

HERVÉ YAMGUEN



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HERVÉ YAMGUEN WAS BORN IN 1971 IN DOUALA, CAMEROON, WHERE HE LIVES AND WORKS.

A self-taught artist, Hervé Yamguen has developed his expertise over thirty years of eclectic artistic practice, touching on fields such as writing, visual arts, performance and theatrical set design. In 1998, alongside several artists, including Salifou Lindou, he co-founded Cercle Kapsiki, an initiative aimed at integrating art into Douala's urban space through the organization of exhibitions, projects and residencies, inviting artists from all over the world to transform the public space.

Hervé Yamguen's work draws on a deep current of consciousness. His art aims to transcend the everyday, to go beyond tangible reality to explore wider spheres of existence. His bronze sculptures, characterized by hybrid beings combining human, animal and plant forms, question the links within the living world, symbolizing metamorphoses that celebrate a communion between beings. Through his creations, Hervé Yamguen invites the viewer to a contemplation imbued with wonder, revealing the strengths and beauty of existence.

Recently inducted as a notable in his father's village in western Cameroon, Hervé Yamguen revives traditions and rituals while maintaining his perspective as a contemporary artist. This duality between cultural heritage and modern artistic expression marks his work, bridging past and present.

His work has been exhibited around the world, including at the Musée du quai Branly for the exhibition "Sur la route des chefferies du Cameroun" in 2022. In 2016, his sculptures were praised by art critic Philippe Dagen in *Le Monde* while exhibited at AKA A art fair in Paris, underlining the international recognition of his talent and work. From 2023 onwards, Hervé Yamguen's work was exhibited at international fairs such as 1-54 in London (UK) and Marrakech (Morocco), and artgenève (Switzerland). In February 2024, his first solo exhibition in Europe was held at the AFIKARIS gallery, embodying thirty years of artistic practice.

HERVÉ YAMGUEN

b. 1971, Douala, Cameroon
Lives and works in Douala, Cameroon



SOLO SHOWS (SELECTED)

2024

Les mondes de l'oiseau-conteur, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

2020

Être vivant, espace Bolo, Douala, Cameroon

2018

Histoires de têtes, Mam Gallery, Douala, Cameroon

2013

L'oiseau – conteur, Donvahi Foundation, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Mon bel oiseau – mon âme, Mam Gallery, Douala, Cameroon

2010

Visibilité des possibles, doual'art, Douala, Cameroon

Les scénographies urbaines, Dak'art Off, Dakar, Senegal

2008

Bruits de chairs, CCF François Villon, Yaounde, Cameroon

2007

Les néons d'Amour, espace doual'art, Douala, Cameroon

2005

Humain – végétal – Animal, Mam Gallery, Douala, Cameroon

2004

Le corps certain', espace Douala'art, Douala, Cameroon

2000

Face à Face, espace doual'art, Douala, France

GROUP SHOWS (SELECTED)

2024

1-54 NY, AFIKARIS Gallery, New York, USA
Art Brussels, AFIKARIS Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
1-54 Marrakech, AFIKARIS Gallery, Marrakech, Morocco
artgeneve, AFIKARIS Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland

2023

Ce que nous donne la terre, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
Le retour des choses, Cipca, Yaounde, Cameroon

2022

Une seule main ne peut attacher un paquet, duo show with Emile Youmbi, Cipca And Batoufam Royal Museum, Batoufam, Cameroon
Splendid isolation, SMAK, Gand, Belgium
The vibration of things, 15th Triennial of sculptures, Fellbach, Germany
La route des chefferies du Cameroun, Quai Branly Museum, Paris, France

2021

AKAA art fair, Ycos-project, Paris, France
Prospective, Goethe Institute, Yaounde, Cameroon
Camerounian Touch : Crisis, espace Doual'art, Douala, Cameroon
Utopies performatives, curated by Dominique Malaquais et Julie Peghini, Cité internationale des arts, Paris, France
La clairière d'eza boto, curated by Yves Tchatap, Africa 2020, Rouen, France
Les fables du calao, visual and sound installation in the public space as part of Africa 2020, Paris, France
Zone franche, institut des cultures de l'islam, Paris, France

2020

Covid-19, outside show, Mam Gallery, Douala, Cameroon

2019

Agropoétique, SAVVY Contemporary art, Berlin, Germany
Aujourd'hui, curated by Simon Njami, National Museum of Yaoundé and World Bank, Yaounde, Cameroon

2018

How to talk with birds, trees, fish, shells, snakes, bulls and lions, Hamburger Bahnhof Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin, Germany

2017

Les chaises de la dignité, Salon Urbain de Douala – SUD, Triennial of public art, Doual'art, Douala, Cameroon
Equilibre fragile, Sanaa Gallery, Jansdam, The Netherlands

2016

Dak'art Off, Mam Gallery & Donvahi Foundation, Dakar, Senegal
1-54 London, Mam Gallery, London, UK
Présences, SCB Cameroun, Douala, Cameroon
Les oiseaux, Doual'art, Douala, Cameroon
IAM, Mam Gallery, Douala, Cameroon

2015

1-54 London, Doual'art, London UK

World Bank, Yaounde, Cameroon

2014

Bandjoun Station, Bandjoun, Cameroon

2012

Histoire surnaturelle, duo show with Félix Labisse, Doual'art , Douala Cameroon

2010

Les mots écrits de New-BellSalon Urbain de Douala – SUD, Triennial of public art Douala, Cameroon

2009

Scénographies urbaines, Johannesburg, South Africa

2006

Dans jeux, il y a je et eux, with the Kapsiki Circle, Mam Gallery, Douala, Cameroon

La guerre contre la pauvreté, espace doual'art, Douala, Cameroon

2001

De Douala à Berlin, with the Kapsiki Circle, 2yk Gallery, Berlin, Germany

La Bourse aux odeurs', with the Kapsiki Circle, Strasbourg, France

PUBLICATIONS

Le temps de la saison verte. Poetry. Published by Ed. les solitaires intempestifs, France, 1998

La nuit cristalline. Art book limited to 12 prints, 2000

Le déluge en soi n'est jamais trop loin. Poetry. Published by the CCF of Douala, 2006

Boulevard de la Liberté. Poetry. Published by the CCF of Douala, 2006

Pas d'quartiers. Poetry and short stories. Published by the CCF of Douala, 2006

Journal de la lune-horloge. Editions chez moi-chez toi du collectif 12, 2008

Hervé Yamguen. Art book. Editions de l'œil, 2011

Les oiseaux. Drawings and sculptures. Doua'art, 2015

Public art in Africa. Editions MetisPresse, Italie, 2017

Héroïsmes ordinaires. Published by MaYak / phare Papier. Belgium. 2017

Habille-toi de terre et de sel. Poetry. Published by Editions Les bruits de l'encre. 2021



PRENDRE SOIN, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
79x100 cm / 31x39 in



RECUEILLEMENT, 2023

Acrylic on canvas
79x100 cm / 31x39 in



RÊVES DE NUIT, 2018
Bronze
17x25x7,5 cm / 7x10x3 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

Les mondes de l'oiseau-conteur ('The Worlds of the storyteller bird'), AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
February 2024

Photo credit: Studio Vanssay



L'ARRIÈRE PAYS MENTAL, 2023

Acrylic on canvas

100x79 cm / 39x31 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

Les mondes de l'oiseau-conteur ('The Worlds of the storyteller bird'), AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
February 2024

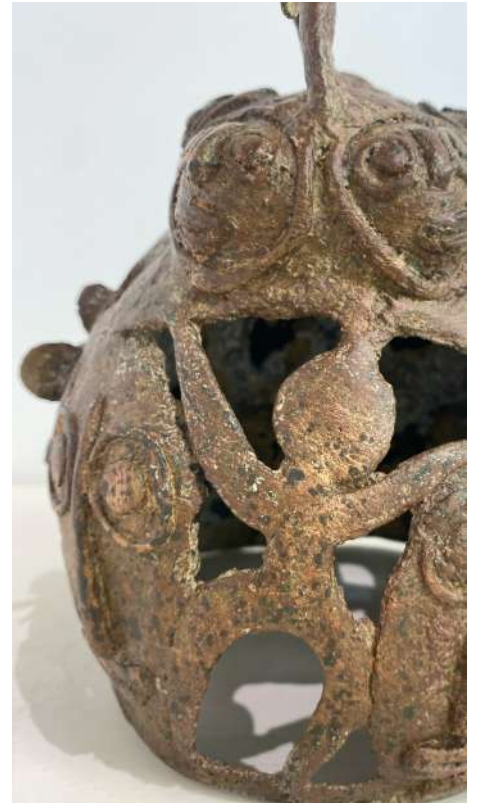
Photo credit: Studio Vanssay



HISTOIRE DE TÊTES 3, 2018

Bronze

36x25x24 cm / 14x10x9 in



HISTOIRE DE TÊTES 3, 2018
(détails)



EXHIBITION VIEW

Les mondes de l'oiseau-conteur ('The Worlds of the storyteller bird'), AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
February 2024

Photo credit: Studio Vanssay



FORCE VITALE, 2023
Bronze
42x20x11 cm / 16x8x4 in

«Those who carry the vital forces stand on fertile ground. They walk with sacred vessels within them. Guardians of the living, they bloom the spaces, vivifying themselves with the beauty of the world.»



SE SAUVER,, 2023
Acrylic on paper
65x50 cm / 26x20 in



VIBRATION PLURIELLE, 2024

Bronze

50x26x15 cm / 20x10X6 in



DANSER AVEC CE QUI S'AGITE, 2023

Acrylic on paper

65x50 cm / 26x20 in



VASE SACRÉ, 2018
Bronze
40x33x17 cm / 15x13x7 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

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

Photo credit: courtesy of Studio Vanssay



AMOUR FÉCOND, 2023

Acrylic on paper
90x53 cm / 35x21 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

Les mondes de l'oiseau-conteur, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
February 2024

Photo credit: Studio Vanssay



ÊTRE ENTIER 2, 2024
Bronze
52x31x13 cm / 20x12x5 in

Hervé Yamguen's bronze sculptures embody hybrid beings. By displaying human, animal and plant forms and attributes, they raise questions about the links between living beings. These sculptures are like metamorphoses that suggest a communion between beings. Hervé Yamguen's work springs from a stream of consciousness. His art is rooted in the need to transcend everyday life and go beyond the realm of reality.



LES GARDIENS DU VIVANT, 2023
Acrylic on paper
30x21 cm / 12x8 in



LES GARDIENS DU VIVANT, 2023

Acrylic on paper

30x21 cm / 12x8 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

Les mondes de l'oiseau-conteur, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
February 2024

Photo credit: Studio Vanssay



DANSEUR IVRE 1, 2023
Bronze
25x27x7 cm / 10x11x3 in



SWINGUER DANS LE TEMPS, 2023

Acrylic on paper

90x64 cm / 35x25 in



CÉLÉBRATION, 2018
Bronze
37x33x11 cm / 15x13x4 in

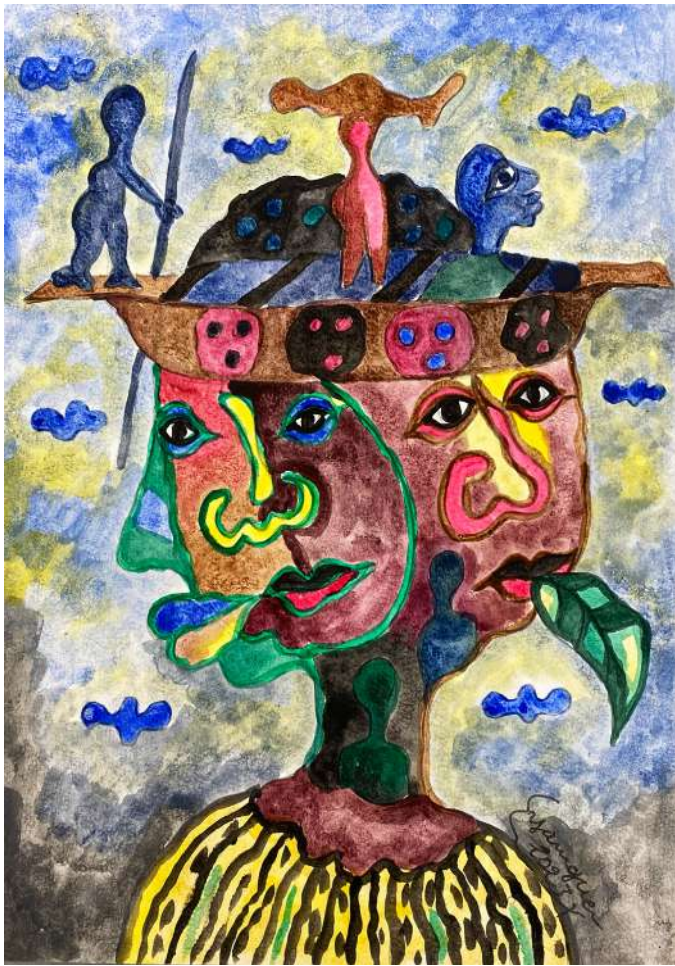
«Connection to nature is a condition
for survival and healing.»



LEFT
SEMER ET FLEURIR, 2023
Acrylic on paper
21X15 cm / 8x6 in



RIGHT
SEMER ET FLEURIR, 2022
Acrylic on paper
30x21 cm / 12x8 in



LEFT
LES GARDIENS DU VIVANT, 2022
Acrylic on paper
30x21 cm / 12x8 in



RIGHT
LES GARDIENS DU VIVANT, 2022
Acrylic on paper
30x21 cm / 12x8 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

Les mondes de l'oiseau-conteur, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
February 2024

Photo credit: Studio Vanssay



LES GARDIENS DU VIVANT, 2022

Acrylic on paper
30x21 cm / 12x8 in



VISAGE ARBRE, 2023
Bronze
35x21x9 cm / 16x8x4 in



L'HOMME-FLEUR, 2023
Bronze
34x18x10 cm / 13x7x4 in

This piece speaks of man's vulnerability. Even as he seeks to put down roots in human history, he knows that to exist he must accept his own fragility, like a flower that fades but still offers its perfume.



L'HOMME-FLEUR, 2023
(detail)



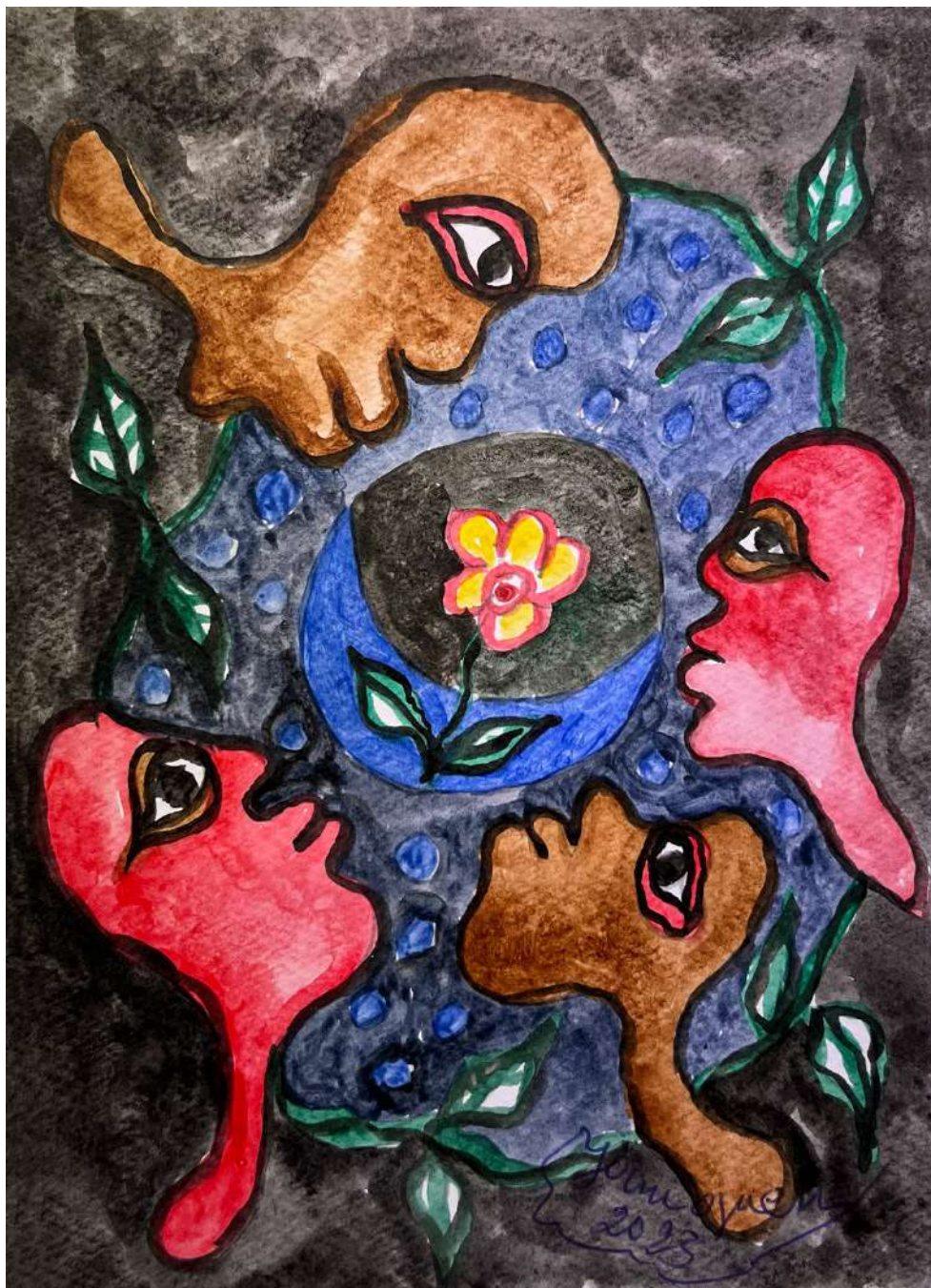
SEMER ET FLEURIR II, 2022
Acrylic on paper
21x15 cm / 8x6 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

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

Credit Photo : AFIKARIS Gallery

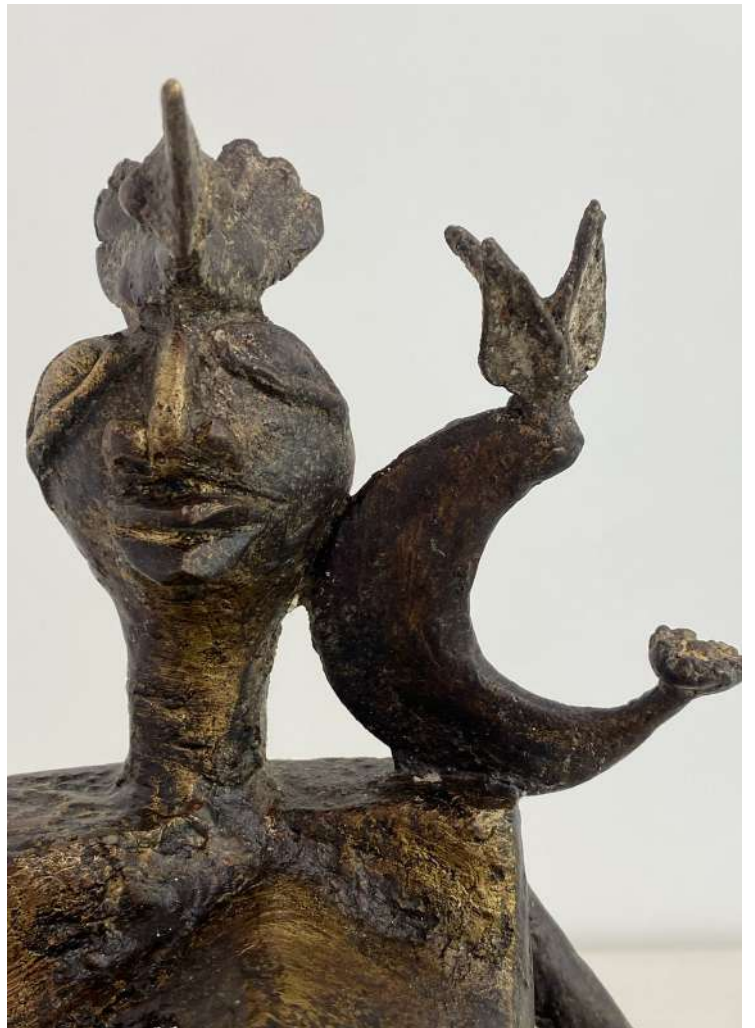


SEMER ET FLEURIR I, 2022

Acrylic on paper
21x15 cm / 8x6 in



CELUI OU CELLE QUI MARCHE AVEC SA MAISON, 2018
Bronze
30,5x25x8,5 cm / 12x10x3 in



CELUI OU CELLE QUI MARCHE AVEC SA MAISON, 2018
(détails)



LES GARDIENS DU VIVANT III, 2022

Acrylic on paper
30x21 cm / 12x8 in

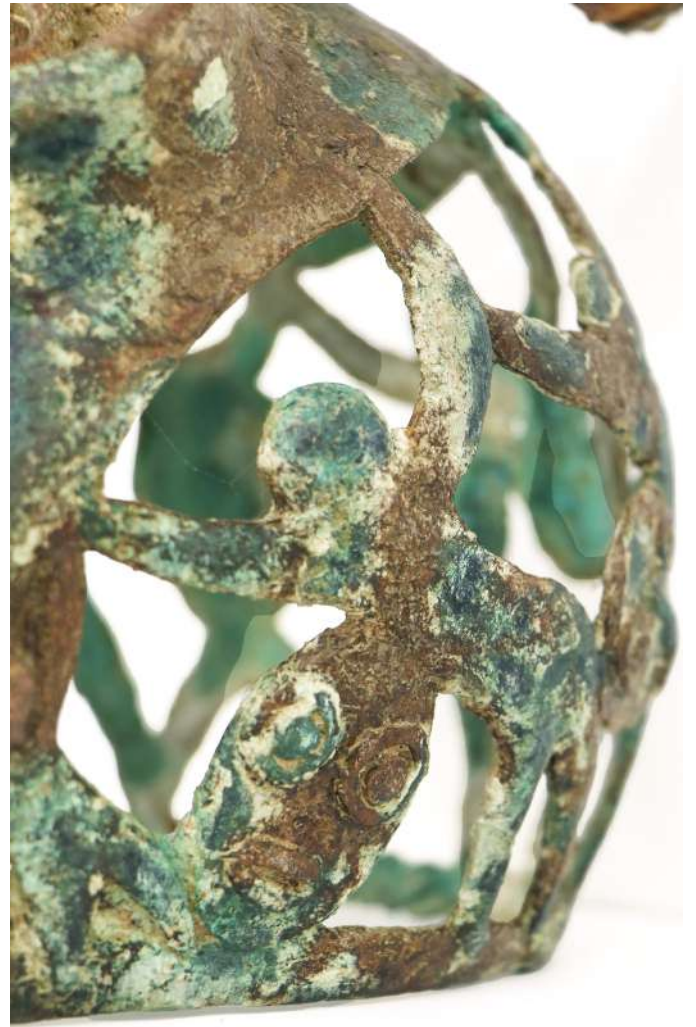
Drawing is at the heart of Hervé Yamguen's work. It expresses his world. *Les gardiens du vivant* series illustrates the relationship with the earth as a matter of spirituality. The artist strives to bring this thought to life in his work. For him, all policies should be conceived with the view to preserve nature and repair the earth. It is this philosophy that *Les gardiens du vivant* illustrates. They protect and care for living things.



HISTOIRE DE TÊTES 2, 2018

Bronze

40x29x18 cm / 16x11x7 in



HISTOIRE DE TÊTES 2
(details)



HISTOIRE DE TÊTES 1, 2018

Bronze

50x29x18 cm / 20x11x7 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

Les mondes de l'oiseau-conteur, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
February 2024

Photo credit: Studio Vanssay



MARCHER AVEC LE COEUR VIF, 2023

Acrylic on paper

65x50 cm / 26x20 in



COEUR CÉLÉBRANT LA VIE, 2023
Bronze
39x23x10 cm / 15x9x4 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

Les mondes de l'oiseau-conteur, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
February 2024

Photo credit: Studio Vanssay



L'OISEAU-CONTEUR, 2023

Bronze

37x23x15 cm / 15x9x6 in



L'OISEAU-CONTEUR, 2023
(detail)

«The storytelling bird unfolds
so that from head to toe, it
is sweetly fragrant with the
beauties of the world.»



ÊTRE ENTIER 1, 2024
Bronze
51x32x10 cm / 20x13x4 in



DIALOGUE AVEC CE QUI NOUS ENTOURE 2, 2022

Acrylic on canvas

65x50 cm / 26x24 in



FORTE PRÉSENCE, 2024

Acrylic on canvas

120x100 cm / 47x39 in

Framed : 124x104 cm / 48x41 in



CREUSER LA RENCONTRE, 2024

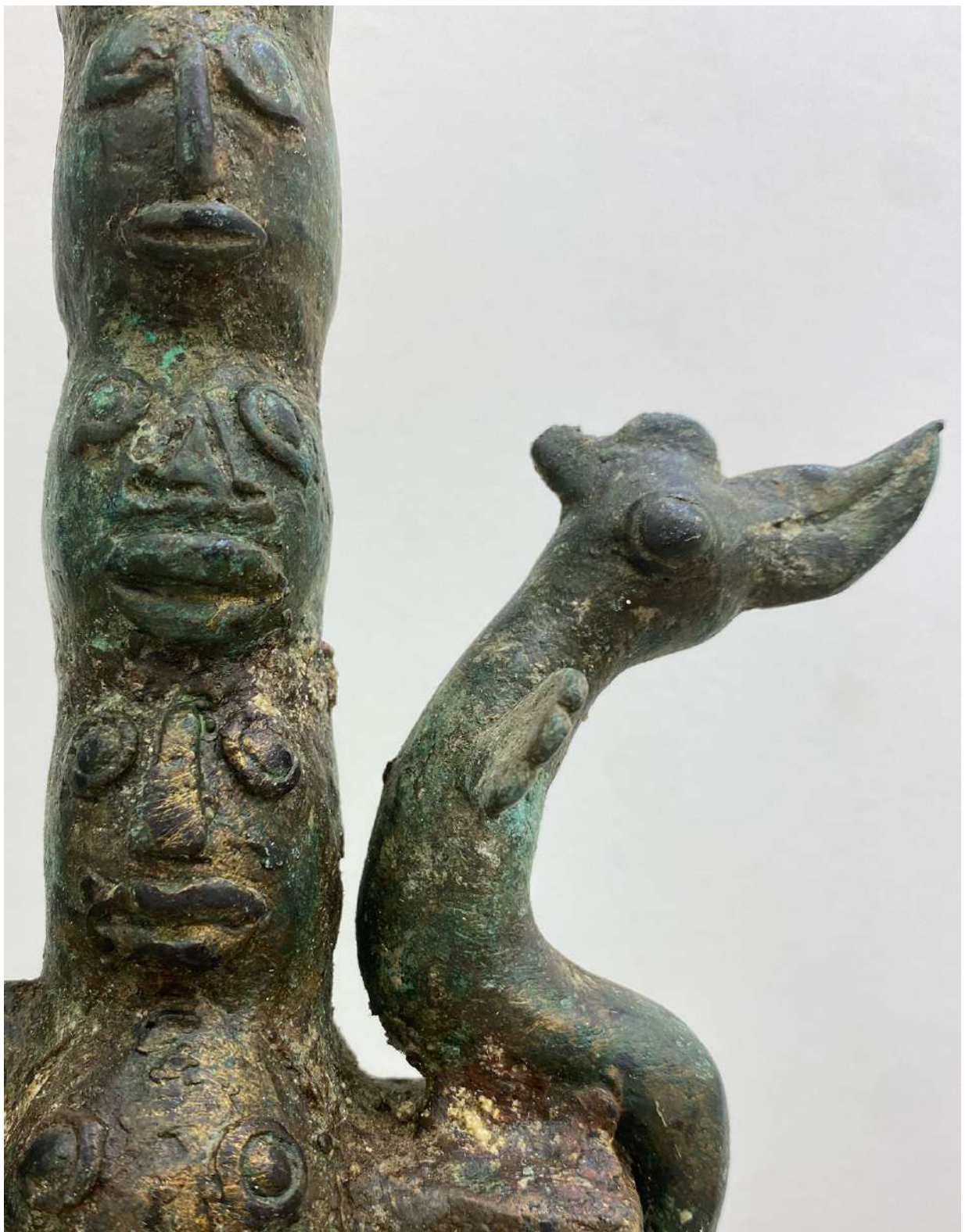
Acrylic on canvas
80x100 cm / 32x39 in



L'ENVOL, 2018
Bronze
43x22x11 cm / 16x8x4 in



LES VEILLEURS, 2018
Bronze
53x45x12 cm / 21x18x5 in



LES VEILLEURS, 2018
(detail)



EXHIBITION VIEW

Les mondes de l'oiseau-conteur, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
February 2024

Photo credit: Studio Vanssay