

# AMAKABA

Tabita Rezaire

Amakaba is a healing and educational centre – a place for the transmission of the wisdom of the earth, the body and sky – in the middle of the Amazon rainforest of French Guiana.<sup>1</sup> It is a space of gathering, of experimentation, of collaboration through art, science and spirituality. The ambition is to contribute to a more conscious and responsible way of living and being, and to respond creatively to the many challenges we face ecologically, socially, politically. And to heal from the trauma – of the land, of our bodies, our wombs, our communities. Above all, it is about establishing a spiritual anchor, a place to celebrate our ancestors, the river, the forest, its spirits, and to nurture our intimacy with each other, ourselves, the land and the whole of creation.

For this, Amakaba is building an agroecological farm. Right now, I have just finished agriculture studies and am starting a cacao farm. I have been called by this plant and have been initiated by its wisdom. So we are setting up an agroforestry system because agriculture should not be synonymous with deforestation, especially in the Amazon context. We are planning to design an autonomous system in terms of energy and waste management, considering the whole infrastructure as an organism and architecture as medicine.

Amakaba is also home to a yoga centre. I have been teaching Kundalini yoga for six years, and the science of yoga has been transformational in my healing journey – to understand the power of the

body and the need to align it with the mind and spirit, always guided by the wisdom of the womb.

Womb healing is central to Amakaba's vision. Through doula work and advocacy, our mission is also here to support mothers and the next generation in their transition to earth. Amakaba is about birth on so many levels: of a plant, of a child, of another dimension of existence.

From seeds to planets, the exploration of the celestial realms is also part of the vision. We will build an observatory above the canopy for astronomical observation, stargazing, full moon meditation, a space to experience the infinity of the sky. Amakaba is also holding ceremonies and celebrations for the ancestors, for the spirits of the forest and the water, for the harvests, births, deaths, and all great transitions of existence in alignment with the rhythm of the sky: the equinox, the solstice and the moon cycle.

In essence, Amakaba is an offering in reverence of the ancestors, like a place of initiation, a space to be transformed, to grow, to bloom, like in a womb to be rebirthed, guided by the Amazon rainforest.

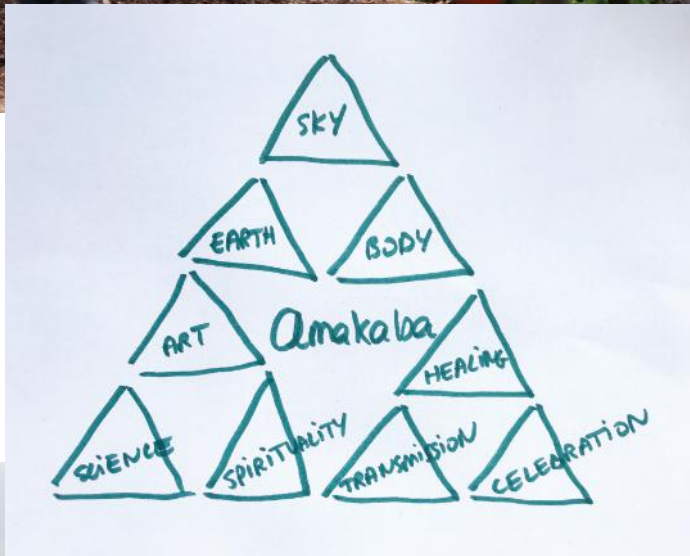
I hope to receive you here one day.

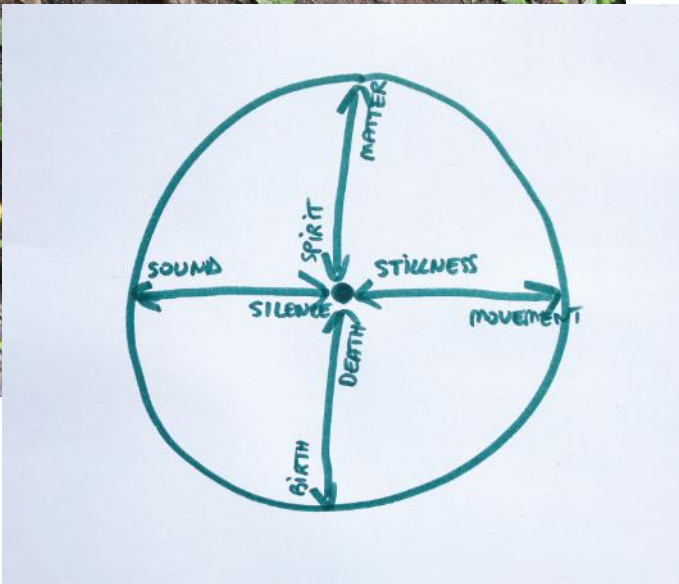
1. See [www.amakaba.org](http://www.amakaba.org), accessed 13 February 2022.

Tabita Rezaire's *Mamelles Ancestrales* (2019) and *Deep Down Tidal* (2017) will be exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and the Cutaway at Barangaroo respectively as part of the 23rd Biennale of Sydney, 'rivus', from 12 March to 13 June 2022.

Tabita Rezaire, *Amakaba*, 2021, production images, sketches, and stills  
(from a video 4mins 4secs duration); courtesy Amakaba











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