

14/12/12 - Press Kit

“DES VILLAGES ET DES HOMMES”
Association de soutien international à Madagascar

CHRISTIE'S

TSARA KOMBA LODGE*
RARE, STYLISH AND HIGH SPIRIT

Christie's Paris charity sale

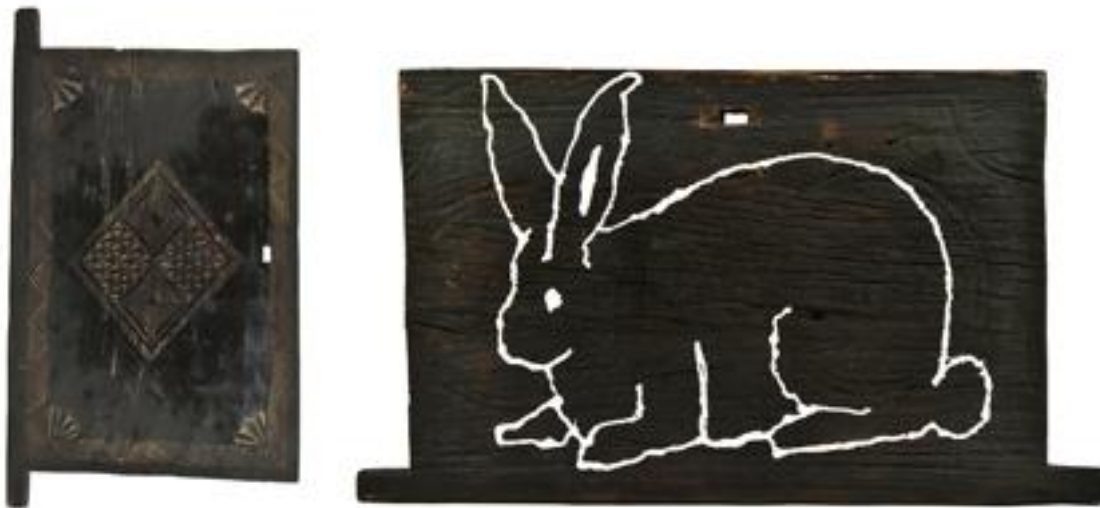
Wednesday 30 January 2013, 8 p.m.

Special auction organised by Tsara Komba Lodge
to raise funds for "Villages and People" NGO.

Concluding an exhibition running from 19–30 January 2013

Sponsored by UNESCO. Supported by the Foreign Ministry, the Institut Français, Paris,
and the French Embassy, Madagascar.

Seventy-two contemporary artists are helping Madagascar. Using as their base materials doors and shutters hand-carved by Zafimaniry people from the high plateaux of Madagascar, they have created 72 works that invite us to look at Zafimaniry culture side by side with contemporary art. All proceeds from the sale of these works will go to help disadvantaged populations living on less than one US dollar a day. The inhabitants of the village of Antoetra, the source of Zafimaniry expertise, will thus have access to water, health, education and a dignified environment that respects their culture.



Window shutters and doors hand-carved by the Zafimaniry were sent out to 72 contemporary artists who then worked on them.

Left: face sculpted by the Zafimaniry (Photo © Nazheli Perrot and Anthony Peskine).

Reverse of shutter: Rabbit, Dewar and Gicquel, 2012, acrylic paint on wooden Zafimaniry shutter.

(Photo © Nazheli Perrot and Anthony Peskine)

Dewar and Gicquel won the Prix Marcel Duchamp in 2012.



Left: carved shutter by the Zafimaniry people. Reverse: work by Jacques Villeglé: 2012, Spray paint and oilstick on wooden Zafimaniry window shutter.

Below left: Jungle Fever, Speedy Graphito, 2012, acrylic paint and spray on wooden Zafimaniry window shutter. Right: CAT 395 / CORROSIF/2012, Peter Klasen, 2012, acrylic paint, collage and objects on wooden Zafimaniry window shutter.

(Photos ©Nazheli Perrot and Anthony Peskine)





Left: carved shutter by the Zafimaniry people. Centre, on other side: Untitled, Ernest Pignon Ernest, 2012, mixed media.

Right: Wind roses, Pierre Ardouvin, 2012, mixed media on wooden Zafimaniry window shutter mounted on stool/pedestal.

(Photos © Nazheli Perrot and Anthony Peskine)



*Untitled, Philippe Pasqua, 2012, acrylic paint on wooden Zafimaniry window shutter
(Photo © Nazheli Perrot and Anthony Peskine).*



You make my head spin, Elizabeth de Portzamparc 2012, wooden Zafimaniry window shutter mounted on wooden and metal structure (Photos © Nazheli Perrot et Anthony Peskine).



Left: Untitled, François Boisrond, 2012, acrylic paint on wooden Zafimaniry shutter. Right: Urban impressionism, Roland Castro, 2012, Medium: wooden Zafimaniry window shutter with extruded polystyrene model, mixture of wood and perspex, touched up with blue acrylic paint and finished with a special varnish. (Photos © Nazheli Perrot and Anthony Peskine)

These doors and shutters hand-carved by the Zafimaniry are being exhibited in France for the first time. The skills of Zafimaniry sculptors have been placed by UNESCO since 2008 on the representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Christie's sales house is hosting the Artist Angels for Madagascar exhibition and sale gratis.



Left: Untitled, Jean Clerté, 2012, mixed media on wooden Zafimaniry shutter. Right, Hervé Di Rosa, 2012, mixed media on wooden Zafimaniry shutter (Photos © Nazheli Perrot and Anthony Peskine)

Artist Angels for Madagascar

Jef Aérosol - Pierre Ardouvin - Christian Astuguevieille - Virginie Barré - Mahi Binebine
 François Boisrond - Mathieu Briand - Alain Bublex - Roland Castro - Chan - Jean Clerté
 Jean Cortot - Jean Daviot - Alain Declercq - Marie Denis - Dewar & Gicquel - Hervé Di Rosa Noël Dolla -
 Sophie Elbaz - FAZ - Grégory Forstener - FKDL - Gérard Fromanger
 Antonio Gallego - André Gas - Valéry Grancher - Speedy Graphito - Bérengère Hénin
 Yann Kersalé - Peter Klasen - Yuri Kuper - L'Atlas - Arnaud Labelle-Rojoux - Jean Le Gac
 Julie Legrand - Marie Lepetit - Iris Levasseur - Emeric Lhuisset - Philippe Mayaux - Mathieu Mercier -
 Ivan Messac - Eric Michel - Andrei Molodkin - Mist - Patrick O'Reilly
 Lucy et Jorge Orta - Yujiro Otsuki - Philippe Pasqua - Stéphane Pencreach - Laurent Pernot
 Gerald Petit - Ernest Pignon-Ernest - Barbara Portaitier - Elizabeth de Portzamparc
 Bernard Pras - RCF1 - Hugues Reip - Rero - Julianne Rose - Nicolas Rubinstein - Benjamin Sabatier -
 Brigitte Saby - Sarkis - Jeanne Susplugas - Temandrot - The Blood Next door
 Stéphane Trois Carrés - Yveline Tropéa - Marc Van Peteghem - Vladimir Velickovic
 Fabien Verschaere - Jacques Villeglé - Mâkhi Xenakis - Dominique Zinkpé.

Catalogue en ligne : www.christies.com

Madagascar's needs are immense.

Painters, sculptors, architects and designers are helping.

In spite of the great efforts of many local people to improve what are very difficult situations, there is still much to do. Because extremely deprived populations lack access to water, medical care (even of the most basic kind), a healthy environment, and any possibility of education; because Zafimaniry culture, the foundation of the Zafimaniry people, is being destroyed by deforestation; because Madagascar is one of the poorest countries on the planet; -- for all these reasons, seventy-two well-known artists have come forward in a great movement of mutual aid to reveal to the world the Zafimaniry sculptors and their living conditions. Taking as their starting point the doors and shutters sculpted by the craftsmen of Antoetra village, they have produced seventy-two unique, surprising, hybrid works of art that stir special emotions.

These Artist Angels are donating their work to support Villages and People, an NGO that seeks to preserve the dignity of the most deprived people.

Artist Angels for Madagascar: 72 works with two faces

"I can change by exchanging with other people, without losing myself or changing my nature", as Edouard Glissant used to say.

That was no doubt the principle that inspired the artists when those magnificently sculpted doors and shutters arrived in their studios after a 10,000-km journey from Antoetra. That unexpected encounter with the otherness of these objects generated enthusiasm, freedom, a desire that opened up the imagination. The emotion, vitality and commitment of each artist are here to be experienced in this spontaneous exhibition.

Each work has two faces, one the expression of ancestral skills, the other that of contemporary art. Each piece is a fusion of the work of four hands, startling the observer into an aesthetic and philosophical double take.

A humanistic approach

Proof that art is necessarily a shared activity.

Zafimaniry means "descendants of those who longed ..."

The Zafimaniry (pronounced zafmanir), who live between the treeless Betsileo country on one side and the Tanala country where a few forests remain on the other, have inherited the disadvantages of both - the cold and the damp. A country of mists perched on the edge of the high plateaux that form the spine of the island, in the south east of Madagascar.

But when the sun lights up their village, the wonderful sculpted wood panelling and architecture of their houses is picked out in all its beauty, revealing the skills and talents of the Zafimaniry.

As the heirs of this beautiful craft, the Zafimaniry hand down their ancestral knowledge from generation to generation.

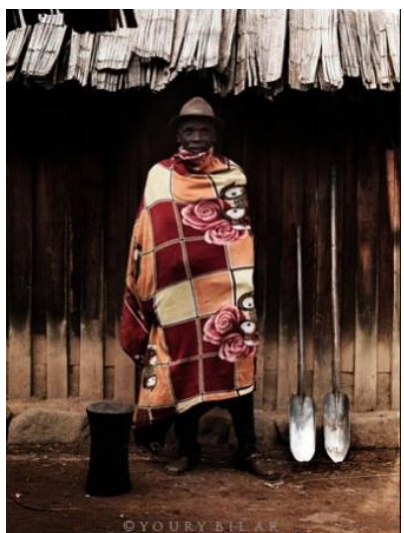
The forest is the environment that nurtures both them and their culture. The various taboos they still hold to mark a deep respect for nature and the forest in particular and they must pay a sacrifice before touching a tree or the forest. Economically, therefore, they prize frugality, because to remain a "Zafimaniry" requires the integrity of the forest and of the people who live in it.

Their knowledge is expressed in the architecture of their houses with their typical braided bamboo roofs. They are held together entirely by mortise and tenon joints, and the shutters, doors, beams and everyday objects are imprinted with the sculpted motifs which represent symbolic cultural values (solidarity, hospitality and respect for the ancestors).

These geometrical motifs reveal not only the Austronesian origins of the community but also the Arabic influences which pervade Madagascan culture. Although the number of motifs is limited, the creativity of the craftsmen in combining these motifs is such that no two pieces are identical.

Taming the spirits of the forest

The signs engraved on the doors and window shutters facing the four points of the compass stand for the sun's rays, the honeycomb and the beehive which form the ideal community. There is also the bird that always sees from afar, the snake, the wise master of the forest paths, and the spider, a little creature with a large territory. Laid out in esoteric combinations, these signs reflect the popular beliefs of the Madagascans and their relationships with the invisible world.



The skills of Zafimaniry sculptors has been recorded by UNESCO since 2008 on the representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Left: view of a window shutter of a Zafimaniry house, Antoetra village. Right: view of Antoetra village, source of the knowledge of the Zafimaniry people, known for their centuries-old art of sculpture on wood. (Photos © Youry Bilak)



The action programmes of "Des Villages et Des Hommes" NGO

Programmes are drawn up in consultation with the local people, who are necessarily involved operationally. Careful attention is paid to protecting the environment and creating a local economy, the two indispensable pillars of a sustainable conflict-free development that is so important for a stable future.

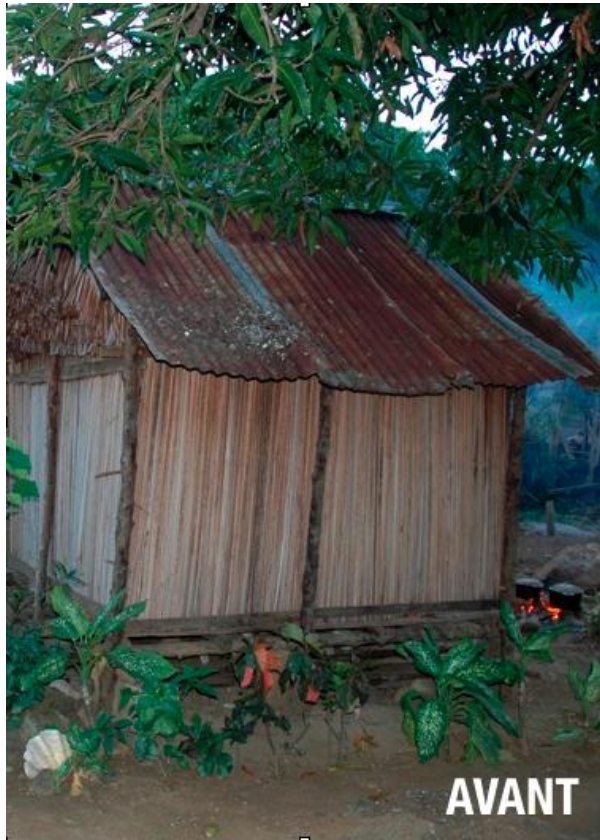
- In Zafimaniry country, to support the 500 inhabitants of Antoetra village:
 - in 2013 and 2014, renovate the thirty historic houses of the village of Antoetra and build twenty new houses using traditional construction methods. Build washing facilities and water points for the village
 - develop a local economy
 - a proposal for a tree nursery is being looked at. The aim is to regenerate the forest near the village, as this will be vital to the long-term survival of Zafimaniry art and culture.
- To help 150 children and teenagers currently in prison:
 - provide permanent medical monitoring (care, examinations and preventive care) and improve living conditions and hygiene (easier access to water, food aid, etc.)
- In north-west Madagascar, to support indigenous populations:
 - renovate the village of Antrema, population 150, by completing the village rebuilding program (30 houses, a school, washing and toilet facilities, and a library).
- Start building a new village for around one hundred people on the island of Nosy Komba.

About the NGO " Des Villages et des hommes "

Des Villages et Des Hommes was set up in 2008. Its aim is to help preserve the dignity of the most disadvantaged people by providing them with new houses and access to water, care and education.

In practical terms Des Villages et Des Hommes builds or reconstructs villages, schools, dispensaries, sanitary facilities, washhouses and public facilities, ensures access to water, etc.

The NGO also supports economic development by fostering business start-ups and any other activity that will help to develop a local economy and increase the incomes of disadvantaged villagers



Des Villages et des Hommes builds or reconstructs villages, schools, dispensaries, sanitary facilities, washhouses and public facilities, ensures access to water, etc. (Photos © P. Planchenault)

About Tsara Komba Lodge (www.tsarakomba.com)

Tsara Komba Lodge 4-star hotel on Nosy Komba island north-west of Madagascar is a Luxury Hotel/Ecolodge of a rare authentic charm in a symbiotic relationship with an extraordinary and remarkably bio-diverse natural environment.

Ever since it was constructed it has fostered the art of Slow Living, ecology, sustainable development, and social responsibility in a dynamic relationship with the local population.

Its policy is firmly anchored in Ecology with conservation of an Indigenous Nature Reserve and conservation projects such as the Baobab Nursery and the Eden Garden, a botanical garden with 200 endemic species. Its low impact on the environment and its tree planting program mean that it is carbon neutral (French Environment and Energy Management Agency carbon audit.)

Preserving this sublime environment and supporting citizen action for balanced, sustainable development that benefits the local population are part of the ethics of this eco-paradise.

Tsara Komba Lodge is the partner and historic sponsor of the "Villages and People" NGO, to which it provides human and financial resources and for which it regularly organises events to support its work helping underprivileged populations.

In 2011 it organised in France the first exhibition and sale of works by Madagascan artists to raise funds needed for the reconstruction of a village of thirty houses for 150 people, with a school and sanitary facilities. In 2012, Tsara Komba Lodge first proposed organising the Artist Angels for Madagascar exhibition and sale at Christie's. All profits will go to the "Villages and People" NGO, which will thus be able to continue its projects to protect the dignity of the people (habitat, and access to care, water and education)

The work of Tsara Komba Lodge staff promoting the environment and the local people was recognised when it won the prestigious Worldwide Hospitality Awards 2012 awarded by the world's largest hoteliers for "Best Sustainable Development and Social Responsibility Initiative" of the year.

Artists Angels for Madagascar

Exhibition runs from 19 – 30 January 2013, Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Auction Wednesday 30 January 2013, 8 p.m.

at Christie's, 9 Avenue Matignon, 75008 Paris

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High-definition photos available on request – Online catalogue coming soon