DES MAISONS **VEUVE CLICQUOT ET KRUG**

ASSEMBLAGE, Veuve Clicquot Business Award
2008, France



MAISON FRANÇAISE, Special Anniversary Edition,
60 years of creation. December 2006 – January 2007

TAKASHIMAYA EXPO, Interview, New York, June 2002



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