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# THE WALTHER COLLECTION

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## Press Release

The Walther Collection has been invited by Paris Photo 2011 to present highlights from its African photography collection

On view November 10–13 at the Grand Palais in Paris, exhibition of portraiture to be featured in the international fair's spotlight on African artists



Malick Sidibé, *Vues de dos (Back View)*, 1999

The Walther Collection has been invited by Paris Photo, the world's most renowned art fair for photography, to present highlights from *Events of the Self: Portraiture and Social Identity* at the Grand Palais, the new location for the fair's 15th edition. Featured as part of Paris Photo's *Private Collections* series, and coinciding with the fair's celebration of African photography, the exhibition will be on view from November 10–13.

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*Events of the Self: Portraiture and Social Identity*, curated by Okwui Enwezor for The Walther Collection's inaugural exhibition in Neu-Ulm, Germany in 2010, offers an extensive account of modern and contemporary African photography. The exhibition investigates diverse formulations of portraiture, questioning the relation of self-representation and social identity across three generations of African artists and during societal transitions from industrial to postindustrial economy and colonial to postcolonial modernity. Reflecting the changed contexts of photography in showing the structural and cultural transformations reshaping individual and collective subjectivities, the exhibition also incorporates the work of German photographers, establishing a cross-cultural dialogue between African and European pictorial strategies.

The exhibition includes works by Sammy Baloji (DR Congo), Bernd and Hilla Becher (Germany), Allan deSouza (Kenya/USA), Alfred Martin Duggan-Cronin (Ireland/South Africa), Rotimi Fani-Kayode (Nigeria/United Kingdom), Samuel Fosso (Cameroon), Pieter Hugo (South Africa), Seydou Keita (Mali), Hentie van der Merwe (Namibia), Santu Mofokeng (South Africa), Zanele Muholi (South Africa), J. D. 'Okhai Ojeikere (Nigeria), Jo Ractliffe (South Africa), August Sander (Germany), Berni Searle (South Africa), Malick Sidibé (Mali), Guy Tillim (South Africa), and Nontsikelelo (Lolo) Veleko (South Africa).

In addition, collector Artur Walther has been invited to participate in the *LIVE PLATFORM* series, as contributor to a round table talk on the topic of *Emerging regions and boomerang effects on the West*. The program seeks to explore the consequences of an increased internationalized exchange between cultures and continents on contemporary artistic practices. The round table will be held Thursday, November 10, at 2:30pm at the Rotonde de la Reine at the Grand Palais.

The Walther Collection is dedicated to researching, collecting, exhibiting, and publishing modern and contemporary photography and video art. It is supported by the Walther Family Foundation, a private non-profit organization established by collector Artur Walther. With more than 1,200 works of photography and video, spanning geographic regions and ranging in date from late-19th century through the present, the collection has become one of the most important private holdings of contemporary African and Asian photography. The Walther Collection operates a four building museum compound in Neu-Ulm, Germany and a Project Space in New York.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Paris. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

For more information, visit [www.parisphoto.fr](http://www.parisphoto.fr).

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