

The Guardian

The Guardian picture essay

Africa is No Island - a photo essay

Exhibition features 40 established and emerging photographers from the continent and diaspora at the Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden in Marrakech until 24 August

by Karin Andreasson

The exhibition *Africa Is No Island* has been curated by the online platform [Afrique in visu](#) to encourage a dialogue about the contemporary African experience that transcends borders. The exhibition takes the spirit of *Afrique in visu* - which is dedicated to connecting and nurturing artists with different viewpoints and practices - to present a kaleidoscope of images that makes the visitor reconsider geography, representation and history.

A need to record disappearing cultures and question historical constructs runs through the exhibition. It also uses storytelling and performance to question identity and written history.



[Archives I, printing works, Porto Novo, Benin, 2012, Tracks series, 2009-2016](#)
by François-Xavier Gbré

The ruined buildings of west Africa's colonial era are François-Xavier Gbré's obsession. The spaces are empty but filled with traces of human activity. These images of abandonment suggest a desire to document in order not to forget.