

Amílcar Cabral: toward a Radical Humanism

In the footsteps of a pioneering mind of African decolonization

From 16 October to 13 December 2026, MansA-Maison des Mondes Africains presents an exhibition dedicated to Amílcar Cabral (1924–1973), a leading figure in African independence struggles and a theorist of emancipation whose ideas continue to resonate far beyond his own time. Fifty years after his assassination, and at a moment when societies are facing challenges related to sovereignty, global inequalities, population displacement and ecological crises, his work offers valuable tools for rethinking the connections between culture, power and freedom.

→ Why speak about Amílcar Cabral today?

A revolutionary, agronomist, humanist and Pan-Africanist, Amílcar Cabral was one of the key architects of the independence movements of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. Founder of the PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde), he belonged to a generation of African leaders, alongside figures such as Kwame Nkrumah and Patrice Lumumba, who profoundly transformed the 20th century on the continent. Yet Cabral's significance extends far beyond the history of anti-colonial struggles.

Rejecting interpretations that reduce decolonization to a purely political conquest, Cabral argued that no liberation could be lasting without cultural reclamation. For him, languages, narratives, knowledge systems, artistic practices and collective memories were essential grounds for emancipation.

This insight holds particular relevance today. In a world shaped by debates around identity, memory, social justice, struggles for liberation, and the relationship between human beings and their environment, his thinking continues to offer powerful perspectives for understanding the transformations of the present.

His influence has extended far beyond Africa's borders, inspiring generations of researchers, artists, activists and thinkers around the world, including Angela Davis.

→ Culture as a driving force for liberation

At the heart of the exhibition *Amílcar Cabral: toward a Radical Humanism*, conceived by Armelle Dakouo and Ângela Benoliel Coutinho from an original idea by Paula Nascimento, lies one of Cabral's most powerful ideas: culture is not simply a heritage to preserve; it is a force capable of transforming society and enabling collective emancipation.

The two curators explore how this vision continues to circulate, evolve and inspire new generations.

Rather than offering a commemorative approach, the exhibition considers Cabral's legacy as a living space for creation and transmission, whose echoes continue to resonate across political, cultural and intellectual fields throughout Africa and its diasporas.

→ Artists in dialogue with Cabral

To extend, reinvent and transcend his legacy, the exhibition *Amílcar Cabral: toward a Radical Humanism* brings together nine artists from Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Cape Verde, Portugal and other spaces of the African Lusophone world.

The works of Nú Barreto, Diogo Bento, Filipa César, Mónica de Miranda, Bento Oliveira, Hamedine Kane, Yuran Henrique, Sónia

Vaz Borges and Sarah Maldoror engage in dialogue with Cabral's ideas without seeking to illustrate them. Instead, they explore their contemporary resonances, tensions and possible extensions. The films of Sarah Maldoror, a pioneer of politically engaged cinema and a close ally of African liberation movements, form one of the exhibition's guiding threads.

Through a dialogue between archives, contemporary artworks and critical thought, the exhibition invites visitors to view Cabral not as a fixed historical figure, but as an essential interlocutor for thinking about the present and imagining alternative futures.

→ A multidisciplinary programme

On the occasion of its first anniversary, MansA is inaugurating a landmark exhibition dedicated to Amílcar Cabral, a leading figure in Africa's independence movements and a major thinker of decolonisation. This inaugural exhibition embodies the institution's founding ambition: to establish culture as a space for critical reflection, artistic creation, and public dialogue, engaging with the defining issues of our time.

In dialogue with the exhibition, MansA will present a multidisciplinary public programme bringing together concerts, film screenings, talks, panel discussions, and collective listening sessions.

The programme will explore the cultural legacies of Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde while extending the key themes of Cabral's thought: Pan-Africanism, memory politics, feminisms, ecological issues, and the relationships between culture, emancipation, and social transformation.

→ À propos de MansA

MansA-Maison des Mondes Africains is a public cultural institution open to all, dedicated to the promotion, transmission, and celebration of contemporary cultures from the African worlds.

A hybrid space with no boundaries between disciplines, MansA defines itself both as a home for artists, a meeting point, a resource center, and a talent incubator open to the world.

In short: a living laboratory where artists, thinkers, researchers, and activists come together to foster new forms of creation.

→ Practical information

Amílcar Cabral: toward a Radical Humanism
16 October – 13 December 2026

Curators: Armelle Dakouo & Ângela Coutinho
 Based on an original idea by Paula Nascimento.

MansA-Maison des Mondes Africains
 26 rue Jacques Louvel-Tessier, Paris 10th arrondissement.

Open Thursday to Sunday, from 2 pm to 7 pm.

The exhibition is free and open to all.
 Booking is required via our website: mansa.fr