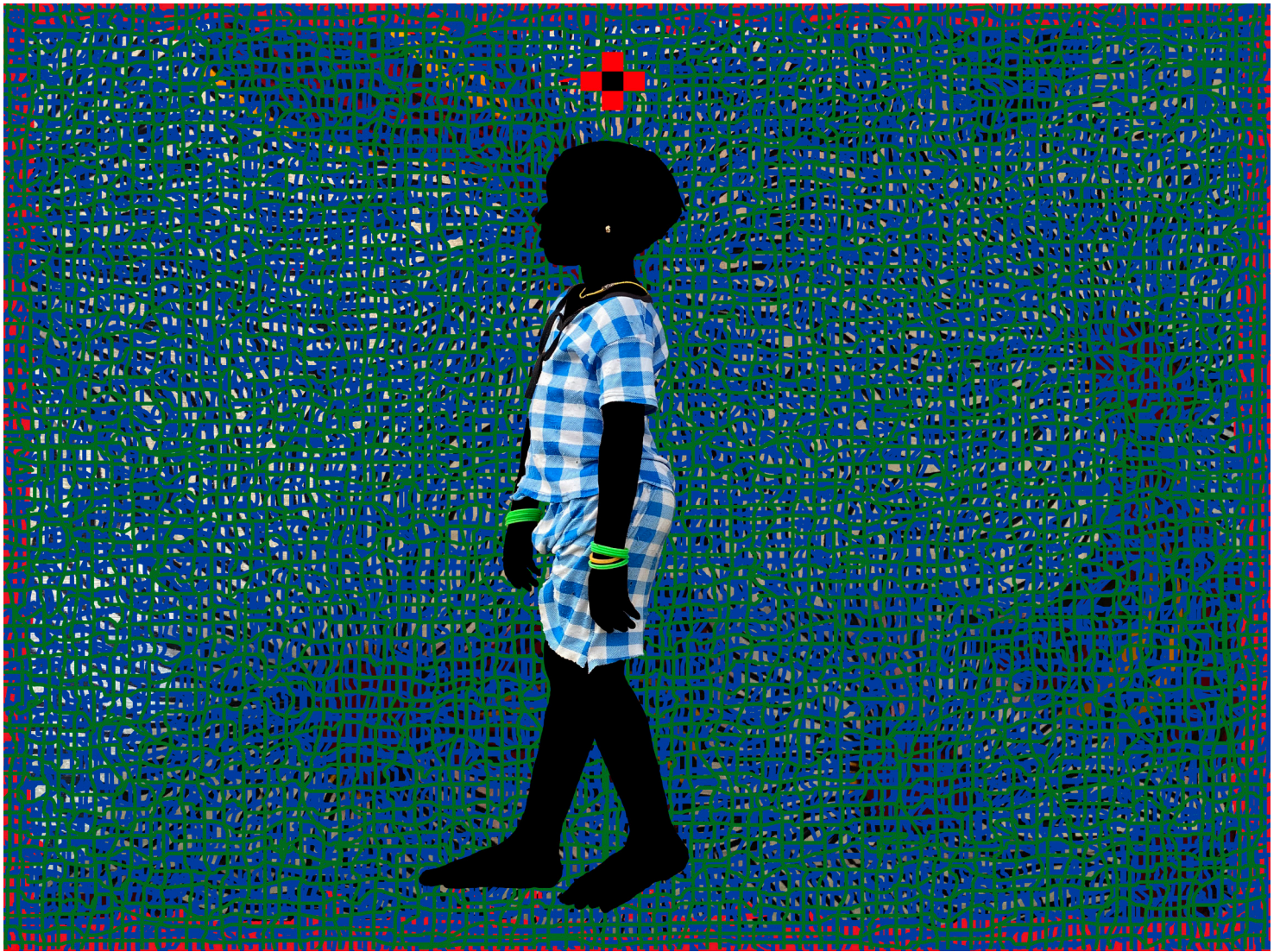


# STAYING CONNECTED IN THE DISTANCE, AT AFIKARIS GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE





**SAÏDOU DICKO**

LA VICHYSOISE DE OUAGA T FEUX D'ARTIFICE 2 BLUE GREEN  
2020

Painted photography

H: 90 cm; W: 120 cm

Courtesy : AFIKARIS (Paris)

Paris - March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

THE EXHIBITION "LA POÉSIE DU LIEN" (*THE POETRY OF THE LINK*) FROM MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> TO MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>, AIMS TO RECREATE THESE HUMAN BONDS. THESE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN BEINGS ARE DISTURBED BY THE MEASURES OF PHYSICAL DISTANCE AS WELL AS BY THE SCREENS THAT INTERPOSE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Using the same silhouettes and the same motifs, Saïdou Dicko questions time, space and identity. Transformed into shadows, his characters roam the world. Everyday objects are diverted from their primary function. Cans become seats. Extended linen becomes a studio background.

The very techniques adopted by Saïdou Dicko: photomontage using embroidery or drawing, celebrate this need to reinvent what already exists. The artist documents the present and imagines the future. The shadows that spring under his hands take over all temporality. Yesterday, today and tomorrow belong to them. They are the change.

In his drawings, the characters in the center of the blank page are left to their own devices. In a contemplative attitude, they talk about the world in which they have been left behind. It is up to them to propose a tomorrow. Far from natural disasters, human beings and nature live in harmony. Saïdou Dicko draws an invitation to benevolence and to

reconnect with our environment. Plastic, the nerve of today's ecological war, feeds a reborn nature here and thus becomes a source of life. It evokes renewal. How what belongs to the past can be reused in the present and participate in building the future.

In his painted photographs, the silhouettes move from cliché to cliché, from frame to frame, from décor to décor. If his characters move from one place to another, they remain unchanged: as if neither time nor space had a hold on them, as if they were the only actors of their destiny. A message of emancipation emerges: we create these bonds that unite us as we undo them.

Hyacinthe Ouattara goes beyond a reflection centered on the individual to dive into the immaterial, the metaphysics, the sensitive. His questioning starts from an observation in the face of human movements in space: what binds this human tide? How do individuals interact with one another? Beyond a sociological question, he touches on scientific concepts without naming them: from the Big Bang, to the cosmos through the origin of life. If he starts by dissecting and analysing cellular tissues, to establish what he calls "human mapping", soon his reflection takes a more global turn and touches on the changes of the world itself. Thus was born the series "Multiplicity".

Beyond a purely aesthetic experience, Hyacinthe Ouattara invites synaesthesia. His work commits us to listen to what our eyes hear, to perceive the noise in silence. In this way, it shows that everything is linked and composes a mapping of the universe.

Prophet artist, listening to the world, he becomes a messenger. His work, on paper, on canvas or

fabric, transmits and transcribes the sensitive messages he receives. The gesture predominates. His works are born of spontaneity, like a trance in which the artist lets himself be guided to transcribe what he felt.

Through the installation *Bois sacré*, the artist Sacred Wood theatricalises the exhibition space. By staying between the beams, these pieces of wood dressed in wires channel the forgotten spaces as well as the forgotten of the space. These branches are adorned with red. Red as the beat of a heart, they symbolise life: the beginning but also the end. This aerial forest forms a bridge between the works of Saïdou Dicko and Hyacinthe Ouattara. In this way, she materialises this poetry of the bond that unites the two artists.

The exhibition "The Poetry of the Link" proposes to delve into the works of two artists and explore the resonances that can exist between their works. Out of time as rooted in their time, figurative as well as abstract, the works of Saïdou Dicko and Hyacinthe Ouattara, all in colour and delicacy give way to the reflection and interpretation of the visitor. The Poetry of The Link is finally a way of describing the invisible connections that connect us. It is, according to Hyacinthe Ouattara: "how we can be bound in other forms while being distant from each other, in form and informs."



**HYACINTHE OUATTARA**

*MULTIPLICITÉ #6*

2020

Gouache, ink and ballpoint pen on canvas

H: 150 cm; W: 150 cm

Courtesy : AFIKARIS (Paris)

## ABOUT AFIKARIS

AFIKARIS is a young contemporary art gallery created in 2018, promoting emerging artists whom Africa has been influencing life and work. From young talents to already renowned artists, Afikaris fosters many different perspectives on Contemporary Africa in its various facets. Previously located in a showroom in the north of Paris, it opens in January 2021 a space in the heart of the city at 38 rue Quincampoix, close to Centre Pompidou.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

«LA POÉSIE DU LIEN»

From March 27<sup>th</sup> to May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

38 rue Quincampoix, 75004 Paris

Online - [www.afikaris.com](http://www.afikaris.com)

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