

# SAÏDOU DICKO

PORTFOLIO



# SAÏDOU DICKO

SAÏDOU DICKO WAS BORN IN BURKINA FASO IN 1979. A SELF-TAUGHT VISUAL ARTIST (PHOTOGRAPHER, VIDEOGRAPHER, INSTALLER AND PAINTER), HE LIVES AND WORKS IN PARIS.

Shadows have always inspired Saïdou Dicko's work. When he was a child, the shadows pushed him to draw. Whilst he was a shepherd, he used to trace the outlines of the bushes, animals and rivers he met. The cross on top of the head of his characters also echo his childhood. That is a wink to the pattern of one fabric from the Peulh tradition. For him, it is a way to pay a tribute to beauty and to represent the humanity of his characters. To this extent, he turns them into shadows. In his series of painted photographs, *The Shadowed People* - unique pieces - a combination of different clichés, he covers the subject with black paint. In that way, the beings give their place to their shadow, providing a universal scope to the work. The life experiences of Saïdou Dicko, between Paris and Burkina Faso, his native culture and his travels, leave their mark on his work with poetry as well as mystery.

Since then, his work has been presented at many international events (biennials, international fairs, exhibitions).

His works received several prizes: Prix Blachère in 2006 in Dakar Biennale, Prix de la francophonie at African photography encounter of Bamako in 2007, Fondation Thamgidi prize in 2008 in Dakar and the Off prize of European Union. In 2012, he co-founded the collective «Rendez-Vous of Artists» which is a nomad platform where artists of all kinds: curators, gallerists, art lovers, cultural journalists, exchange. These exchanges sometimes lead to exhibition projects. Since 2013, he also works as a curator (3rd International Biennial of Casablanca) and scenographer mostly in Morocco with Arkane Africa.



# SAÏDOU DICKO

b. 1979  
Déou, Burkina Faso

A self-taught visual artist, Saïdou Dicko was always inspired by shadows. Coming from his past as a sheperd, they are for him a way to pay a tribute to beauty and to represent the humanity of his characters. If some questions arise, the viewers have to solve the mystery. Saïdou Dicko doesn't hide any preconceived and universal solution. It is the viewers' duty to project their personal feelings.



## SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2023  
*The Stories Children used to tell under the Mango Tree*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
*The Shadowed People*, Contour Gallery, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

2022  
*The Prince of Shadows*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

2021  
*Shadowed People*, Galerie Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta, United States

2014  
*Le Voleur d'ombres*, Institut français de Rome, Rome, Italy

2009  
Exposition au Centre Culturel Franco-Mozambicain, Maputo / Mozambique.

2008  
Français Georges Méliès cultural center, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

2007  
Biennale Dak'Art 08 OFF, Pôle linguistique de l'Institut français, Dakar, Senegal

## GROUP SHOWS (SELECTED)

2024  
Art Brussels, AFIKARIS Gallery, Brussels, Belgium  
artgenève, AFIKARIS Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland  
Amsterdam Art, Contour Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Investec Cape Town, Artco Gallery, Le Cap, South Africa

2023  
*La poésie du lien ACT2*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
Intersect Aspen Art Fair, Jackson Fine Art Gallery, Aspen, Colorado, United States  
*Ce que nous donne la terre*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
Art Brussels, AFIKARIS Gallery, Brussels, Belgium  
Artgenève, AFIKARIS Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland

2022

Photo London, London, United Kingdom

2021

Paris Photo, Jackson Fine Art Gallery, Paris, France

*La poésie du lien*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

*Zone Franche*, Institute des Cultures d'Islam, Paris, France

Art Paris, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

2020

*Your Shadows*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

2019

1-54 London, London, United Kingdom

Investec Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

2018

AKAA, Paris, France

FNB Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa

2016

*The Expanded Subject : New Perspectives In Photographic Portraiture From Africa*, Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, New-York, United States

2015

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

2014

*Still Fighting Ignorance & Intellectual Perfidy*, Ben Uri Gallery and Museum, London, United Kingdom

Biennale de Marrakech, Marrakech, Morocco

*Group Show*, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

2013

*Mes Amours*, Bandjoun Station, Bandjoun, Cameroon

*Still Fighting Ignorance & Intellectual Perfidy*, Kunsthalle Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil

2011

*Fronteiras, encontro de fotografia de Bamako*, Fondation Calouste Gulbekian, Paris, France

2010

Foto Museum, Anvers, Belgium

Cultural Center Cajastur Palacio Revillagigedo, Gijon, Spain

2009

8<sup>èmes</sup> Rencontres de la photographie de Bamako, Bamako, Mali



# PAINTED PHOTOGRAPHY

«I am the prince who reigns in joy, by sharing and in mutual help, in spite of the obstacles of the daily life.

My throne is on an oil field, my people do not have access to it, and my kingdom is on an untapped farmland. I am sure and I hope (Hope) that our children will cultivate all our fields and will share the crops in the night under the trees and the sunlight.

I am the queen mother hen who was plucked by my princes and princesses. Hope (Hope) with all my heart that they will fly with my feathers.

I am the child, happy and funny, surrounded by adults haunted by their glorious past and concerned about their future, while I take advantage of the present, and I hope (Hope) to share their glorious future...

I am the capricious child With an angel face . My days are punctuated by tears, broken joys and unpaid claims. I hope that when I grow up I will look like my little sister of 2 years old who is funny happy sharing and autonomous...

I am a human being transformed into a shadow by an artist who has had the chance to travel to several countries.

He made photos in which he integrates my photos of everyday life or not. He turns my body into shadows in his photo studio which is in perpetual motion. I hope (Hope) that I will also have the chance to travel as much as my shadow.

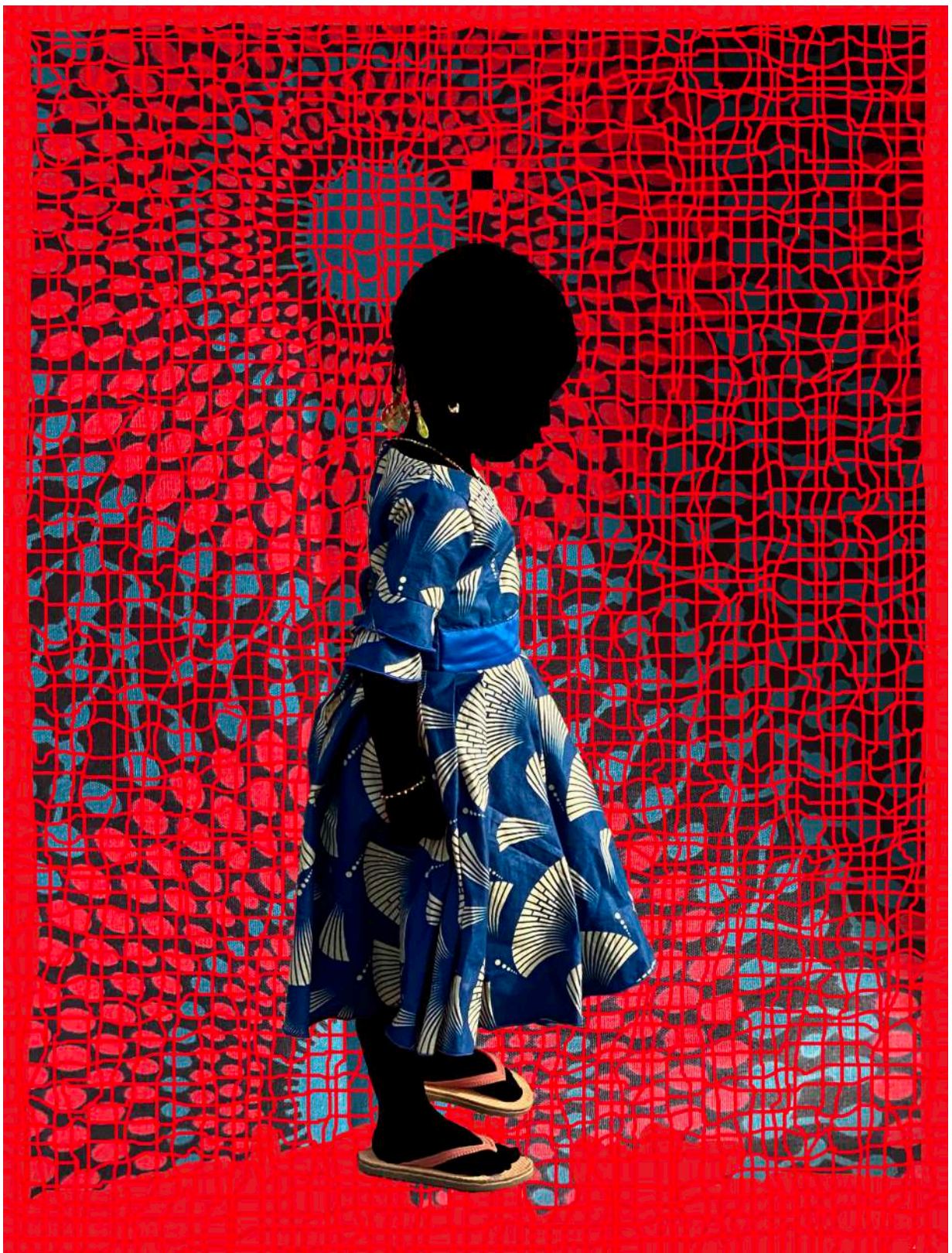
I am the shadow that navigates a virtual world that has become so real that my reality has become virtual.

We are in a world filled with shadows surrounded by a few people. We hope that the majority of our shadows will become the people we were.

Why did we become spectators of drama that we could have avoided? Why are we so alone in the middle of all ?

I'm just a shadow, your shadow, their shadows, my shadow.»

SAÏDOU DICKO



*HARIGATO T2 DISKRED, 2020*

Painted photography

100x75 cm / 39x30 in

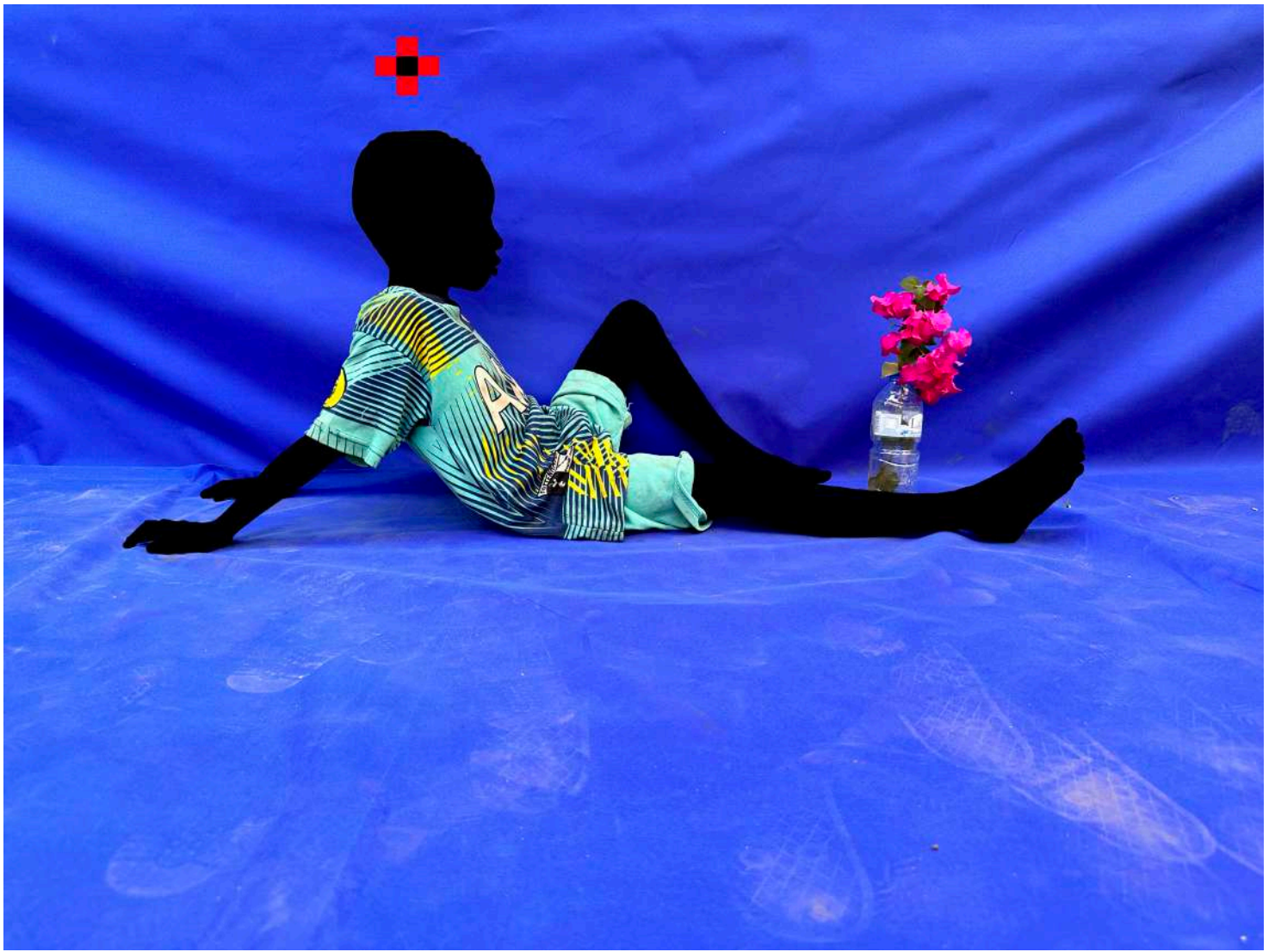




*HERE IS THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS T EYES GREEN, 2020*

Painted photography  
100x75 cm / 39x30 in





*THE PRINCE OF FLOWERS*, 2023  
Painted photography. Unique piece.  
75x100 cm / 30x39 in





EXHIBITION VIEW

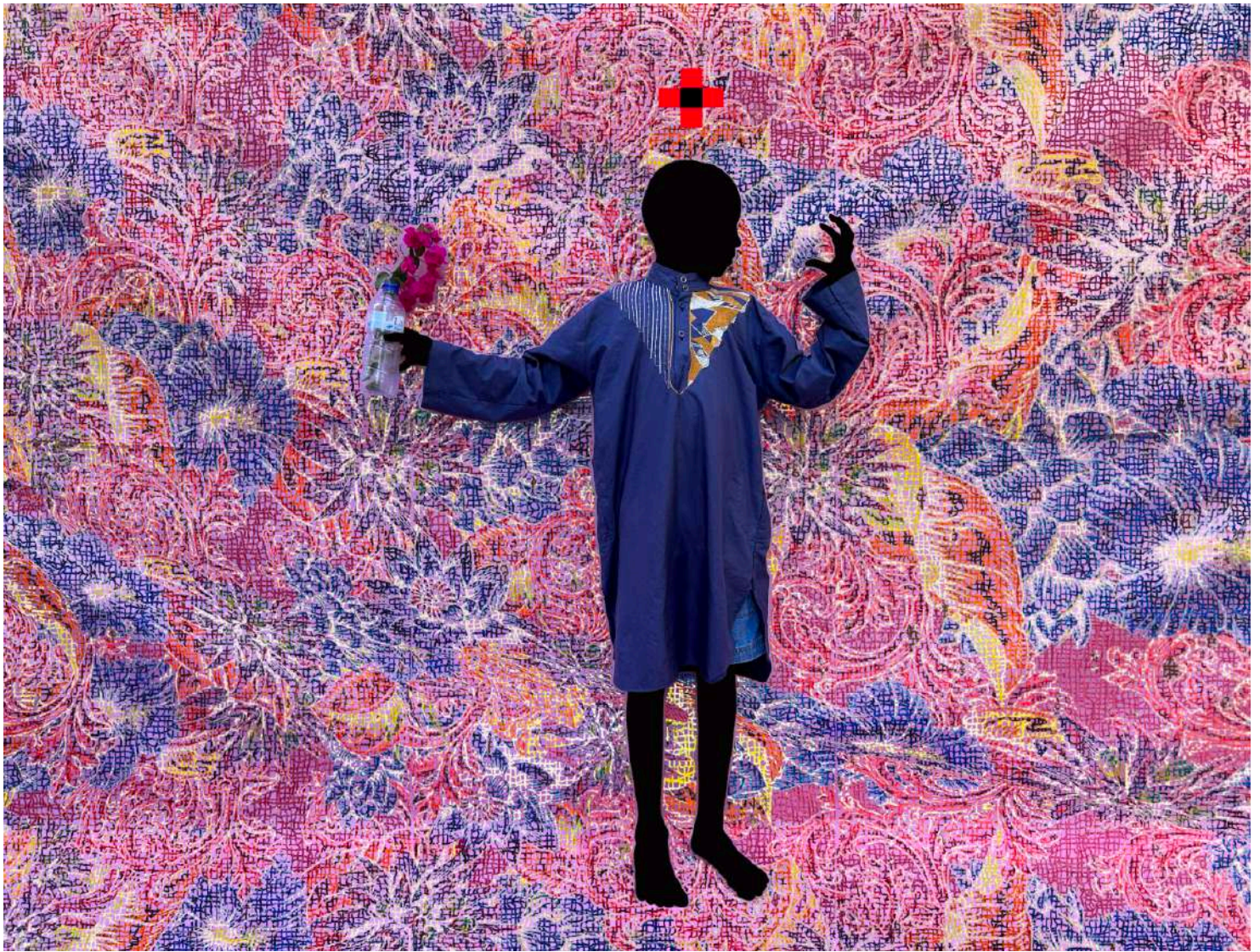
*The Stories Children used to tell under the Mango Tree*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
December 2023

Photo credit Studio Vanssay



*NEW FRIEND YELLOW LINE T-FR CAFÉ, 2023*  
Painted photography. Unique piece. Framed  
75x100 cm / 30x39 in





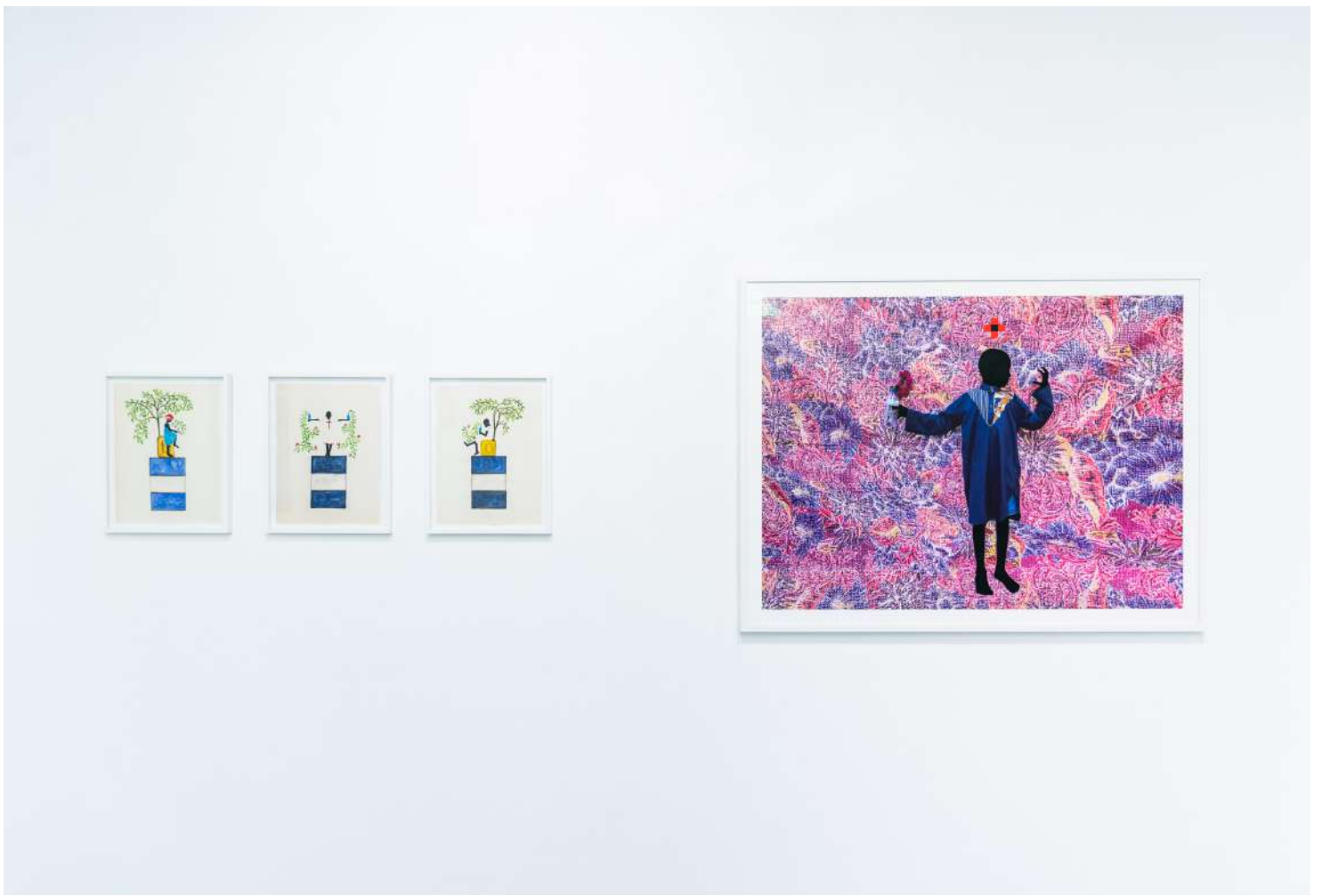
*YOU CAN TAKE IT TFR SCI-FI, 2023*

Painted Photography. Unique piece.

90x120 cm / 35x47 in

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.





EXHIBITION VIEW

*The Stories Children used to tell under the Mango Tree*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
December 2023

Photo credit Studio Vanssay





*NOTRE PRINCESSE T-48, 2021*  
Painted photography  
100x75 cm / 39x30 in



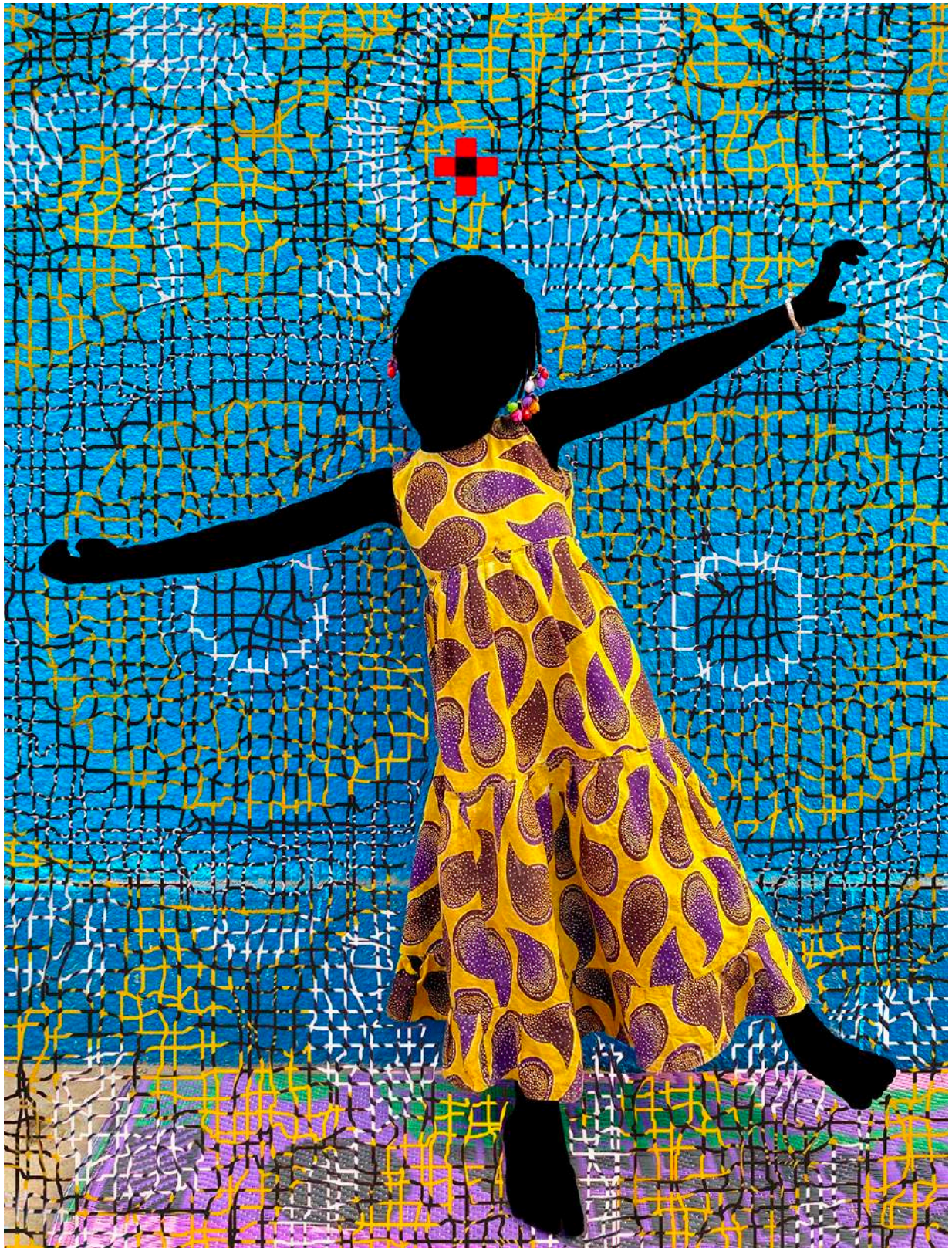


*WHAT COMFORT IN BUSINESS CLASS IN AIR FRANCE ACT1, 2021*

Painted photography  
75x100 cm / 30x39 in

Saïdou Dicko's painted photographs echo the photo studios of his childhood. In addition to having made the reputation of contemporary African photography with the major works of Malick Sidibé, Samuel Fosso and Seydou Keïta, to name but a few, studio photography remains a moment of family sharing. Everyone in their best clothes, smiling immaculately, poses for the camera against a backdrop of graphic fabrics or views from elsewhere.





*THE YELLOW PRINCESS ACT 3 T 2DISK, 2021*

Painted photography

100x75 cm / 30x39 in





*LE PRINCE BERGER VÉLO ACT1 T BRODÉ, 2021*

Painted photography  
90x120 cm / 35x47 in

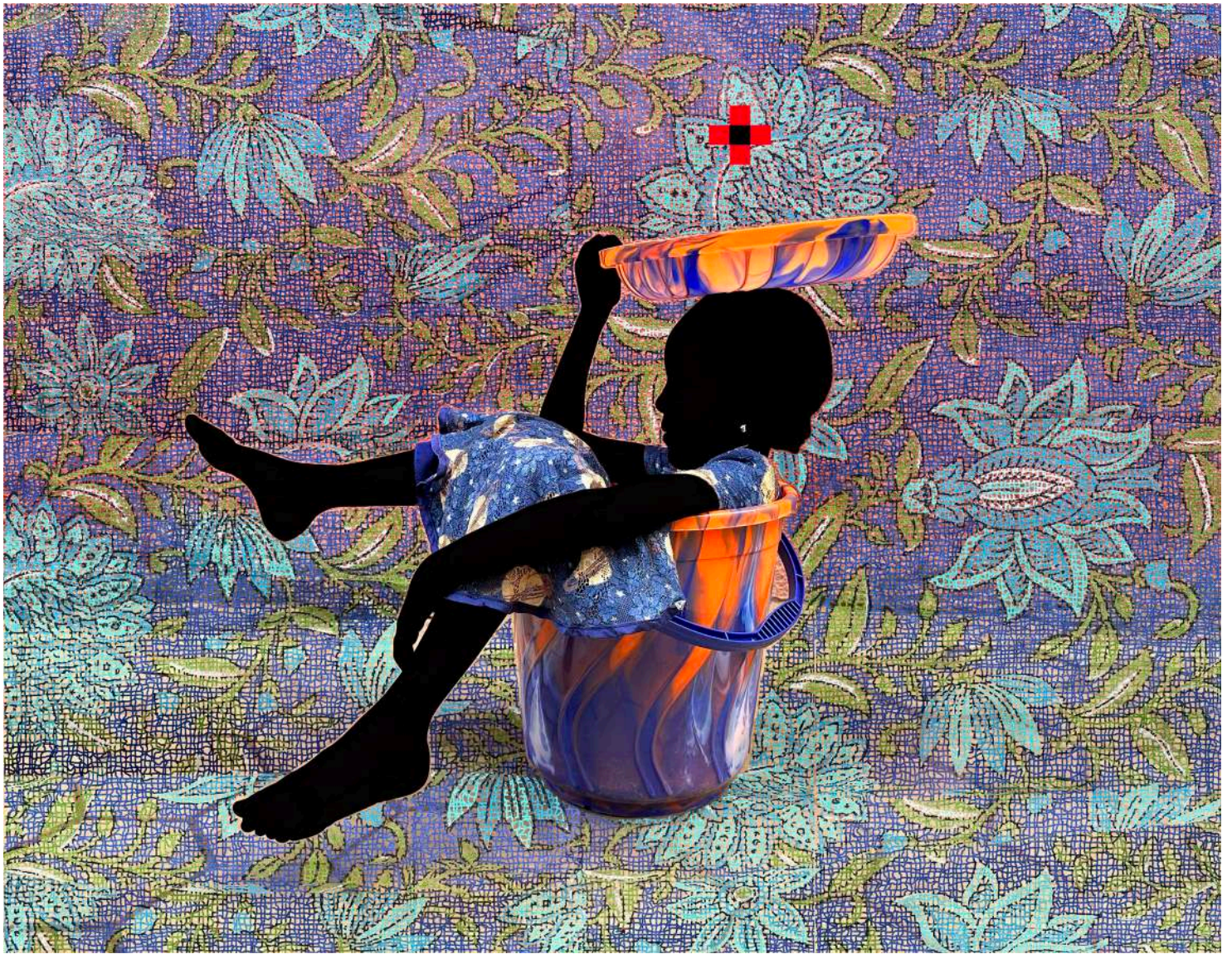
Saïdou Dicko prefers the spontaneity of children playing in front of the blue-walled family home to long, drawn-out posing sessions.

He prefers color to black and white, imbuing his visual universe with warmth and joy.

He prefers the freedom offered by the computer tool to cut, weave and artificially assemble background and image; to the frozen posture of a sheet stretched across a room.

Like the imagination of the children whose images he captures, the possibilities offered by Saïdou Dicko's digital photo studio are infinite. From this collage comes a photograph that he makes unique by covering the subjects' skin with black ink.





*LA PLUME T PARIS LOTUS, 2023*

Painted photography  
90x120 cm / 35x47 in





*RECYCLING-PRINCESS-DIOR-BAG-ACT2-T-OPERA-DE-SYDNEY, 2023*

Painted photography

90x120 cm

35x47 in

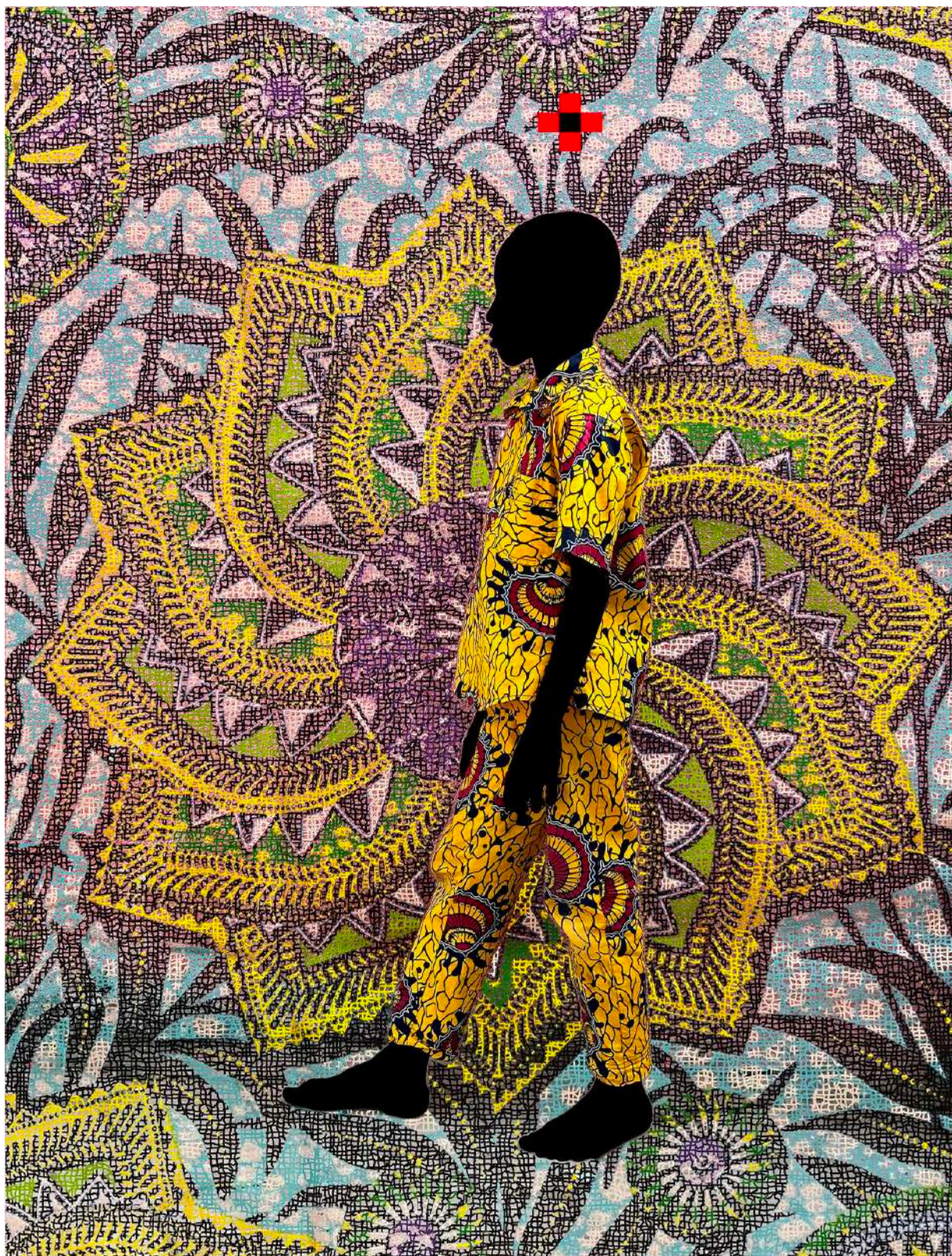




*LA PRINCESSE DE CYGNE SUR LE TRÔNE ACT1 T FLEUR, 2022*

Painted photography  
120x160 cm / 47x63 in

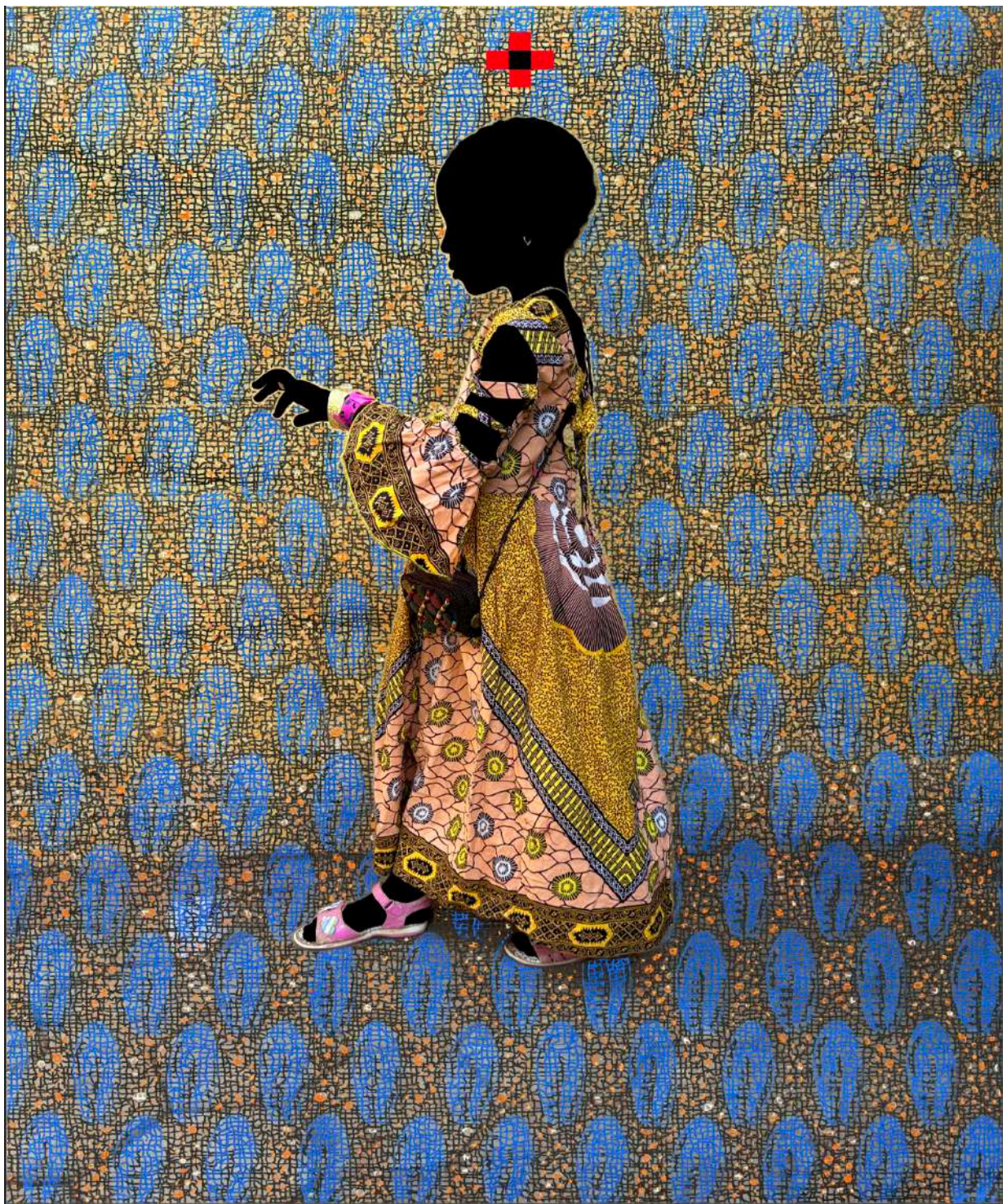




*LOUDSPEAKER T BF LOTUS, 2022*

Painted photography  
120x90 cm / 47x35 in



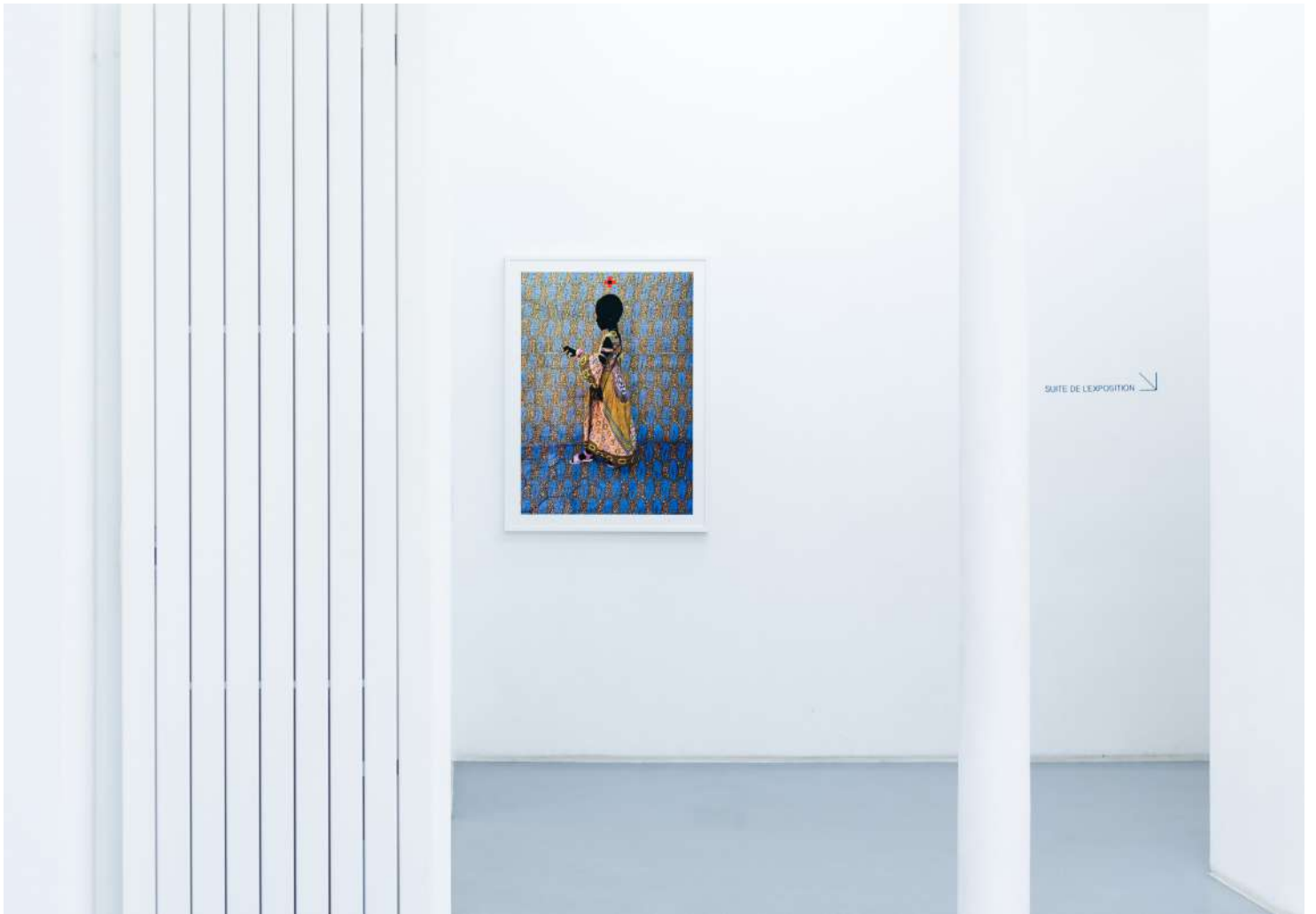


*PRINCESS OF GOLD, T BF CORIS, 2023*

Painted Photography. Unique piece.

100x75 cm / 39x30 in





**EXHIBITION VIEW**

*The Stories Children used to tell under the Mango Tree*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
December 2023

Photo credit Studio Vanssay





*THE SILVER DISCO PRINCESS, WALKER, T TG DOLLARS, 2023*

Painted Photography. Unique piece.

90x120 cm / 35x47 in





EXHIBITION VIEW

*The Stories Children used to tell under the Mango Tree*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
December 2023

Photo credit Studio Vanssay





*MOON PRINCESS TMS1, 2022*

Painted photography  
160x120 cm / 63x47 in





EXHIBITION VIEW

*The Prince of Shadows*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
May 2022





*PINK WITCH CANS T BF BRODÉ, 2022*

Painted photography  
90x120cm / 35X47 in





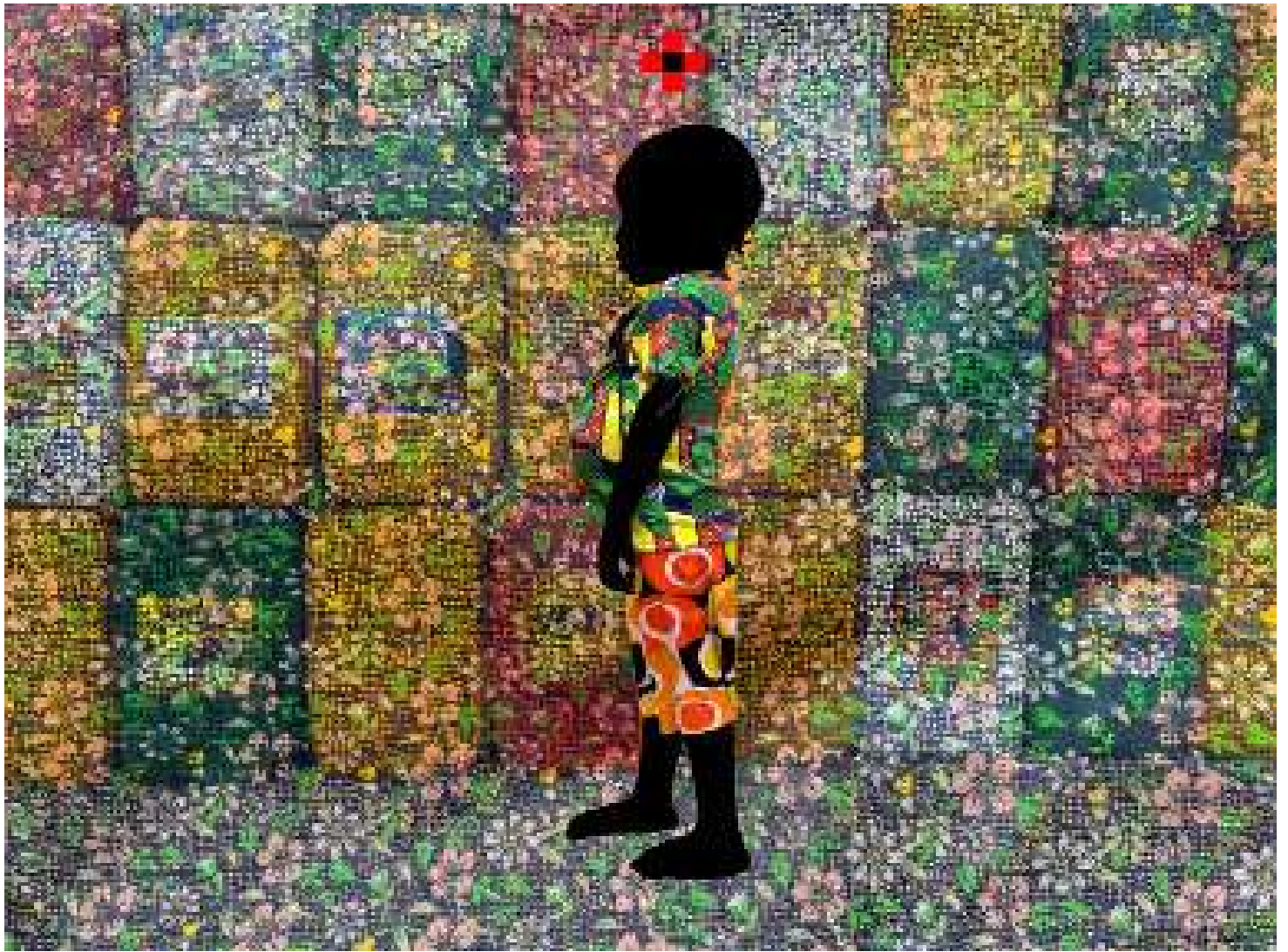
*L'ORANGE ACT1, 2024*

Painted photography

75x100 cm / 30x39 in

Framed: 89x113,5 cm / 35x44 in





*COLLECTION EGGS ACT1 T FR F, 2024*  
Painted Photography. Unique Piece. Framed  
75x100 cm / 30x39 in





*PRINCESSE DE CYGNE PEINTURE, 2022*  
Watercolour, ink and collage on photography  
75x100 cm / 29x39 in



# WATERCOLOUR ON PAPER

The materials Dicko uses are also personal. His drawings take place on the paper he calls *papier tata* (auntie paper). These sheets come from the printing factory his aunt (tata) used to work for. Whilst they were originally the drafts for his textile project, the watercolours he started in 2020 finally became artworks in themselves - mirroring the artist's universe inhabited with children, animals and imaginary flowers that bloom from plastic waste.

In Saïdou Dicko's drawings, the characters at the center of the blank page are left to their own

devices. In a contemplative attitude, they report on the world they have been left with. It's up to them to propose a tomorrow. Far from natural disasters, human beings and nature live in harmony. Saïdou Dicko draws an invitation to benevolence and to reconnect with our environment. Here, plastic, the sinews of today's ecological war, feeds a reborn nature and becomes a source of life.





*BRAZIL, 2022*  
Watercolour on paper  
30 x 40 cm / 12x16 in





LEFT  
*L'EMAIL*, 2022  
Watercolour on paper  
40 x 30 cm / 16x12 in



RIGHT  
*L'ÉQUILIBRE*, 2022  
Watercolour on paper  
40 x 30 cm / 16x12 in





*IN MY YACHT, 2023*  
Watercolour on paper  
30x40 cm / 12x16 in





*LE BERGER PENSEUR*, 2023  
Watercolour on paper  
30x40cm / 12x16 in





LA RENCONTRE, 2023  
Watercolour on paper  
30x40 cm / 12x16 in



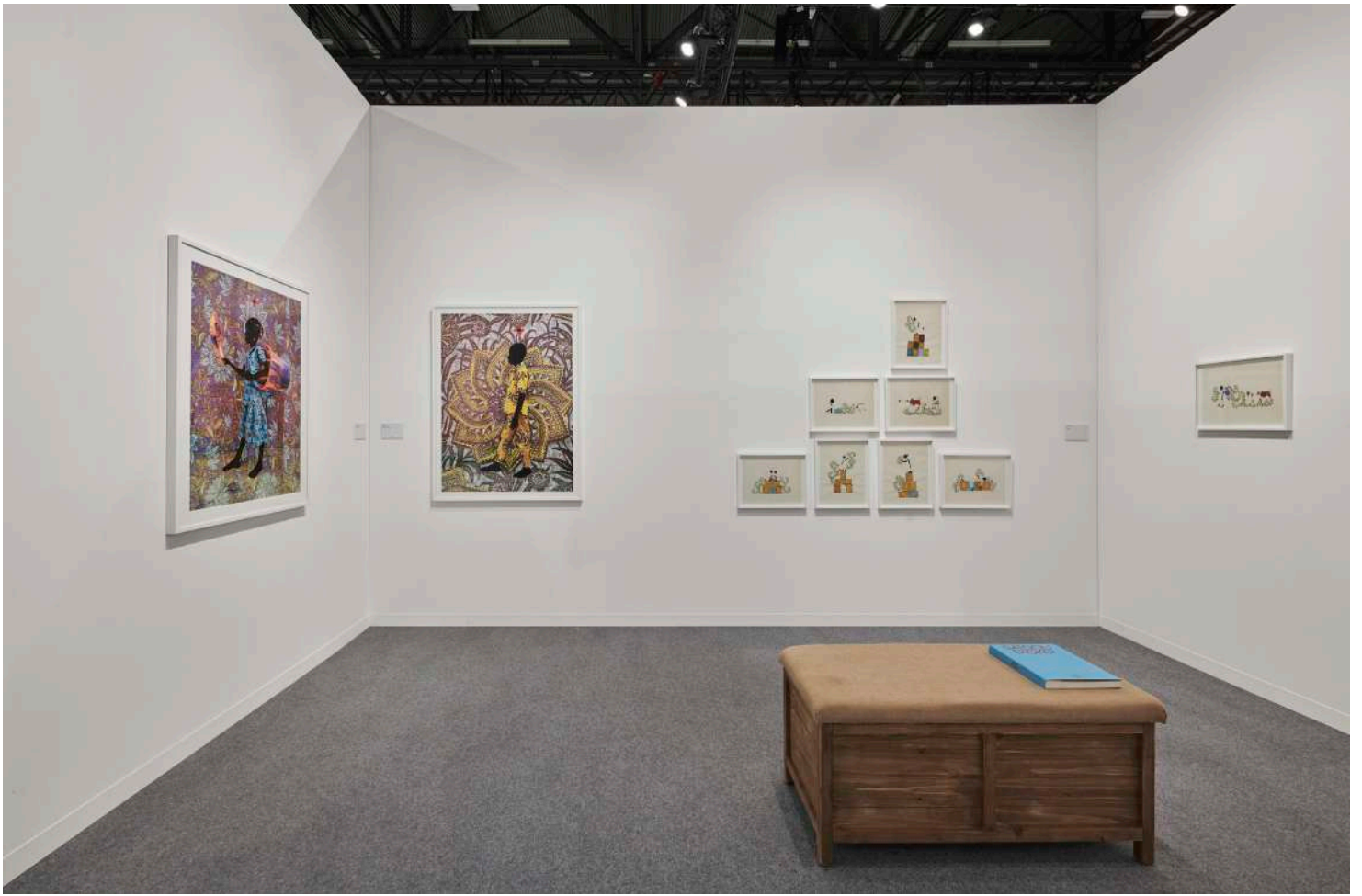


*LA PRINCESSE ET LA VACHE*, 2023

Watercolour on paper

30x40cm / 12x16 in





EXHIBITION VIEW  
artgenève, Geneva, Switzerland  
January 2023

Photo credit: Yosuke Kojima





*GENEROSITY*, 2023  
Watercolour on paper  
40x30cm / 16x12 in





*COMFORTABLE IN MY PRIVATE ISLAND, 2023*

Watercolour on paper  
30x40cm / 12x16 in

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.



*MISS WHITE*, 2023  
Watercolour on paper  
30x40cm / 12x16 in

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.





EXHIBITION VIEW

*The Stories Children used to tell under the Mango Tree*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
December 2023

Photo credit Studio Vanssay



*LES FLEURS JAUNES*, 2023  
Watercolour on paper  
30x40cm / 12x16 in



« 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. »



*GOLDEN LAUNDRY DAY, 2023*

Watercolour on paper  
50x75 cm / 20x30 in





*HAIRSTYLE*, 2023  
Watercolour on paper  
30x40 cm / 12x16 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

*The Stories Children used to tell under the Mango Tree*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
December 2023

Photo credit Studio Vanssay





*SOUS L'OMBRE*, 2023  
Watercolour on paper  
40x30 cm / 16x12 in



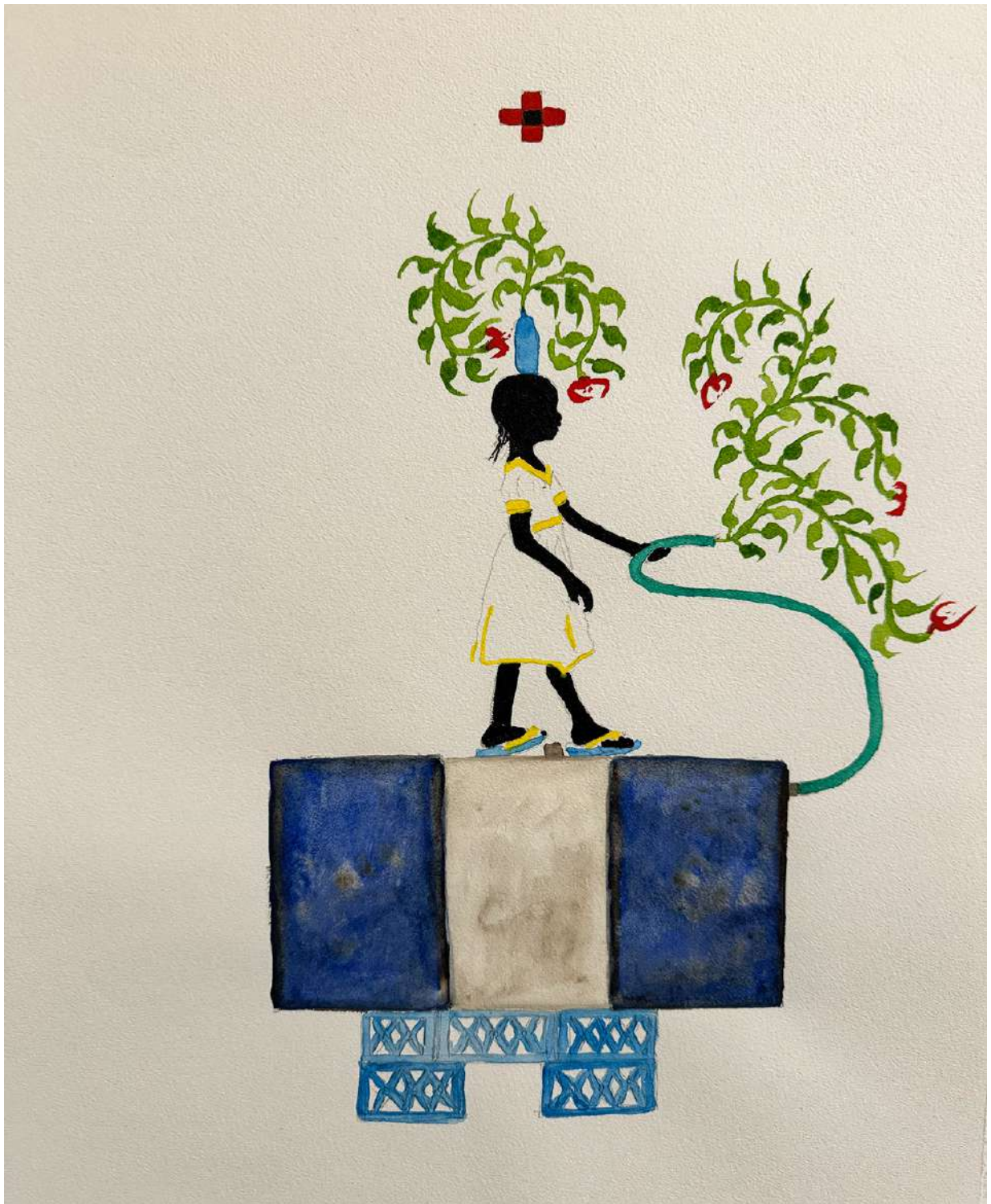
EXHIBITION VIEW

*The Stories Children used to tell under the Mango Tree*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris,  
France

December 2023

Photo credit Studio Vanssay





*SOUVENIR*, 2023  
Watercolour on paper  
40x30 cm / 16x12 in



*LA BRANCHE*, 2023  
Watercolour on paper  
40x30 cm / 16x12 in



# TEXTILES

His works on fabric showcase traditional Burkinabe craftsmanship. They bear witness to ancestral know-how.

Saïdou Dicko adorns his handmade organic cotton canvases with recycled plastic elements. Testifying to the importance of reusing what already exists, they are a nod to the cans they feature. The notion of cycle is at the heart of Saïdou Dicko's practice.

The images he captures are given a multitude of lives and stories from one medium to another - from photography to paper, from paper to fabric. Always, the Peul cross stands out like a signature above the characters' heads. An allusion to the traditional decorative rugs of Peul culture, it

exalts beauty and emphasizes the human rather than the individual.



*THE QUEEN OF WATER*, 2023

Embroidery and plastic on traditional organic cotton weaving, made in Burkina Faso by artisan weavers  
65x92 cm / 25x36 in



« In my work, I chose the option of 'non-polluting' plastic because in many villages in my country you have to travel several kilometers to fetch water. In this case, plastic cans are very useful and they are also infinitely recyclable. »



*THE WATER CARRIES ME*, 2023

Embroidery and plastic on traditional organic cotton weaving, made in Burkina Faso by artisan weavers  
65x92 cm / 25x36 in





EXHIBITION VIEW

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



*IMAGINATION HAS NO LIMITS, 2024*

Ink and watercolour on traditional organic cotton weaving, made in Burkina Faso by artisan weavers

52x73 cm / 20x28 in

Framed: 56x78cm / 22x 31 in





*THE KINGDOM OF CURIOSITY, 2024*

Ink and watercolour on traditional organic cotton weaving, made in Burkina Faso by artisan weavers  
97x145 cm / 38x57 in

Framed : 102x151 cm / 40x59 in