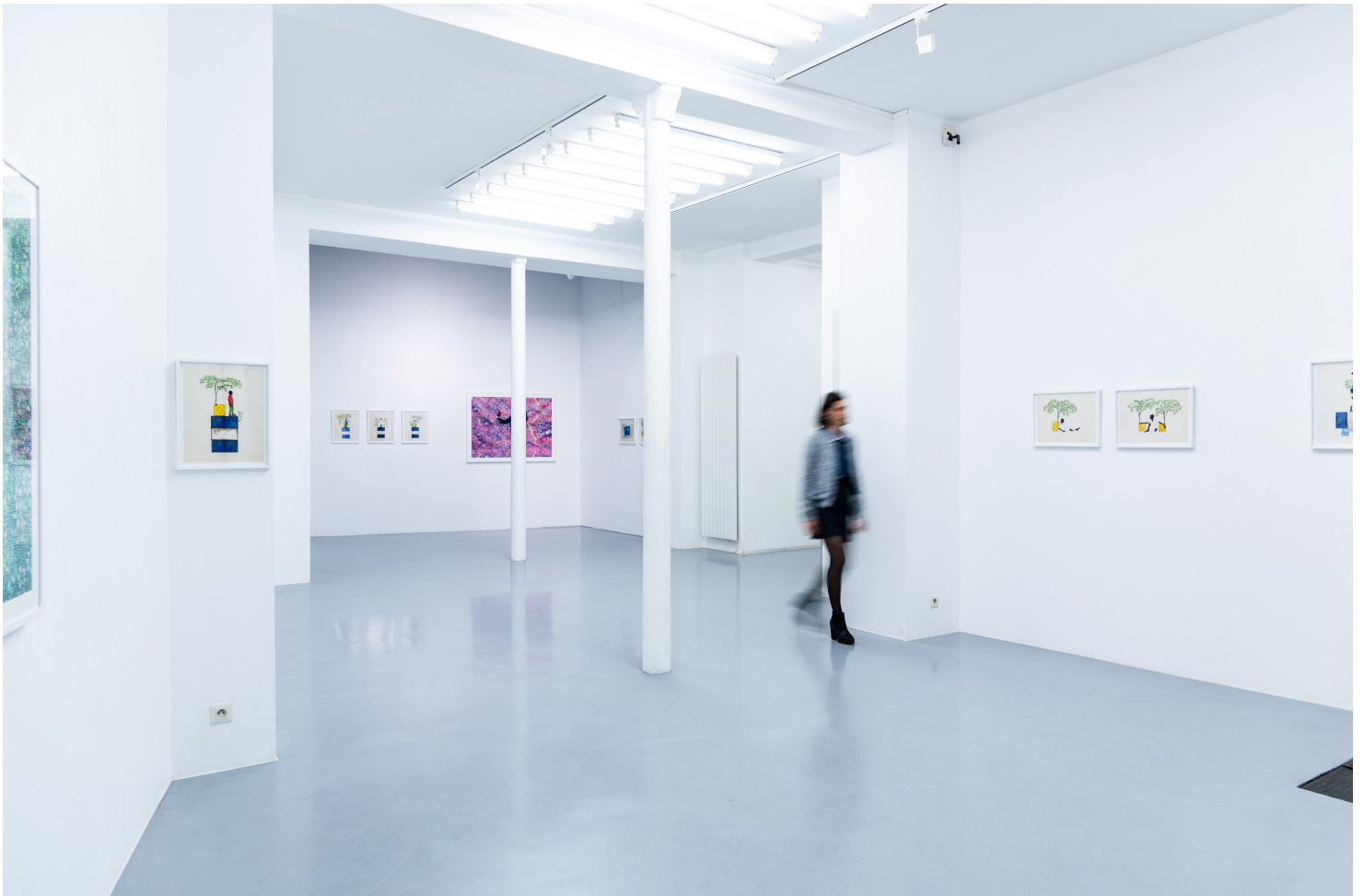


AFIKARIS

PRESS KIT

SAÏDOU DICKO
*THE STORIES CHILDREN USED TO TELL
UNDER THE MANGO TREE*

14 December 2023 – 27 January 2024



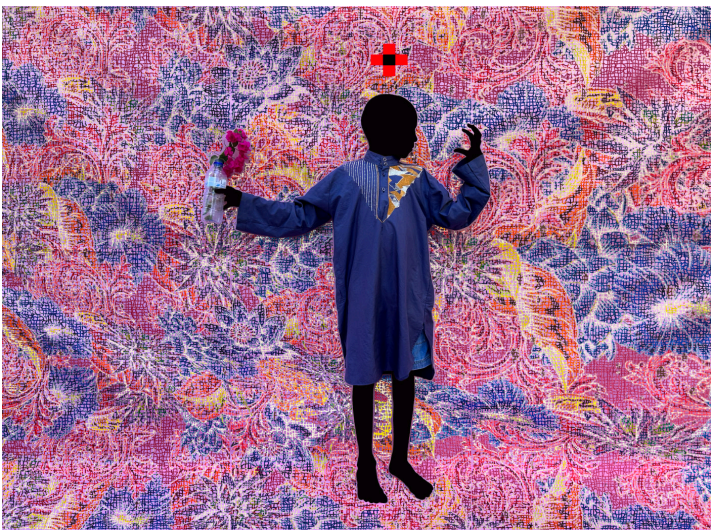
SAÏDOU DICKO

THE STORIES CHILDREN USED TO TELL UNDER THE MANGO TREE

EXHIBITION FROM DECEMBER 14TH TO JANUARY 27TH

7 RUE NOTRE-DAME-DE-NAZARETH, 75003 PARIS, FRANCE

From 14 December to 27 January, AFIKARIS Gallery is hosting Saïdou Dicko's second major solo exhibition in France – The Stories Children Used to Tell Under the Mango Tree. The artist's painted photographs and watercolours unfold across the 180m² space, following the adventures of the children playing in front of the family home.



Left. Saïdou Dicko. *You can Take it T sci-fi*, 2023. 90x120 cm / 35x47 in. Painted photography. Unique piece.

À droite. Saïdou Dicko. *The Prince of Flowers* 2023. 75x100 cm / 30x39 in. Painted photography. Unique piece.

Courtesy of AFIKARIS Gallery and the artist.

Saïdou Dicko's family home in Ouagadougou has long been an important feature of his work. A children's playground, its walls provide the ideal scenery for endless adventures. A tree stands proudly in front. What anecdotes has it witnessed? This new body of work is infused with the moving recollection of "the stories the children used to tell under the mango tree".

"THE NAP UNDER THE SHADE OF THE MANGO TREE, LULLED BY THE SOFT MELODY OF THE RUBBING OF THE LEAVES AND THE SONGS OF BIRDS ENJOYING THE RIPE MANGOES. I FLY IN THE LAND OF DREAMS, I FLOAT ABOVE BEAUTIFULLY COLOURED LANDSCAPES WITH THE FLAVOUR OF MANGOES. I OBSERVE THESE BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES FROM ABOVE, WITH THE SCARF AND THE FLOWERY PLASTIC BOTTLE, THESE TWO OBJECTS THAT ARE OPPOSITES YET COEXIST IN HARMONY."

The stories children tell under the mango tree mirror their dreams and hopes. Together, they naively imitate adults, creating a parallel reality where everything is a source of wonder. A bucket transforms into a luxury bag, the beaten earth into a dance floor. And suddenly, in front of the stone-walled house, anything feels possible.

Echoing the cans that once contained petrol and mutate alternately into business class and yachts in children's games, Saïdou Dicko's work touches people's sensibilities. The artist refuses to explain. Instead, he lets the magic of the images work by themselves. The final narrative escapes both the young models and the artist. The poetry of his art scatters its seeds in the imaginations of those who contemplate it, to become their own. The tales adapt to each person's visions and memories and become very personal through the eyes of the public.



Above. Saïdou Dicko. *Le tabouret*, 2023.
Watercolour on paper. 40x30 cm / 16x12 in.
Courtesy of AFIKARIS Gallery and the artist.

On photographic paper, Saïdou Dicko covers the silhouettes of the children with black ink, transforming them into shadows. Becoming anonymous characters, their identity is limited only by their imagination. The world belongs to them. Behind them, the artist superimposes floral fabrics using his digital brushes, leaving only the main weave. The threads follow the movement of the figures, offering the stories an intimate and unique frame.

The same silhouettes emerge on white paper, this time in watercolour. They interact with an environment of giants, where everything seems disproportionately bigger than them. Mischievous shadows wandering through a forest of plastic cans, they live out their own adventures, away from the reality of mortal life.

And now, in the courtyard deserted by children's voices of laughter, the branches of the mango tree of the family home still vibrate with the distant echoes of wonderful stories shared together.

14 December 2023 — 27 January 2024

Saïdou Dicko, *The Stories Children Used to Tell under the Mango Tree*

Project Room | Saïdou Dicko & Hyacinthe Ouattara, *La poésie du lien ACT2*

PREVIEW: Thursday, 14 December, 3 – 6 PM

PUBLIC Opening: Thursday, 14 December, 6 – 9 PM

AFIKARIS Gallery

7 rue Notre-Dame-de-Nazareth, 75003 Paris, France

ABOUT SAÏDOU DICKO

b. 1979, Déou, Burkina Faso
Lives and works in Paris, France

SOLO SHOWS (SELECTED)

2023

The Stories Children used to Tell under the Mango Tree, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
The Shadowed People, Contour Gallery, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Artgenève, AFIKARIS Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland

2022

The Prince of Shadows, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

2021

Shadowed People, Jackson Fine Art Gallery, Atlanta, USA

2018

Photo Folies, La Menuiserie, Rodez, France
The Shadowed People, ARTCO Gallery, Aachen, Germany

2016

Trans-Humance, Usanii Space, Nevers, France

2014

Le Voleur d'ombres, French Institute in Rome, Rome, Italy

2012

Der Schattendieb, ARTCO Gallery, Herzogenrath, Germany

2009

French-Mozambican Cultural Centre, Centre Culturel, Maputo, Mozambique

2008

French Cultural Centre Georges Méliès, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
OFF Dak'Art 08, French Institute, Dakar, Senegal

2007

Biennale OFF Dak'Art 08, Linguistic Centre of the French Institute, Dakar, Senegal

2006

Chab Gallery, Bamako, Mali
Quinzaine africaine, La Vénérie Espace Delvaux Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

GROUP SHOWS (SELECTED)

2023

La poésie du lien ACT2, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
PAN Amsterdam Art Fair, Contour Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
1-54 New York, AFIKARIS Gallery, New York, États-Unis
Ce que nous donne la terre, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
Art Brussels, Brussels, Belgium

2022

Photo London, Londres, Royaume-Uni

2021

Paris Photo, Paris, France
La poésie du lien, Galerie AFIKARIS, Paris, France
Zone Franche, Institut des Cultures d'Islam, Paris, France
Art Paris, Paris, France

2020

Your Shadows, Galerie AFIKARIS, Paris, France

2019

1-54 London, London, UK

2018

AKAA, Paris, France
FNB Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa

2017

UTOCORPIS les Corps Utopiques, Paris, France
Bandjoun Station, Guadeloupe, France

2016

Dakar-Martigny, Martigny, Suisse
Le Sel sur la Mangue, La lune en Parachute, Epinal, France
The Expanded Subject : New Perspectives In Photographic Portraiture From Africa, Columbia University, New York, USA
Printemps des photographes, Sète, France



2015

L'Afrique a du génie, Fondation Attijariwafa bank, Casablanca, Morocco

We, c'est moi, Goldenberg Gallery, Paris, France
Africa Développement Forum, Casablanca, Morocco

2014

Still Fighting Ignorance & Intellectual Perfidy, Galerie Ben Uri and Museum London, London, UK

Marrakech Biennial, Marrakech, Morocco

Group Show, Cécile Fakhoury Gallery, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
One Game – Everywhere, ARTCO Gallery, Aachen, Germany
Kölnner Liste, ARTCO Gallery, Cologne, Germany

2013

Art meetings of Africa-Middle East, Casablanca, Morocco
Mes Amours, Bandjoun Station, Bandjoun, Cameroon
Still Fighting Ignorance & Intellectual Perfidy, Kunsthalle Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil

2012

Still Fighting Ignorance & Intellectual Perfidy, Museo Arte Contemporanea Ticino, Bellinzona, Switzerland

2011

Fronteiras, Rencontres photographiques de Bamako, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Paris, France
Fernan Gomez Exhibition Centre, Madrid, Spain
Interpretations of Africa Football Art and Design, London Design Museum, London, UK

2010

Foto Museum, Antwerp, Belgium
Cajastur Palacio Revillagigedo Cultural Centre, Gijon, Spain
Momo Cultural Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

2009

8th Bamako Encounters, Bamako, Mali

2008

Africa Now, World Bank, Washington, USA

2007

7th Bamako Encounters, Bamako, Mali

INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS

Fondation Blachère, France
Collection Anne-Cécile & Pierre Donnersberg, France
World Bank, USA
Yale University Museum, USA
ARAK Collection, Qatar

REWARDS (SELECTED)

2008

Prize of the Public given by the European Union, Dakar, Senegal
Winner of the Thamgidi Foundation Prize for a video installation created with artist Piniang

2007

Winner of the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie Prize: Best Francophone Photographer, Mali, Bamako

2006

Winner of Jean-Paul Blachère Foundation Prize, Bamako Encounters, Bamako, Mali

IN PARALLEL IN THE *PROJECT ROOM*



Saïdou Dicko & Hyacinthe Ouattara.
La poésie du lien. Éloge des racines 4, 2023.
Watercolour, ink, pencil and pen on paper. 50x75 cm / 20x30 in
Courtesy of AFIKARIS Gallery and the artists.

LA POÉSIE DU LIEN ACT2
Saïdou Dicko & Hyacinthe Ouattara
14 December – 27 January

Suggested by 'ACT2' - borrowing the terminology used in the titles of Saïdou Dicko's works - the four-hands project bringing together Saïdou Dicko and Hyacinthe Ouattara forms the second act of the exhibition *La poésie du lien*. Held at AFIKARIS Gallery from March to May 2021, the exhibition presented a conversation between the worlds of the two artists whose art, brought together in one place, met on paper in a joint work. This second act now focuses on the crossroads of their imaginations and manifests itself in the physical space as a meeting place.

FORTHCOMING



Hervé Yamguen. *Les veilleurs*, 2018
Bronze.
Courtesy of AFIKARIS Gallery and the artist.

LES MONDES DE L'OISEAU CONTEUR
Hervé Yamguen
3 February – 16 March

Cameroonian artist Hervé Yamguen's first solo exhibition in France reflects 30 years of artistic practice and the diversity of his work: painting, drawing, sculpture and poetry.

ART FAIRS

artgenève | Geneva, Switzerland | 25 – 28 January 2024

Solo Show – Salifou Lindou

Group Show – Saïdou Dicko, Mouhcine Rahaoui, Ozioma Onuzulike, Hervé Yamguen

1-54 Marrakech | Marrakech, Morocco | 8 – 11 February 2024

Nasreddine Bennacer, Jean David Nkot, Ozioma Onuzulike, Hervé Yamguen

Miart | Milan, Italy | 12 – 14 April 2024

Salifou Lindou, Jean David Nkot

Art Brussels | Brussels, Belgium | 25 – 28 April 2024

Saïdou Dicko, Omar Mahfoudi

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Founded in 2018 by Florian Azzopardi, to promote emerging and established artists from Africa and its diaspora, AFIKARIS Gallery opened a dedicated Paris-based gallery space in 2021. Engaged in promoting cross-cultural and disciplinary exchange, AFIKARIS acts as a platform for artists to engage with the wider public. A mirror and space for reflection on the contemporary African art scene, it provides artists with a space to address the topical local and international issues at the heart of their art.

The AFIKARIS programme includes group and solo exhibitions, art fairs, publications and institutional partnerships. In 2023, the gallery opened its artist residency on the outskirts of Paris. The residency is a place dedicated to creation, at the disposal of the artists working with the gallery or who wish to develop a project for a future presentation with the gallery.



Above. View of AFIKARIS Gallery located at 7 rue Notre-Dame-de-Nazareth, Paris.
Courtesy of AFIKARIS Gallery.
Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

AFIKARIS Gallery
7 rue Notre-Dame-de-Nazareth
75003 Paris, France

Tuesday – Saturday
11 AM — 7 PM

PRESS CONTACT

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