

CHRISTOPHE  
PERSON

February 23 - March 11, 2023

# PHILIPPE SÈNE

## THE SCHOOL OF DAKAR

Philippe Sène was born in 1945 in Diouroup, in the Sine Saloum region, located in the heart of the traditional Serer country. He paints the elements of a millennial tradition brought back by the word and lived daily by a few rare last initiates.

The Serers have a positive and harmonious vision of the universe which breaks down into different worlds interacting for the preservation of life. Philippe Sène paints these primordial relationships between men, ancestors and "knowers" (intermediaries of the Supreme Being), which take place in the different worlds of the Serer cosmogony, expressing the ancestral values always present in the collective unconscious.

In his compositions, Philippe Sène, through a subtle composition of shapes and colors, strives to restore the primary nature of the relationships between beings and things. The great fluidity of the compositions, due to the layout of elegant arabesques, gives each work rhythm and movement. "To be successful the composition must dance" he says. In the Serer tradition, because they make it possible to reach a state of mystical trance, dance and rhythm bring man closer to knowledge of the sacred and to transcendence.



Depending on the compositions, brown marks permanence or the sacred, green wintering or fertility, blue the sea off Sangomar (home of the Pangols) or hope. The gradients are rare, the effects never sought after.

In his works, color devoid of material effects finds its natural place.

While constantly evolving his technique and his style, Sène never departed from the representation of Serer oral traditions. Each creation constitutes a situation reported by tradition and marks a stage in the evolution of the painter.

### The school of Dakar is a cultural and artistic movement of the years 1960-1970

From the first days of its independence in 1960, Senegal, thanks to the vision of the poet-president Léopold Sédar Senghor, has acquired an important artistic and cultural influence. Senghor directs his policy through the prism of the Négritude movement, which he initiated with other French-speaking intellectuals such as Césaire and Gontran Damas. By dedicating a large part of the state budget to culture, it sets up an environment conducive to the creation of local modern art. The strategy is to encourage local production within the School of Arts in Senegal, as well as the international exhibition of these works under the aegis of Négritude.