

# CRISTIANO MANGOVO

PORTFOLIO



# CRISTIANO MANGOVO

CRISTIANO MANGOVO BRÁS WAS BORN IN 1982 IN ANGOLA AND NOW LIVES IN LISBON.

As a child he immigrated to Democratic Republic of Congo, living there as a refugee, finding his vocation and graduating from Beaux-Arts in Kinshasa. His first individual exhibition was held in 2013 at the Art and Culture Foundation in Luanda. In 2014, he won the Mirella Antognoli Argela award from the Italian Embassy and the Ensa-Art prize from Alliance Française in Luanda which led him to participate to an artist-in-residence program at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. He exhibited at the Angolan Pavilion at Expo Milano 2015. Since, he took part in numerous group and solo shows internationally (Portugal, France, Italy, South Africa, DRC, USA,...).

Cristiano Mangovo's work is a fountain of social and political commentary. The imagery overwhelms with information and stimulation – colour, figuration, distortion, multiple messages conveyed at the same pitch. A cacophony from which images jump out to bite you at intervals, only to be overtaken by other images.

His paintings hold up a mirror to today's society and its individuals, oversaturated with information, stimulation, distraction and the relentless pace of the 24-hour news cycle. But if one pauses to focus, each work also presents human tragedy. Mangovo's sensitivity to the idea of distorted realities and cost of war and displacement takes root in his personal history.

As a child during the Angolan civil war, his father sent him away to safety to DRC, where he lived as a refugee for many years, finding his vocation as an artist and graduating from Académie des Beaux-Art in Kinshasa. His international career has given him the opportunity to assess the truthfulness of the many myths about Europe, which populated the colonial narratives and contemporary media. In these narratives, Europe is always a gleaming ideal of superiority, wealth and progress compared to Africa. When travelling there, he could observe poverty and racism and realised myths are just that. These findings led him to develop alternative narratives where he mixes humour, hope and aspiration with the shadow of human suffering.

He paints with flair; his brush strokes, figurations and use of colour reveal his personal experience but also the study of those who came before him. By paying homage to both the European masters, as well as those who taught him – in Kinshasa, he shapes his own distinctive trait that distinguishes his style. One of the most interesting and exciting things about Mangovo's work today is the fact that they are infused with anticipation of change, a dynamic pace and instability which makes any future possible.

# CRISTIANO MANGOVO

b. 1982, Cabinda, Angola  
Lives and works in Lisbon, Portugal



## ACADEMIC EDUCATION

2013  
Fine Arts of Kinshasa, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

## RESIDENCIES (SELECTION)

2021 - Black Rock Senegal, Dakar Senegal  
2017 - Consulate of Angola, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
2016 - *Sobre Pintura Mural dos Famosos Africanos*, Cape Town, South Africa  
2015 - *On Form and Portrait*, Milan, Italy  
2015 - 2<sup>nd</sup> edition *FENACULT*, Luanda, Angola  
2015 - *Feira Cultural*, Francis Bacon Gallery, Curitiba, Brazil

## AWARDS

2018  
Ensa Art Award 2018: Award in the category of grand prize in painting, Mint Museum, Luanda, Angola

2017  
Best International Artist, Rifa Vencedor Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## SELECTED SOLO SHOWS

2023  
*Body: Instrument and File*, Chase Contemporary Gallery, New York City, USA

2022  
*The System*, Insofar Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal

2021  
*Humano e a Natureza*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France



2019

Beirut Art Fair, Beirut, Lebanon

2018

*In the streets of Lisbon*, Ainori Contemporary Art Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal

2017

*The riches of Africa*, Portuguese Cultural Center, Camões Institute, Luanda, Angola

*100 Protection*, First Floor Gallery, Harare, Zimbabwe

2016

*Which direction?*, Brazil-Angola Cultural Center, Luanda, Angola

*Air P, Infecting the City Sessions ITC*, Cape Town, South Africa

2015

*Guiadores*, Dr. António Agostinho Neto Memorial, Luanda, Angola

Atelier ouvert n° 2016, la Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France

*Seed of Memory*, Angola Pavilion for the World Expo, Milan, Italy

2013

*Caluniar*, Fundação Arte e Cultura LR, Tamargolan Gallery, Luanda, Angola

## SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

2023

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

2022

Artissima, Primo Marella gallery, Turin, Italy

*Reflect #2 - Fragments, Fragilities, Memories*, This is Not a White Cube, Lisbon, Portugal

*Contemporary Art from Angola*, The Museum of African Art, Belgrade, Serbia

*The Black Ghost*, Primo Marella Gallery, Milan, Italy

*Wild Spring*, Corridor Contemporary, Tel Aviv, Israel

Kinshasa Biennial, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

ARCO Lisboa, This is Not a White Cube Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal

1-54 New York, AFIKARIS Gallery, New York, USA

Investec Cape Town, AFIKARIS Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2021

Art Paris, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

AKAA, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

2019

*Environs*, Ainori Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal

2018

Artissima, This is Not a White Cube Gallery, Turin, Italy

Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa

*Being a city*, Economic Bank, Luanda, Angola

Ensa Art Prize 2018, Museum of Money, Luanda, Angola

Ainori Contemporary Art Gallery Lisbon, Portugal

*Untitled 01*, Economic Bank, Luanda, Angola

2017

*Kaluandando*, Soap Factory, Luanda, Angola

*Representation of the human figure in art in Angola*, Banco Económico, Luanda, Angola

2015

Arte com fusão Cultural Centre, Camões, Luanda, Angola

2014

13<sup>th</sup> Fine Arts Exhibition, Pierrefitte Cultural Centre, Paris, France

7<sup>th</sup> International Douro Biennial, Alijó, Portugal

Ensa Art Prize 2014, Cultural Centre, Camões, Luanda, Angola

2013

*Jaango*, National Museum of Natural History of Luanda, Luanda, Angola

*Arquivo Morto*, Bat arte, Cultural Centre, Luanda, Angola

2006

International Symposium on Sexual Violence (Project Action against Violence), Palais EGMONT, Brussels, Belgium



*LES ENFANTS AUX CHOUX*, 2019

Acrylic on canvas

135x200 cm / 53x79 in





VINHO ROSA, 2019  
Acrylic on canvas  
120x120 cm / 47x47 in





*LES ARROSEURS DE LA PAIX*, 2019  
Acrylic on canvas  
135x200 cm / 53x79 in





*YOU ARE WELCOME*, 2019  
Acrylic on canvas  
135x200 cm / 53x79 in





*ZONE VERTE*, 2019  
Acrylic on canvas  
120x120 cm / 47x47 in





*COUPLE BAKONGO 1*, 2019  
Acrylic on canvas  
120x120 cm / 47x47 in





BIG TEAM, 2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
200x135 cm / 79x53 in





*ANALISAR A HISTÒRIA*, 2021  
Acrylic on canvas  
135x200 cm / 53x79 in





*THE REPAIR OF ECOLOGY, 2021*

Acrylic on canvas

120x120 cm / 47x47 in





## EXHIBITION VIEW

*Humano e a Natureza*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
November 2021

The *Humano e a Natureza* series (Humans and Nature), questions the dominant relation of humans over nature. Tainted with revolt and anchored in the pandemic context, Cristiano Mangovo's works bear witness to an unbalanced relationship and regrets the Anthropocene: the Age of Humans. As the American biologist Edward O. Wilson noted in 1993, "Man has become a geophysical force, swiftly changing the atmosphere and climate, as well as the composition of the world's fauna and flora." Thus, Cristiano Mangovo deplores the fact that nature is taken as a resource: a raw material to be exploited, rather than a subject considered as equal with which we could establish a relationship, based on respect and benevolence.

He says: "I continuously question myself on the way humans claim and display their superiority over other living creatures. It's about changing our perspective and considering any form of life as having its own value, one to be respected."





*LES SAUVEURS DU PROTOTYPE*, 2021

Acrylic on canvas

120x120cm / 47x47 in





AGORA, 2021  
Acrylic on canvas  
120x120cm / 47x47 in





*DOMINATION*, 2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
200x200 cm / 79x79 in





*AUTO RESGATE*, 2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
100x100 cm / 39x39 in



*DOMINATION 2, 2020*  
Acrylic on canvas  
200x200 cm / 79x79 in

Cristiano Mangovo deplors the anthropocene and the consequences of human behavior on nature. This is how he rethinks a balanced world where man and nature are in harmony.

His work is both explosive and lively. The bodies scattered give life to new and composite beings. Cristiano Mangovo explores hybridization by creating fantastic characters assembled from human, animal and vegetable attributes. Feet and clawed legs intermingle. Ties, sleeves and pants dress these members combined randomly. The creative artist re-establishes a harmony between man and nature. The beings that are born under the brushes of Cristiano Mangovo join in a joyful and in a joyful and surprising round. This movement suggests renewal as well as change.

Therefore, the *Humano e a Natureza* series adopts a restorative logic. Man takes care of nature and takes care of its sustainability.





*LES JUSTICIERS DE LA NATURE*, 2021

Acrylic on canvas

120x120cm / 47x47 in





*ANGEL OF FERTILITY*, 2021  
Acrylic on canvas  
200x200cm / 79x79 in





*AUBERGINE*, 2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
100x100 cm / 39x39 in





*IN THE WORLD OF THE STRONG, 2021*

Acrylic on canvas

135x200cm / 53x79 in





*DRAGON VS MWANA MPWO*, 2021

Acrylic on canvas

135x200cm / 53x79 in





*ANY ASSISTANCE!*, 2021  
Acrylic on canvas  
120x120cm / 47x47 in





*Campanha de proteção*, 2021  
Acrylic on canvas  
120x120cm / 47x47 in

In his series *Humano e a Natureza*, he initiates a reflection on the position of domination of human beings over nature, as stated in the Bible and accepted for centuries.

«God blessed them and said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, and subdue the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and all the animals that move on the earth.»

Genesis 1:28.

Cristiano Mangovo questions this power relationship. If we humans felt deprived of our most basic freedom during confinement, how do these animals feel when they are locked up? How do these animals feel when they are locked in cages for the sole gratification of human desire? Why do we have the right of life and death over other species?





*TOGETHER*, 2021  
Acrylic on canvas  
135x200 cm / 53x79 in





## EXHIBITION VIEW

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

“Fighting together for everyone’s success.”  
– Cristiano Mangovo

In his artwork *Together*, Cristiano Mangovo represents three major decision-makers: Asia, the West and Africa. Their hair composed of ivy suggests cooperation on a global scale to rethink a model that could address climate and environmental issues.

Omnipresent in Cristiano Mangovo’s art, the double mouth finds its roots in the regime led by José Eduardo dos Santos, president of Angola – Mangovo’s homeland – from 1979 to 2017. Condemning an unsaid dictatorial regime where public opinion was strictly controlled, Mangovo uses his two-mouthed characters as the vocal objectors of this censorship.



*WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY 1, 2022*  
Acrylic on canvas  
200x135 cm / 79x53 in

In the *Window of Opportunity* series, Cristiano Mangovo stands in favour of equal opportunity no matter the gender or social class of the individuals. In that way, he puts forward female characters.

For the artist, any labour deserves its reward. Hence, he deals with the topic of equal opportunity focusing on access to culture and employment. In *Window of Opportunity 1*, the man playing the green flute embodies the culture industry.





*WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY 2, 2022*

Acrylic on canvas

200x135 cm / 79x53 in

The double mouth is omnipresent in Cristiano Mangovo's art and provides his work with a political dimension. This motif finds its roots in the regime led by José Eduardo dos Santos, president of Angola – Mangovo's homeland – from 1979 to 2017. Condemning an unsaid dictatorial regime where public opinion was strictly controlled, Mangovo uses his two-mouthed characters as the vocal objectors of this censorship, freeing them from lasting repression. His canvases fight ignorance and raise awareness. The artist who considers himself a "bird reporter" hence becomes a messenger.



*AFRICAN IN UKRAINE, 2022*

Acrylic on canvas

180x160 cm / 71x63 in





*AFRICAN IN UKRAINE 2, 2022*

Acrylic on canvas

180x160 cm / 71x63 in





*FAMILY CALLS, 2022*  
Acrylic on canvas  
200x135 cm / 79x53 in