

BEYA GILLE GACHA

PORTFOLIO



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BEYA GILLE GACHA WAS BORN IN PARIS IN 1990, THE SON OF A CAMEROONIAN MOTHER AND A FRENCH FATHER. SHE LIVES AND WORKS BETWEEN BAFOUSSAM AND PARIS.

Beya Gille Gacha is a self-taught artist whose work is principally characterised by anthropomorphic sculptures whose skin is made of seed beads, a personal reinvention of the traditional Bamiléké (Cameroon) beading technique. By using pearls, symbols of wealth, like skin, she aims to defend the fact that every human being has value. And she sees her sculptures as magical doubles of their models, somewhere between art objects, sacred fetish and transitional objects.

Magic plays a vital role in Beya Gille Gacha's work. The body is a total subject, a metaphor encompassing the spirit. Committed to an intersectional perspective, her approach is a play of light and shadow, and her work is a bridge between different sensibilities (intellectual, intimate, societal, philosophical, political, ecological and spiritual). Her universe takes the form of poetics, an uncompromising quest for the surface of the mirror: where trees meet, where the essence of life is hidden.

Beya Gille Gacha's work is part of the collections of the Smithsonian Museum, the WorldBank in Washington, the Fenix Museum in Rotterdam, and private collections such as the Léridon Collection (Cape Town, Paris), Imago Mundi - Luciano Benetton (Treviso) and The Bunker Artspace (Miami).

She has also exhibited at international events such as 1-54 New York (United States), AKAA (France), the Dakar Biennial (Senegal) in 2022, the Ouagadougou Biennial in 2019 (Burkina Faso), where she won 1st Prize (Leridon Prize), as well as at emblematic venues such as the Galleria Nazionale in Rome, the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris, the Musée National du Cameroun, the MAIF Social Club in Paris and the Tropiques Atrium - Scène Nationale in Fort-de-France.

BEYA GILLE GACHA

b. 1990, Paris, France

Works and lives between Paris and Bafoussam



ACADEMIC EDUCATION

2011/2013

Ecole du Louvre, Paris, France

RESIDENCIES

Institut français de Yaoundé, Yaoundé, Cameroun, 2023

Camp de la transportation, Saint Laurent du Maroni, Guyane Française, 2022

Poush - Manifesto, Clichy, France, 2020/2022

Le Centre, Cotonou, Benin, 2019

SELECTED SOLO SHOWS

2023

Hide and Seek, Keijzers Koning Gallery, Dallas, USA

Tropiques Atrium, Martinique, France

2022

Camp de la Transportation, Saint Laurent du Maroni, Guyane Française

SELECTION D'EXPOSITION COLLECTIVES

2023

Untitled Art Fair, Keijzers Koning Gallery, Miami, USA

Ce que nous donne la terre, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

Mémoria, récits d'une autre histoire, Musée National du Cameroun, Yaoundé

Forêts, Maif Social Club, Paris, France

2022

Breathing among Werewolves, Keijzers Koning Gallery, Dallas, USA

Multiples, Caring Gallery, Paris, France

Dicocam, 193 Gallery, Paris, France

Dakar Biennale, Dakar, Sénégal
Sur la route des chefferies du Cameroun, Quai Branly Museum, Paris, France
Born Again Raised by You, Poush Manifesto, Clichy, France
Mue, Morpho, Saint-Ouen, France

2021

Price Don Papa & Exhibition, Le Pavillon Rive Gauche, Paris, France
Im-Possibility, Studio de l'artiste, Ile-de-France, France
Coal Price, *Nuit des Forêts*, Forêt de Fontainebleau, France
Là où va la mer, CAC Passerelle, Brest, France
La Clairière d'Eza Boto, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France

2020

Maison de force, Aedaen Gallery, Strasbourg, France
When the Globe is Home, Galleria Delle Prigioni, Tréviso, Italie
Private Exhibition of Leridon Private Collection, Cape Town, Afrique du Sud
Embracing Black History Month, American University of Paris, France
Black History Month, Officine San Lab, Bologne, Italie

2019

Sculpture International Biennale of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
Afropunk, Scène Musicale, Boulogne-Billancourt, France
Révélation Salon, Grand Palais, Paris, France
1-54 New York, New-York, USA
Afro, Centre Culturel de Levallois, France

2018

AKAA, Carreau du Temple, Paris, France
Kampala Biennale, Ouganda
Art & Globalisation - Manifesta, Palermo, Italie
Vision Contemporaine, World Bank, Yaoundé, Cameroun
Bridge, Dakar Biennale (OFF), Dakar, Sénégal
Big Bang, 59 Rivoli Gallery, Paris, France
Io e un altro, Galleria Nazionale, Rome, Italie
Marrakech Off the Tracks!, 1-54 Marrakech (OFF), Morocco

2017

West Lake Fair, Raibaudi Wang Gallery, Hangzhou, China
AKAA, Carreau du Temple, Paris, France
Deshumanisa : Allégories contemporaines, La Colonie, Paris, France

COLLECTIONS

Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA
World Bank Collection, Washington DC, USA
World Bank Collection, Yaoundé, Cameroun
Imago Mundi, Lucian Benetton, Tréviso, Italie
Leridon Collection, Paris, France



LADY MIRROR, 2021

Beads, wax, resin, tissu, old bath, algae and dark waters
180x85x130 cm / 51x33x70 in

“Carl Jung said, “The most terrifying thing is to accept oneself completely” - and sometimes, yes, to accept the other to be oneself... What other status than that of divinity can we acquire when we learn to bathe in the darkness of the waters and skies of our lives, to know how to find our paths in our nights?”
– Beya Gille Gacha

Lady Mirror invokes the cross-cutting myths of mermaids, environmental issues linked to water and the iconography of horror films. An archetypal piece combining nature and women, it restores to these two bodies, manipulated by Capitlacene, the peaceful right to be free and adored in their entirety.



EXHIBITION VIEW

Ce que nous donne la terre, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
July 2023

Photo credit: Studio Vanssay



(Details)

LADY MIRROR, 2021

Beads, wax, resin, tissu, old bath, algae and dark waters

180x85x130 cm / 51x33x70 in



ORANT #1, 2016
Beads, wax, resin, plaster, pigment and wood
130x70x22cm / 51x27x9 in



CUT THE ARMS, CUT THE HISTORY, CUT THE POWER,
2016
Beads, wax, resin
21x29x8 cm / 8x11x3 in



EXHIBITION VIEW
Grand Palais, Paris, France

ORANT #6, 2019
Beads, wax, resin, tissu and objects
190x60x60cm / 74x23x23 in



ORANT #2, 2018
Beads, wax, resin, tissu and objects
55x45x40cm / 21x17x15 in



ORANT #5, 2019

Beads, wax, resin, tissu, concrete, earth and trees

Variables dimensions



SOURCES, 2021

Installation linen, medicinal plants, organic pine resin, pearl threads



PEAUX, 2022

Residency rendering Saint Laurent du Maroni, CIAP - 2022,
Photographs, Gran Kimboto bark, 3D laser
180x100 cm / 70x39 in





AUTEL DE GRATITUDE, 2020
Plaster and candles
Variables dimensions



AUTEL DE GRATITUDE, 2020
Plaster and candles
Variables dimension



RITUEL SUR ADN MASCULIN ABSORBÉ #1, 2020

Handmade Cotton Paper, Menstruation, Wax, Herbs and Medicinal Plants
60x80 cm / 23x31 in



RITUEL SUR ADN MASCULIN ABSORBÉ #2 2020

Handmade Cotton Paper, Menstruation, Wax, Herbs and Medicinal Plants
60x80 cm / 23x31 in



RUE CUVIER, 2020

Artificial flowers, street name plate, various objects, wax
Installation of variable dimensions