

AFIKARIS

FOR THE INAUGURATION OF ITS NEW GALLERY SPACE LOCATED AT 7 RUE-NOTRE-DAME-DE-NAZARETH, AFIKARIS SHEDS LIGHT ON MASTERPIECES FROM ART HISTORY THROUGH THEIR REINTERPRETATION BY 11 ARTISTS FROM THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

To celebrate its new space located at 7 rue Notre-Dame-de-Nazareth, AFIKARIS Gallery gathers through the exhibition *Classique ! (16 juillet – 17 septembre 2022)* thirteen artworks inspired by masterpieces from art history. Whether they are key artworks or lesser known works, they all paved the way for the artists who succeeded them, as they keep marking their visual writing. Inherited from the long tradition of appropriation, they embody the personal reinterpretation of paintings, photographs - and even sometimes artistic movements - by their author. The show also mark the collaboration between the gallery and two artists: Richard Mensah et Daniel Pengrapher.

16 July – 17 September, 2022

Artists :

Moustapha Baidi Oumarou, Matthew Eguavoen, Salifou Lindou, Richard Mensah, Omar Mahfoudi, Ousmane Niang, Jean David Nkot, Hyacinthe Ouattara, Nana Yaw Oduro, Daniel Pengrapher, Marc Posso



À gauche. Salifou Lindou, *La journaliste*, 2022. 130 x 100 cm. Acrylique, collage et pastel sur tissu. Courtesy de la galerie AFIKARIS.

À droite. Jean David Nkot, *PO.box Plan d'aide humanitaire@yahoo.fr*, 2022. 200 x 240 cm. Acrylique et sérigraphie sur toile. Courtesy de la galerie AFIKARIS.

July 1st, 2022 (Paris, France) – Whilst it settled down in december 2020 at 38 rue Quincampoix in the 4th arrondissement, AFIKARIS Gallery takes over a new space locate at 7 rue Notre-Dame-de-Nazareth dans in the 3rd. For its first exhibition, the gallery features thirteen exclusive works by eleven different artists of the gallery - Moustapha Baidi Oumarou, Matthew Eguavoen, Salifou Lindou, Richard Mensah, Omar Mahfoudi, Ousmane Niang, Jean David Nkot, Hyacinthe Ouattara, Nana Yaw Oduro, Daniel Pengrapher and Marc Posso. In parallel, the solo show *Les pommes de la discorde* devoted to the Cameroonian artist Jean David Nkot will keep running until September 13th at 38 rue Quincampoix.

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The exhibition *Classique !* asks: “How does what we see influence our imagination?” And testifies the way artworks designed in the past never die and keep living through contemporary creation. These images penetrate our unconscious and become part of our visual culture. Shapes, colours and atmosphere are many factors which taint the art from any time and of any type - including visual arts, cinema and performance. The influences intertwine and compose a new language. The mix of cultural and visual elements taking place is in the continuity of the artworks they draw inspiration from - sometimes themselves the result of the adoption of a myth or an older work: from the antique maenads to Christian iconography.

With *La vie de Pablo*, Daniel Pengrapher (b.1998, Nigeria) reminds Picasso’s art richness and diversity by gathering within one same canvas two of the periods that built his fame: the blue period - through *La Vie* (1903) - and the cubism - *Les demoiselles d’Avignon* (1907). The young Nigerian painter rebuilds the tormented spirit of Picasso through the events that shaped his life as his painting. He also disseminates some contemporary elements to create a bridge between past and present. Thus, *La vie de Pablo* materialises a creative cycle: from death shaking the artist’s landmarks, marking and transforming its art; until his rebirth.



Au-dessus. Daniel Pengrapher, *La vie de Pablo*, 2022. 150 x 100 cm. Acrylique sur toile. Courtesy de la galerie AFIKARIS.

In his work *PO.box Plan d'aide humanitaire@yahoo.fr* (2022), Jean David Nkot revisits and recontextualises *La mise au tombeau* (1602-1603) by baroque painter Caravaggio, itself inspired by Michelangelo’s *Pieta* (1498-1499). The Cameroonian painter tackles the question of raw materials exploitation by multinational companies and their impact on those who extract them. Whilst he copies the posture of the Christic figure, Nkot underlines the limits of the market economy. The body, blue, turns into matter, echoing the colour of cobalt. Analogous to the pedestal, the wooden pallet on which the silhouettes stand sacralises them and provides them with the status of icons. Thus, the artwork offers a dialogue between eras and participates in the writing of contemporary History.

Sometimes imbued with the scene and with energy being displaced, sometimes by the artistic approach: Moustapha Baidi Oumarou, Matthew Eguavoen, Salifou Lindou, Omar Mahfoudi, Richard Mensah, Ousmane Niang, Jean David Nkot, Nana Yaw Oduro, Hyacinthe Ouattara, Daniel Pengrapher and Marc Posso reinterpret works that participated in building the history of art and echo their own practice. The artists felt free to change the original medium or the size. They took possession of the work to make it theirs.

PRESS CONTACT :

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris :

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 onto 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.

AFIKARIS's curated program includes group and solo exhibitions; art fairs; publications; as well as institutional partnerships.

Classique ! | 16 juillet — 17 septembre 2022
7 rue Notre-Dame-de-Nazareth, 75003 Paris

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PRESS OPENING: **Friday 15 July, 14h — 19h**
PUBLIC OPENING: **Saturday 16 July, 14h — 21h**

AFIKARIS Gallery
38 rue Quincampoix, 75004 Paris, France
7 rue Notre-Dame-de-Nazareth, 75003 Paris, France

From Tuesday to Saturday: 11h — 19h

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