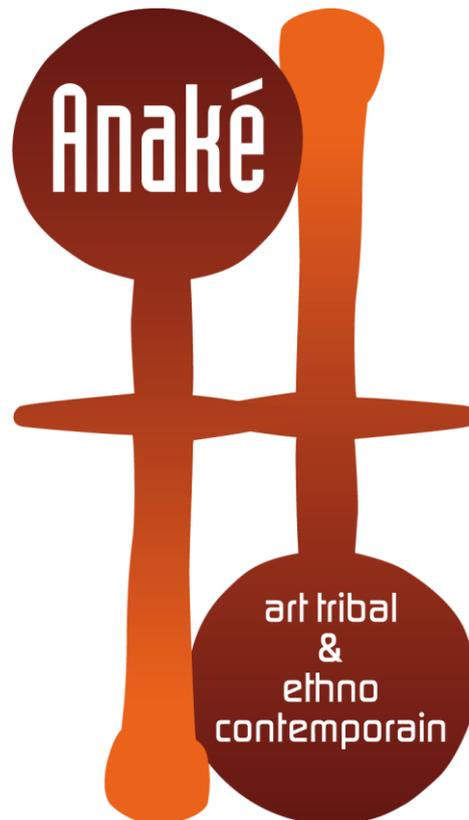


# Press Release Anake



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**ANAKE GALLERY**  
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# About Us

## The drive and the idea

At the end of 2010, the meeting of three passionate people gave birth to the Anake Project.

Fabien Menut, advertisement director in a press company, tribal art collector and art amateur in general, met Olivia Olympio, a Togolese artist living in France who in turn, introduced him to Joel Mensah, a tribal art dealer in Paris.

Several casual meetings drove us to merge our mutual passion, knowledge and contacts to develop an innovative artistic concept. So it's after several work meetings that ideas gradually started forming:

- Start the company, find the pieces and artists,
- Search for real estate in downtown Nantes to open the gallery,
- Create a site dedicated to tribal and ethno-contemporary art.

We started off with an inventory of important tribal pieces and very reliable providers in Africa. To that, we added contemporary artists with an ethnic twist, which to our knowledge, did not exist, especially in the city of Nantes.

From that point, we started looking for French or African artists with this profile. Amongst the ones selected, some quickly adhered to our vision and we agreed on the future pieces to display.

A site at 14th rue Mercoeur, close to the old Nantes courthouse, attracted us and we all pitched in to make it an attractive, inviting and homey place. We then had to find it a name. A name from Mina, the Togolese dialect, came to mind: Anake (the firewood that warms me). This double-meaning word seemed to us like a beautiful image of a raw material from which most of our pieces are made, and of which we hoped to make a living and allow others to do the same.

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# The gallery

## The place, the feel and how it operates

In downtown Nantes at 14 rue Mercoeur, between Place de Bretagne and the old courthouse (future Radisson Hotel), the gallery was inaugurated on Thursday, November 3, 2011 and opened the following Tuesday.

Our wish was to make it a bright and welcoming place, showcasing different representations of “Negro- Art” and pieces from contemporary artists inspired by it.

This gallery was born off a melting pot of past and present artistic cultures that mixes the different views of tribal and contemporary creation.

Our ambition is to provide a privileged and timeless space where the public can appreciate pieces from artists from different backgrounds and a sense of conviviality and sensitivity that allows an intimate connection with this mysterious universe.



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# Tribal Art

## The pieces and their origin

Traditional African art, formally “Negro-Art”, has a multitude of local art. For a long time, international museums have neglected African art. Thus, most African art masterpieces are the property of private collectors and art dealers. After African countries’ independence, a lot of Europeans went back home often with important collections.

Gradually, their collections supplied antic markets and auctions.

The diversity of African art shows an outstanding imagination and magical intensity, revealing the omnipresence of the sacred realm that fascinates countless western artists and collectors. It also reveals complex rituals: rituals where the pure and the impure, blood line perpetuation, recognition of alliances and clan strength and cohesion are defined.

Our suppliers are mostly from West Africa as we have reliable and long-lasting contacts who allow us to ensure authentication of the pieces and avoid the numerous copies. Some pieces also come from private collectors and private sales. These are mostly statuettes, masks and everyday objects such as pulleys, combs, slingshots, etc...

All are unique pieces made of wood or clay and aging between 30 and 1800 years old.





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# The website

[www.anake-artribal.com](http://www.anake-artribal.com)

## Theme presentation and content

The website addresses amateurs, collectors and art lovers, but also professionals from around the world.

The website is divided in several topics that allows everyone, whether a collector, professional or amateur, to find needed information, news about us, events such as temporary exhibits, newsletters, contacts, artist bios and the store with its online catalogue and secure payment.

The store has two main sections:

- Tribal art, which gathers statues, statuettes, masks, jewelry etc... from private collections or shipped from West Africa.
- Ethno-contemporary art which is represented by artists from different backgrounds from Africa or France, who offer pieces in raku clay, wood, wicker, some paintings and silver jewelry.

Every month, we publish a newsletter on different topics such as showcasing an ethnic group and its art, a style of statue or mask, an artist and his/her work, certain conceptual practices or simply, or favourites pieces.

All documents, books and other inspirational sources are in the Books section.

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