

MOUSTAPHA BAIDI OUMAROU

PORTFOLIO



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MOUSTAPHA BAIDI OUMAROU WAS BORN IN 1997 IN MAROUA IN THE EXTREME NORTH OF CAMEROON, WHERE HE LIVES AND WORKS.

A self-taught artist, Baidi Oumarou is willing to inspire a new generation of artists. To that extent, he is building an artist residency to welcome and give visibility to the work of Cameroon creatives, and more specifically artists from the north of Cameroon.

Moustapha Baidi Oumarou composes and delivers a personal painting, deeply imbued with his spirituality. The canvas, with flamboyant hues, punctuated by silhouettes on a monochrome background, conveys the philosophy of the artist whose mission is to «paint the world surrounding him with his most beautiful and powerful palette of colours.» Baidi Oumarou communicates a message of happiness, fraternity, and togetherness. The scenes of daily life that feed his canvases and the calm in which his characters seem to meditate, draw attention to the essence of the links that bring them together, highlighting the notions of family, friendship, and solidarity. Deceptively naive, the

art of Moustapha Baidi Oumarou is political - it calls for a behaviour change, urging its viewers, regardless of their experience, social class, or geographical origin to adopt a fresh gaze on the world by decentering themselves and drawing inspiration from other life paths. Colours are the matrix of Moustapha Baidi Oumarou's creation. His canvases articulate around one dense pigment that mesmerises the eye and heals the soul. Moustapha Baidi Oumarou's work is a mirror work. It reflects an idealised replica of the real world. It engages thoughts and leads the viewer to become an actor of the change with the hope of reaching this utopia.

Moustapha Baidi Oumarou's work has been shown during international art events such as 1-54 London (UK), artgenève (Switzerland), Investec Cape Town (South Africa), 1-54 New York (USA), Art Paris (France).

MOUSTAPHA BAIDI OUMAROU

b. 1997, Maroua, Cameroon
Lives and works in Maroua, Cameroon

Moustapha Baidi Oumarou's paintings are an ode to human values. Although he lives in Maroua, a city in the far north of Cameroon threatened by political tensions, he seeks, above all, to provoke a feeling of well-being and appeasement from his viewers.



SOLO SHOWS

2023

La cité des invisibles, Walls House of Art Gallery, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

2022

Après la pluie, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

Refuges, Yaounde French Institute, Yaounde, Cameroon

artgenève, AFIKARIS Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland

2021

Un monde bleu, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

GROUP SHOWS (SELECTED)

2023

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

1-54 Marrakech, Marrakech, Morocco

2022

Art X Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

AKAA, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

Classique !, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

BAD +, AFIKARIS Gallery, Bordeaux, France

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

1-54 Paris, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

2021

Flower Power, duo show with Evans Mbugua, Out of Africa Gallery, Barcelona, Spain

Save Legacy, Douala Academy of Fine Arts, Douala, Cameroon

Blue stroke, GR Gallery, New York, USA

1-54 London, AFIKARIS Gallery, London, UK

Quitter la ville, duo show with Omar Mahfoudi, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

2020

Sumegne / Ngaparou 2, Blachère Foundation, Apt, France

1-54 London, London, UK

Art Paris, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

Humanism, Out of Africa Gallery, Barcelona, Spain

Métamorphoses, Emmanuelle Rousse Gallery, Saint-Savin, France

We Paint Humans, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

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

2019

AKAA, Claire Corcia Gallery, Paris, France

L'Afrique maintenant, Claire Corcia Gallery, Paris, France

Bolo Art and Culture Space, Douala, Cameroon

Yaounde National Museum, Yaounde, Cameroon

Doual'art fair, Douala, Cameroon

OFF of the Dakar Biennial, Dakar, Senegal

2018

L'art spirituel de Yaoundé, Yaounde, Cameroon



VACANCES EN FAMILLE, 2022
Acrylic and pen on canvas
200x300 cm / 79x118 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

Après la pluie, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
November 2022

Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay



PICASSO EN ATELIER, 2022

Acrylic and pen on canvas
120x100 cm / 47x39 in

In the manner of Picasso - who appears in the work of Moustapha Baidi Oumarou, sitting in his studio, deep into his thoughts - he paints 'en réserve'. If the *Harlequin* (1923) by the Spanish master displays the genesis of its creation, the canvas left blank in the work of the Cameroonian artist brings respiration to the imposition of colour. It brings a breath. The artist plays with the composition and leaves room for the viewers' imagination. Their unconscious will colour the void, fed by their own expectations. In the same way, they will project themselves onto the anonymous silhouettes emerging from Baidi Oumarou's imaginary forests.



EXHIBITION VIEW

Après la pluie, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
November 2022

Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay



AU DESSUS DE NOS POUBELLES, 2022

Acrylic on canvas

120x100cm / 47x39 in



AU DESSUS DE NOS POUBELLES, 2022
(DETAIL)



L'EDEN, 2023
Acrylic and pen on canvas
200x200 cm / 79x79 in

“The precious second.
Enjoy it all the time, on
your own or with your
family. Preserving the
good times.”



EXHIBITION VIEW

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

Photo credit: Studio Vanssay

Moustapha Baidi Oumarou introduces plant elements into his compositions to reconnect man with nature. This abundant vegetation overturns any indications of space and time. A dreamlike setting secures itself on the edge between tale and utopia.

The scenes - inspired by daily life, draw attention to the bonds that bring them together, highlighting the very values of family, friendship, and solidarity.



LE CHAPEAU DE L'HOMME DE LA FAMILLE, 2023

Acrylic and pen on canvas

140x130 cm / 55x51 in



LE CHAPEAU DE L'HOMME DE LA FAMILLE, 2023
(DETAIL)



LEFT
NDER TSHOURA AM 1, 2022
Acrylic and pen on canvas
85x60 cm / 33x24 in



RIGHT
NDER TSHOURA AM 2, 2022
Acrylic and pen on canvas
85x60 cm / 33x24 in



COCKTAIL D'AMOUR, 2020
Acrylic and posca on canvas
120x180 cm / 47x71 in

Moustapha Baidi Oumarou seeks above all to provide happiness to those who look at his paintings. Thus, the hope of a world where only moments of joy and friendship exist in his work. From this composition emerges mystery, goodwill and serenity. Far from the chaos of the city, under Moustapha Baidi Oumarou's brushes, an ideal world appears: a cocktail of happiness and love.



LOUMO PETEL, 2021
Acrylic and posca on canvas
120x180 cm / 47x71 in

Whilst blue is considered a cold colour associated with sorrow and nostalgia, for Moustapha Baidi Oumarou, blue evokes a dreamed and ideal world, in which the colour grows enshrined with a healing virtue. His works aim to make their viewer feel joy. They are an invitation to focus on the positive aspects of life. Thus, like the flower men who inhabit his work, blue carries and reflects on the humanist approach that characterizes his overall artistic language.



EXHIBITION VIEW

Un monde bleu, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
October 2022



HORS MURS, 2019
Acrylic and pen on canvas
130x105 cm / 51x41 in



HORS MURS, 2019
(DETAIL)



LEFT
PORTRAIT D'AMIS, 2019
Acrylic and ink on canvas
180x120 cm / 71x47 in



RIGHT
JEUX D'HUMEUR, 2019
Acrylic and ink on canvas
180x120 cm / 71x47 in



LEFT
CONSCIOUS NATURE, 2020
Acrylic and posca on canvas
150x100 cm / 59x39 in



RIGHT
MONDE BLEU, 2020
Acrylic and posca on canvas
150x100 cm / 59x39 in



MON UNIVERS, 2019
Acrylic and ink on canvas
130x287 cm / 51x113 in

If at first sight the monumental canvas *Mon Univers* by Moustapha Baidi Oumarou seems to depict child soldiers, its genesis is quite different. Beyond depicting the fate of these children, he teaches us a lesson of bravery. He highlights the fight of these young children living in the street. The guns they are holding, more than being actual weapons, are a metaphor for their struggle and their determination to go beyond their sufferings to seek a better life.

Even though this topic may appear different to other works of Moustapha Baidi Oumarou, this canvas still is able to portray his habitual optimism and sense of hope.



EXHIBITION VIEW
Art Paris, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
September 2020



MA BICYCLETTE BLANCHE I, 2021
Acrylic and posca on canvas
140x130 cm / 55x51 in



UNTITLED #2, 2021
Acrylic and posca on canvas
110x75 cm / 43x30 in



JOUR DE LOUMO BALIII, 2021
Acrylic and posca on canvas
180x120 cm / 71x47 cm



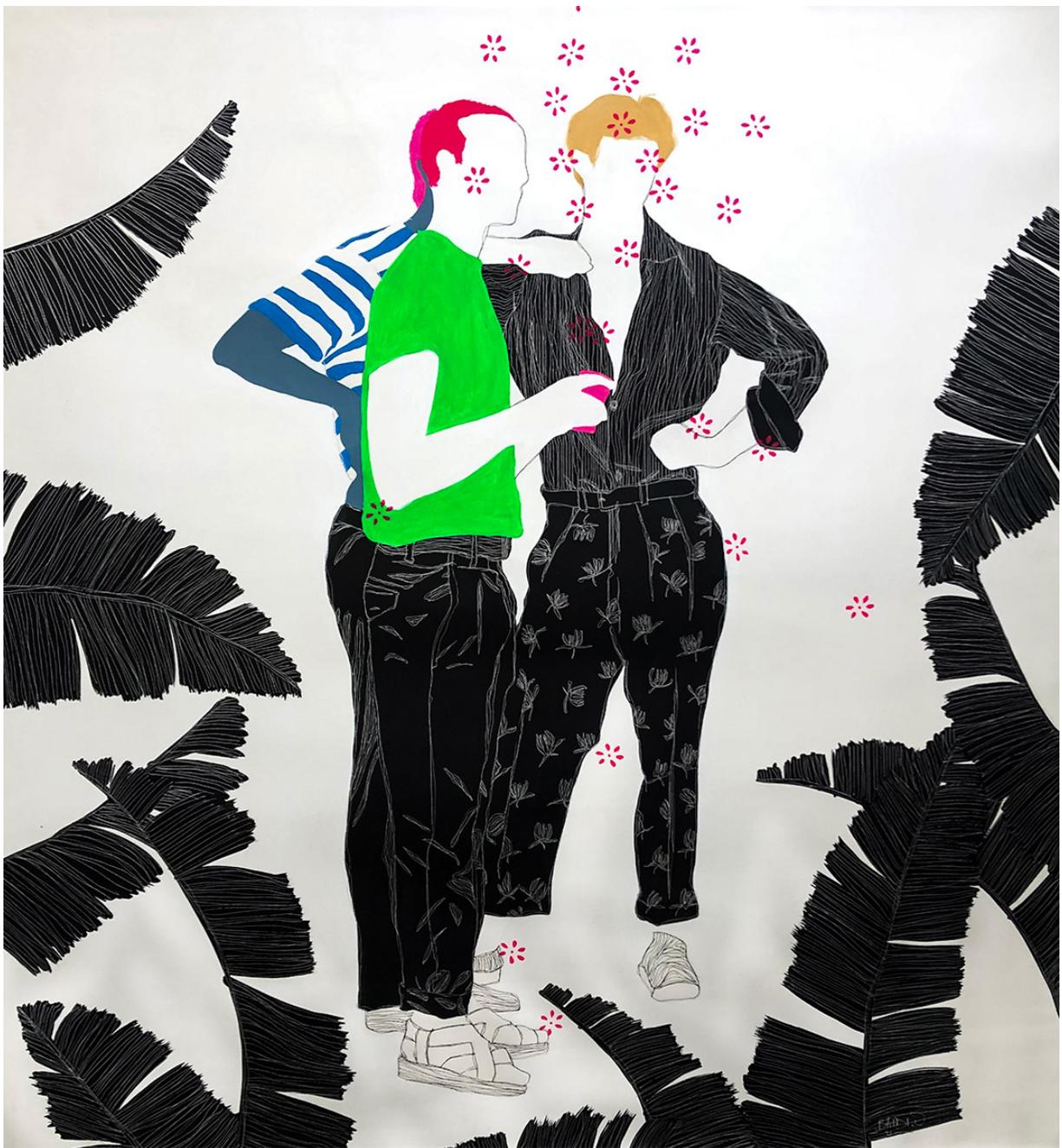
LEFT
PAS DE TITRE, 2021
Acrylic and posca on canvas
150x100 cm / 59x39 in



RIGHT
UNTITLED 2021
Acrylic and posca on canvas
150x100 cm / 59x39 in



JEUNE MÈRE, 2020
Acrylic and posca on canvas
130x100 cm / 51x39 in



LE PARADIS DE L'APRÈS COVID, 2021

Acrylic and posca on canvas

140x130 cm / 55x51 in



HISTORY, 2020
Acrylic and posca on canvas
140x130 cm / 55x51 in



L'ÉLU, 2020

Acrylic and posca on canvas

120x180 cm / 47x71 in

In the middle of dense vegetation, Baidi Oumarou's fashionable outlines are deepened into nature. The natural elements the young painter introduces in his works contribute to the universality of his pacifist message. He specifies: "My characters represent the 'flower boy'. They embody moments of humanity, moments of joy and pictures of love."



APRÈS LA PLUIE, 2022
Acrylic and pen on canvas
150x100 cm / 59x39 in



PARADIGME, 2021
Acrylic and posca on canvas
180x150 cm / 71x59 in



PARADIGME, 2021
(DETAIL)



L'ARROSOIR JAUNE, 2020
Acrylic and ink on canvas
100x70 cm / 39x26 in



PORTRAIT X, 2020
Acrylic and ink on canvas
100x60 cm / 39x24 in



EXHIBITION VIEW
Artgenève, AFIKARIS Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland
March 2022

Photo Credit: Philip Grayscon



RÊVE D'UNE VIE, 2022
Acrylic and posca on canvas
120x180 cm / 47x71 in



LEFT
SANS TITRE, 2022
Acrylic and pen on canvas
85x60 cm / 33x24 in

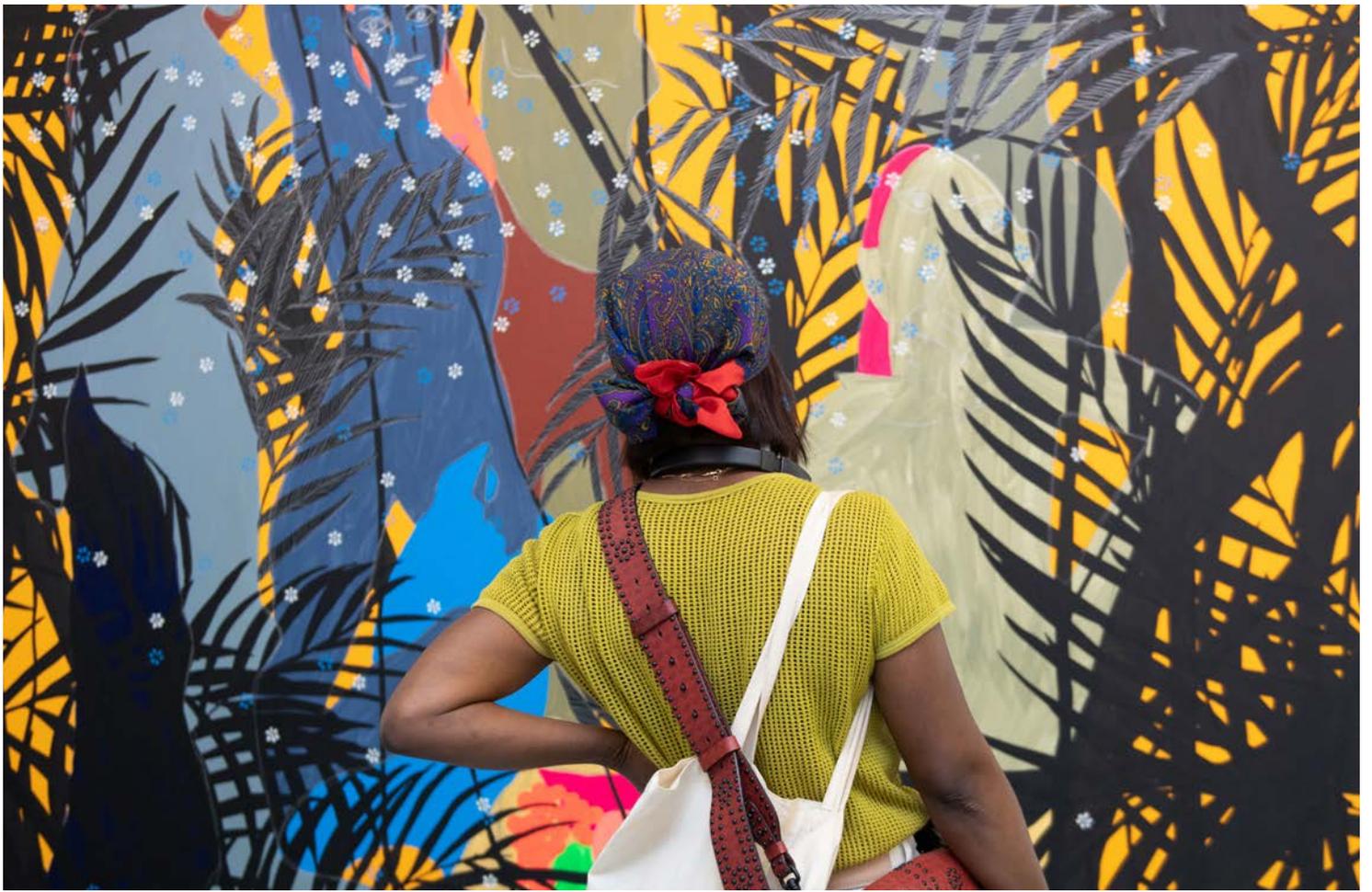


RIGHT
SUR MA ROUTE 2, 2022
Acrylic and pen on canvas
85x60 cm / 33x24 in



MES DEMOISELLES, 2022
Acrylic and pen on canvas
245x250 cm / 96x98 cm

Emerging from a curtain of leaves and branches that reveals and hides them at the same time, Moustapha Baidi Oumarou figures are as intriguing as in Picasso's *Demoiselles d'Avignon*. Their sensuality is underlined by the neon hues of their hair, echoing the colour of the fruits in the foreground, attributes of an explicit eroticism. The reinterpretation by Baidi Oumarou creates a mirror work that transports the characters to another environment, risking a certain malleability of a classic that was itself born of a synergistic work mixing multiple cultural and artistic impacts. For Baidi Oumarou, this artistic appropriation seems to express both a fascination for the original work and a desire to assert himself in his own art by transforming *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon* into 'his' *Demoiselles*.



EXHIBITION VIEW
Classique !, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
July 2022

Photo Credit: Candice Nineh



LES EXPLORATEURS, 2022

Acrylic and pen on canvas

200x200 cm / 79x79 in



I'M READY, 2023
Acrylic and pen on canvas
140x150cm / 55x59 in



I'M READY, 2023
(DETAILS)

