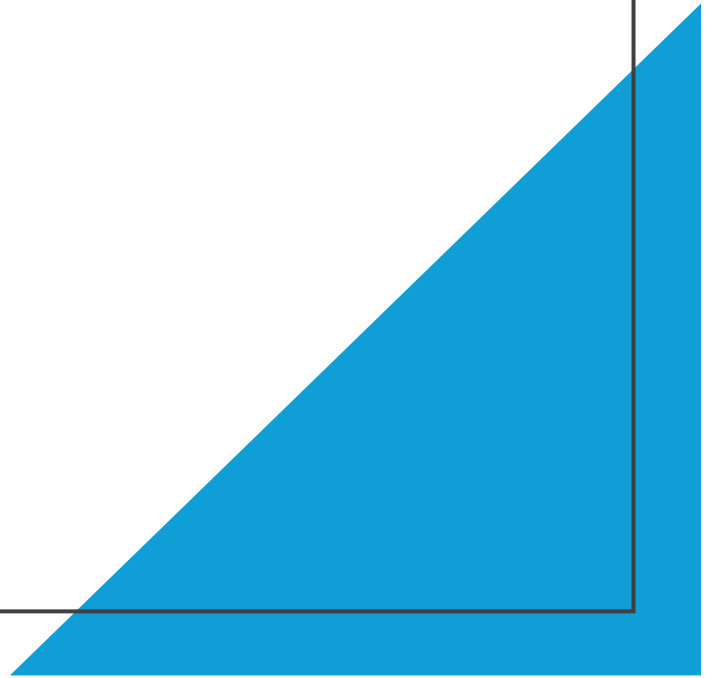


# Afropeans in Europe



# Looking at Europe Through an Afropean Lens

- Afropean
  - “When I first heard it, it encouraged me to think of myself as whole and unhyphenated: *Afropean*. Here was a space where blackness was taking part in shaping European identity at large. It suggested the possibility of living in and with more than one idea: Africa and Europe, or, by extension, the Global South and the West, without being mixed-this, half-that or black-other. That being black in Europe didn’t necessarily mean being an immigrant.”
    - Johnny Pitts. *Afropean: Notes from Black Europe*. Penguin Books, 2019, p.





La fuente de la Palangana/La Fuente del negrito, Eixample district, Barcelona.

©D. Odarthey-Wellington



Calle de la negras, Madrid

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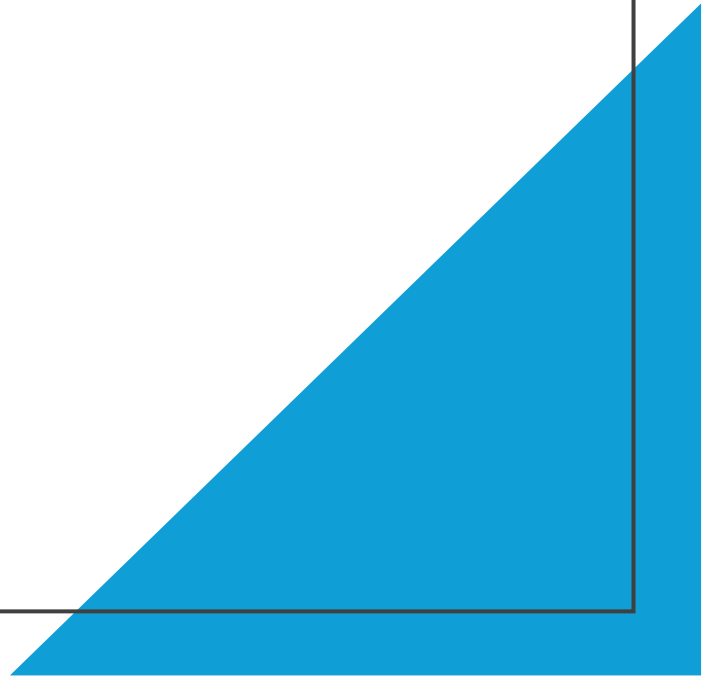


# Fred Kuwornu's *We Were Here*

- Fred Kuwornu (Bologna, Italy, 1971)
  - Film Director: *18 Ius Soli* (2012); *Blaxploitalian* (2016); *Inside Buffalo* (2010)
- *We were Here* (2024):
  - Counters hegemonic notions of European identity
  - Explores the African dimension of Europe through European visual culture from the Renaissance.
  - Exhibited at the Biennale di Venezia, 2024

# Clips from *We Were Here*

- <https://vimeo.com/video/925643150>



# Angelo Soliman (Mmadi Make) c. 1721 – 1796



- Life and death of Angelo Soliman as told by Canadian Author Esi Edugyan (CBC Massey Lectures, 2021).
- <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.6325873>

# Anton Wilhelm Amo

- Born around 1703 near Axim in what is now Ghana.
- He was enslaved, as a boy, by the Dutch West Indian Company.
- Was held at a Dutch fort in Axim until he was shipped to Amsterdam
- He was bought by Duke Anton Ulrich (Germany) to be a servant.
- During the 1720s and '30s, Amo went on to study philosophy, law and medicine at the universities of Halle and Wittenberg and received a PhD in 1734
- In his Halle dissertation – “On the Rights of Blacks in Europe” (De Jure Maurorum in Europa 1729) he “criticizes the miserable conditions of many blacks who served in European Houses and served as body guards and objects of exhibition for curious Europeans without any protection of the law.”

(Mabe, Jacob Emmanuel. *Anton Wilhelm Amo : The Intercultural Background of His Philosophy*. Translated by J. Obi Oguejiofor, Verlag Traugott Bautz GmbH, 2014.)

- He also taught philosophy at the universities of Halle from 1736 and Jena in 1739.
- He is said to have returned to West Africa in mid 1700s and lived in Axim and then Shama until his death in 1784.

# Berlin to rename 'Moor Street' after black philosopher Anton Wilhelm Amo

Campaigners welcome decision after years of protest against 'Mohrenstraße' name



📷 A sticker reading Anton-W-Amo-Straße covers a Mohrenstraße sign in Berlin. Photograph: Jan Scheunert/Zuma Wire/Rex/Shutterstock

Berlin authorities have announced they are to rename *Mohrenstraße* (“Moor Street”) in the city’s Mitte district after the country’s first black philosopher, Anton Wilhelm Amo.

The decision follows years of protest by postcolonial campaigners, including historians and ethnologists, who had criticised the street name as racist.