

TEMPLON



ALIOUNE DIAGNE

THE ART NEWSPAPER, April 18, 2024

THE MUST SEE PAVILIONS IN THE ARSENALE



Senegal

Bokk—Bounds, Alioune Diagne

Hazy images of joy and despair make up Senegal's showstopper of a Biennale debut. A monumental jigsaw of a wall work, formed out of 17 different panels, presents a variety of contrasting scenes: migrants travelling across the Mediterranean, orange lifejackets wrapped around their bodies; a person curled up on a street; teenagers laughing together. Get up close and it becomes clear that these shapes are formed out of minute, gorgeous calligraphic marks, perhaps inspired by the artist's grandfather, who was a Koranic master. A real-life canoe lies in front of the wall work, broken in half. Rarely has an installation spoken so effectively to the power of connection and the dangers of drifting apart.