

# AFIKARIS

## AT AFIKARIS GALLERY, HYACINTHE OUATTARA INVITES THE AUDIENCE TO TAKE PART IN AN ODYSSEY INTO THE HEART OF CREATION, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS FIRST MAJOR SOLO EXHIBITION IN PARIS

*Hyacinthe Ouattara's first major solo exhibition in Paris will be held from 22 October to 26 November at AFIKARIS gallery's space at 38 rue Quincampoix. Symbiosis between the inspirations and techniques that animate the artist's practice, *Une Odyssée de l'espace* is an allegory of time. It is a plunge into the origins of creation and human relations. This wandering towards elsewhere - articulated around a set of paintings, woven dresses and sculptures - questions the sacred links that unite the living. The works themselves lead to a surpassing of painting beyond its representation.*

**22 October – 26 November, 2022**



Left. Hyacinthe Ouattara, *Tââfé Fanga*, 2022. 192x68 cm. Mixed media on fabric. Courtesy of AFIKARIS Gallery.

Centre. Hyacinthe Ouattara, *Tââfé Fanga*, 2022. 195x90 cm. Mixed media on fabric. Courtesy of AFIKARIS Gallery.

Right. Hyacinthe Ouattara, *Tââfé Fanga*, 2022. 170x70 cm. Mixed media on fabric. Courtesy of AFIKARIS Gallery.

17 October, 2022 (Paris, France) – While they have been collaborating together since the creation of the gallery in 2018, Hyacinthe Ouattara (born in 1981, Burkina Faso) signs the final exhibition of the space located at 38 rue Quincampoix. From next December, the Parisian gallery specialising in the promotion of contemporary artists from the African continent and its diaspora, will move permanently to 7 rue Notre-Dame-de-Nazareth, inaugurated in July 2022.

From 22 October to 26 November, in parallel with the AKA fair (21-23 October 2022), *Une odyssée de l'espace* explores space-time and questions its components. A multidisciplinary artist, Hyacinthe Ouattara acts as a messenger of the intangible. His art conveys the sensitive vibrations of the universe. The mediums are multiple and arise as the free expression of the creative energy flowing within him. An

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allegory of the passing of time, the odyssey that Ouattara composes is a dive into the origins of creation and human relations. It depicts osmosis at the cradle of life or how particles unite in the infinite to emerge from the void and form matter.

*“The exhibition L’odyssée de l’espace echoes a resonance between several universes and several hidden elements. It embodies the link between the constant rhythms and variations from the microcosm to the macrocosm. It embodies the earthly heartbeat of this amplified mystery that asks us to put ourselves in the right place in order to perceive or hear it.”*

*Hyacinthe Ouattara*

Ouattara welcomes the visitor into an artificial forest - *Arborescence 2* - composed of six sculptures, combining natural and manufactured elements. The branches, which come from different regions of France, are intertwined with the remnants of everyday life: a coffee machine, a painter’s palette, and a cast-iron casserole dish - all covered with cloves. Ouattara reconnects the natural with the cultural - as an anthropic production - in a ritual dimension. The wood, reanimated by the artist, translates the universal sacredness of the tree. The tree refers to the origins of life and is the first stop in Ouattara’s odyssey. Witness to the creation and mutations of the world, the tree links us to the past.



Above. Exhibition rendering.  
Hyacinthe Ouattara, *Fractales*, 2022. Series of 42 canvases.  
Mixed media on linen canvas. Courtesy of AFIKARIS Gallery.

*“The tree represents the soul, the receptacle, the extension of an ancestral life through its longevity, for the splendour of the world is found in hidden roots.”*

*Hyacinthe Ouattara*

The ‘Space Odyssey’ imagined by Ouattara thus reflects the fluctuations of the world. In this perspective, the *Fractales* series unfolds in an ensemble of small canvases inspired by the concept of the same name developed in 1967 by the mathematician Benoît Mandelbrot after he observed the Breton coast. A fractal structure characterises the same process on different scales. Fractals reflect the ability of matter and living things to self-organise and evolve.

From a thought oriented towards nature, Ouattara leads his audience to reflect on the cultural dimension that cements human relations. In this way, the walls are adorned with three dresses. Like the guardians of the secrets of the universe, they emerge from an assemblage of recycled textiles - metaphors for the social bond, at the foundation of all society. Through the exploration of matter, Ouattara studies the interactions between individuals and questions the place of human beings in the universe. These dresses are part of the *Tââfé Fanga* series, which means “the power of the loincloth” in Bambara language - the language the most widely spoken in West Africa. The loincloth is imbued with strong symbolism and used to exalt the power and secret feminine strength in ancestral societies. As an object of cult and ostentation, the garment appears as a barrier between the skin and the world. It becomes the messenger of the being it covers. While the dresses made by Ouattara take on different shades of red, they carry within them this organic message directly linked to the interiority of individuals.

The pictorial works punctuating Ouattara’s oeuvre are born of his spontaneous gesture. The documentary film directed by Christian Lajoumard - “L’Artiste et l’oeuvre, Hyacinthe Ouattara” - concludes this initiatory voyage and shows the very act of creation. Hyacinthe Ouattara thus reveals himself amid the process, crossing the screen with his ample movement until he materialises the fruit of it in the very heart of the

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gallery. Symbolically, the exhibition ends with the work created in front of the filmmaker, entitled Fenêtre vers l'Horizon. This window echoes the very definition of painting: "a window open onto the world" - stated in 1435 by the Tuscan theorist Alberti - and reflects the perpetual movement of the world. The end is not an end in itself, but an opening towards the elsewhere.

Une odyssee de l'espace unveils as an invitation to explore the origins of the universe, to better understand the living.

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## PRESS CONTACT:

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## NOTES TO EDITORS:

### **About Hyacinthe Ouattara:**

Hyacinthe Ouattara (b. 1981, Burkina Faso) is a multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in Paris. A prophet artist, listening to the world, he becomes a messenger. His work, on paper, on canvas or fabric, transmits and transcribes the sensitive messages he receives. The gesture predominates. His works are born of spontaneity, like a trance in which the artist lets himself be guided to transcribe what he felt. One can think of the process of automatic drawing prevalent among surrealist painters. The unconscious materialises in the art of Hyacinthe Ouattara. There is something originally from the cosmos that takes us back to Joan Miró's *Constellations*.

In 2022, Hyacinthe Ouattara's work has been presented at the Dakar Biennale and the Kinshasa Biennale. He has also been exhibited in France, Italy, the UK, Burkina Faso and the USA. *Une Odyssee de l'espace* is Hyacinthe Ouattara's first major solo exhibition in Paris.

### **About AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris :**

Founded in 2018 by Florian Azzopardi, to promote emerging and established artists from Africa and its diaspora, AFIKARIS Gallery opened a dedicated Paris-based gallery space in 2021. Engaged in promoting cross-cultural and disciplinary exchange, AFIKARIS acts as a platform for artists to engage with the wider public. A mirror onto and space for reflection on the contemporary African art scene, it provides artists with a space to address the topical local and international issues at the heart of their art.

Hyacinthe Ouattara, *Une odyssee de l'espace* | 22 October — 26 November, 2022

PRESS OPENING: Friday 21 October, 3 PM — 7 PM

PUBLIC OPENING: Saturday 22 October, 6 PM — 9 PM

AFIKARIS Gallery  
38 rue Quincampoix  
75004 Paris, France

From Tuesday to Saturday: 11 AM — 7 PM

### **Ongoing exhibitions:**

*As I Reflected* | Emma Odumade's solo show

AFIKARIS Gallery | 7 rue Notre-Dame-de-Nazareth, 75003 Paris

Until 5 November, 2022

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## Upcoming presentations:

### ART FAIRS

AKAA, Paris, France

Moustapha Baidi Oumarou - Matthew Eguavoen - Jean David Nkot - Hyacinthe Ouattara

Art X Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

Matthew Eguavoen, Ousmane Niang, Jean David Nkot, Emma Odumade

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