

M A W N D O É

The Artist Who Refuses to Be Defined



A free artist



Mawndoé is a unique figure on the African music scene, recognized for his **powerful voice and deep commitment**

Originally from Chad, the young Mawndoé chose exile to pursue his art.

As a sculptor, he settled in Burkina Faso, shaping wood and metal before turning to rhythms and melodies. In 2001, he co-founded **Yeleen**, one of the most influential West African hip-hop groups..

With a meteoric rise, Yeleen performed on stages worldwide, collaborated with numerous artists, and recorded five albums. Their success was crowned with a **Kundé d'Or**, a prestigious award in Africa.

In 2011, **a new chapter** began with his first album under the name Mawndoé. The following year, a creative residency in France enriched his musical and linguistic universe. He continued his artistic exploration through **composition, writing, and collaborations** with artists from diverse backgrounds.

With a voice that conveys raw and sincere emotions, he writes deeply poetic and meaningful lyrics. On stage, he captivates audiences in France and Africa, earning recognition with **a Kora Awards nomination**. Pan-African media frequently feature him in interviews and reports, highlighting his artistic impact.

Until 2020, Mawndoé divided his life and creative work between Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, France, and Burkina Faso. Simultaneously, he organized **major cultural events**, such as festivals and tours, while actively supporting young artists.

From 2021 onward, he permanently settled in Chad—not to slow down, but to deepen his artistic and social commitment. Driven by the conviction that art can be a catalyst for transformation, he has developed initiatives that go beyond music creation.

Never let yourself be defined

To refuse to be defined is to reject being confined by others' expectations—or even one's own certainties.

It means resisting musical labels and success standards.

It means letting **his art and projects** evolve through experiences, remaining in constant movement. It means refusing to be reduced to someone else's projection, whatever it may be.





Free and committed

When COVID-19 froze the world and halted projects, Mawndoé was in Chad, where an unexpected encounter with women potters gave a new dimension to his commitment, "In the Name of Art."

Although Mawndoé had already engaged in humanitarian efforts—building wells and distributing food—this time, he chose to go further by developing a local cultural economy concept.

He founded the **"In the Name of Art"** association and created **"La Maison de l'Argile"** (The House of Clay) in Gaoui, a structural project that includes:

- **A biennial event dedicated to clay,**
- **"Expoterie"** (pottery exhibitions),
- **Artistic tours and cultural gatherings,**
- **Training programs for fifty women.**

Through this initiative, he facilitated the acquisition of birth certificates, identity documents, and bank accounts for the potters while **creating a market for their works**, giving them autonomy and recognition.

His projects, in partnership with the French association **"In the Name of Art,"** have been supported by Accès Culture (Institut Français de Paris and the French Development Agency) since 2021.

While continuing his artistic career, he has also opened another cultural center, "In the Name of Art," in Bakara, Chad.

His center is **a vibrant space** where young people, older generations, civil figures, artists, and engaged thinkers come together. By participating in or organizing events there, they integrate art as a means of expression, reflection, and dialogue, making the space a place where culture, social engagement, and **intellectual exchange meet and interact.**



Musical Universe

Before becoming a musician, Mawndoé was a sculptor, **shaping wood and metal with precision and intensity—qualities** that now permeate his music.

His deep, striking voice carries the echoes of the desert and ancestral chants, crossing borders and languages **to touch the core of human passion.**

His musical universe is **a subtle fusion of tradition and modernity**, blending Afro-Sahelian sounds with Central African rhythms, enriched with blues and soul influences.

His art is nourished **by encounters and reflections.** Always seeking new sound textures, Mawndoé **sculpts words as he once shaped matter.**

His lyrics, a **mix of poetry and activism, speak of exile, love, freedom, and resilience.**



Rhythms for All, an Intimate Resonance for Each Listener



Whether rhythmic, danceable, or infused with softness and melancholy, **Mawndoé's songs appeal to everyone.**

Audiences sing along at his concerts or hum his melodies alone, moved by their resonance.

Many videos shared on social media capture **these moments of genuine and vibrant emotion.**

Some of his songs go even deeper, resonating with the soul and reaching places where words become echoes.

He sings in French, Arabic, and M'gambaye, building bridges between cultures and identities.

Whether solo with a guitar or backed by a band, he creates **a unique atmosphere, delivering raw intensity and dynamic energy that immediately connects with the audience.**

His ever-evolving journey reflects a sincere and profound artistic quest. More than just a musician, he is a storyteller, a connector, an artist who sculpts souls through music.



S o c i a l i m p a c t

Art as a Catalyst for Social Transformation

Convinced that culture is a powerful driver of change, Mawndoé initiates projects that blend art with economic development.

In **Gaoui**, he established "**La Maison de l'Argile**" (**Clay House**) a structured space for women potters, providing training and economic opportunities. He created "L'Expoterie" and cultural events to facilitate the distribution of pottery through markets and exhibitions. Some of these women now travel abroad to share their craftsmanship.

His commitment extends to young people. With support from UNICEF, he encourages their participation in cultural and social projects. Through his TV program "In the Name of Art Talents," he highlights emerging artists, organizes discussions, and mentors creators in multiple cities across Chad.

Bakara Cultural Center: A Social and Cultural

In **N'Djamena**, he founded the **Bakara Cultural Center**, a **dynamic space for festivals, artist residencies, exhibitions, and training programs**.

This center **bridges the gap between artists, artisans, and intellectuals**, fostering dialogue between **culture and social engagement**.

A Visionary Project for the Future

As a **laureate of the Accès Culture program**, Mawndoé is dedicated to making **art a driving force for social and economic development**. By **mentoring artists and artisans**, he contributes to the growth of **a sustainable cultural economy driven by youth and creativity**.

Recognized beyond Chad, **his commitment has earned him major distinctions**:

- **Best African Cultural Entrepreneur (PADEV 2024, Kigali - Rwanda)**
- **Jury Member at FESPACO 2025 (Burkina Faso)**

Mawndoé is now an **essential figure in African culture**, inspiring a new generation of artists and changemakers.



Musical production

A Discography Between Commitment and Exploration

Since 2011, **Mawndoé** has pursued a solo career after recording five albums with **Yeleen**.

He has **produced over 70 songs, dozens of music videos, and five albums**.

Each album is a **step forward, a bridge between tradition and modernity**, where **Afro-Sahelian sounds meet blues and soul influences**.

Singing in **French, Arabic, and M'gambaye**, his lyrics explore **exile, hope, freedom, and love** with **powerful messages and an emotionally charged voice**. From **intimate ballads to captivating rhythms**, his music continues to evolve, attracting a diverse audience and solidifying his **status as a major artist**.

Through his albums, he **collaborates with various musicians and explores new sonic textures**, blending **traditional instruments with contemporary production techniques**.

His **discography reflects his artistic evolution**, combining **introspection with a global outlook**, while showcasing his **constant commitment to meaningful music**.



- **DAARI (2011)** – Between doubt and urgency, his first solo album was born.
- **DOUM PAH (2013)** – A mix of reflection and self-questioning, this second album was produced in Montreal with the group H'SAO.
- **KI DAN C (2014)** – Between dreams and passion, his third album was recorded in Chad.
- **NEMAY (2017)** – Between love and freedom, this fourth album was created between Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, and Burkina Faso.
- **AU NOM DE L'ART (2021)** – A return to the essentials with his fifth album.
- 4 singles since 2023



M A W N D O É



Artist	Singer - Songwriter - Musician – Sculptor Regularly featured in media Invited to conferences and cultural discussions + 165 K followers on Facebook 1.5M+ views on YouTube Brand sponsorships with BDT and Airtel FESPACO 2025 Jury Member (Feature Films Category)
Cultural Entrepreneur	Founder of festivals <i>Neige au Sahel – 3 éd et Au Cœur de l'art – 2 éd.</i> Founder of Cultural Spaces <i>Maison de l'argile à Gaoui & Centre culturel de Bakara</i> Creator of Cultural Events Concert Tours – Stadium Performances – 72h Yeleen Producteur <i>Takoun production Tchad</i> Winner of the Best African Arts & Culture Promoter Award (PADEV 2024, Kigali)
Founder & President of "In the Name of Art" Association	Association Au NOM de l'ART N'Djamena - Tchad Recognized by economic and public institutions Dedicated to promoting art in all its diversity and fostering social well-being

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