

AFIKARIS

PRESS RELEASE

GROUP SHOW *INHABITING THE WORLD*

EXHIBITED ARTISTS

Nasreddine Bennacer (b. 1967, Algeria)
Fariba Boroufar (b. 1975, Iran)
Saïdou Dicko (b. 1979, Burkina Faso)
Matthew Eguavoen (b. 1989, Nigeria)
Salifou Lindou (b. 1965, Cameroon)
Omar Mahfoudi (b. 1981, Morocco)
Ousmane Niang (b. 1989, Senegal)

Jean David Nkot (b. 1989, Cameroon)
Eva Obodo (b. 1963, Nigeria)
Emma Odumade (b. 2000, Nigeria)
Ozioma Onuzulike (b. 1972, Nigeria)
Mouhcine Rahaoui (b. 1990, Morocco)
Hervé Yamguen (b. 1971, Cameroon)
Nana Yaw Oduro (b. 1994, Ghana)

4 July – 10 August 2024



Installation view of *Inhabiting the World*. July 2024
Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay
Courtesy of AFIKARIS Gallery and the Artist.

GROUP SHOW *INHABITING THE WORLD*

EXHIBITION FROM 4 JULY TO 10 AUGUST

7 RUE NOTRE-DAME-DE-NAZARETH, 75003 PARIS, FRANCE

From July 4th to August 10th, AFIKARIS Gallery hosts its traditional summer group exhibition. Inhabiting the World approaches the complexity of human beings through their relationship with the world. It offers a conversation between 14 artists - Nasreddine Bennacer, Fariba Boroufar, Saïdou Dicko, Matthew Eguavoen, Salifou Lindou, Omar Mahfoudi, Ousmane Niang, Jean David Nkot, Eva Obodo, Emma Odumade, Ozioma Onuzulike, Mouhcine Rahaoui, Hervé Yamguen et Nana Yaw Oduro - whose work unfolds through the 180m² of the gallery space. Inhabiting the World is also the occasion for the gallery to showcase for the first time the work of Iranian artist Fariba Boroufar, broadening the scope of the gallery's previous focus on the art scene of the African continent and its diaspora.

Attracted by Nasreddine Bennacer's singular piano, which stands out from the exhibition space, the visitors encounter the voices of twelve artists, who, turn by turn, amaze, warn and gather.

In his essay, *Habiter le monde* (2017) Felwine Sarr defines: "To live in the world, it's to conceive oneself as being part of a space wider than one's ethnic group, one's nation... It's fully inhabiting the histories and richnesses of humanity's plural cultures."

To inhabit the world is to embrace the diversity of beings and ideas in their uniqueness.

4 July — 10 August 2024
Inhabiting the World

Nasreddine Bennacer, Fariba Boroufar, Saïdou Dicko, Matthew Eguavoen, Salifou Lindou, Omar Mahfoudi, Ousmane Niang, Jean David Nkot, Emma Odumade, Ozioma Onuzulike, Hervé Yamguen, Nana Yaw Oduro

PUBLIC OPENING: Thursday, 4 July, 6 PM — 9 PM

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

INHABITING THE WORLD



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3.



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3.

1. Nasreddine Bennacer, *Sans titre*, 2024. 27x48 cm
2. Nana Yaw Oduro, *This or That*, 2023. 45x30 cm. Edition 1/8
3. Hervé Yamguen, *Le feu de la sagesse*, 2024. 80x120 cm
4. Omar Mahfoudi, *Les égarés #3*, 2019. 100x100 cm
5. Fariba Boroufar, *Turquoise*, 2024. 140x130 cm

INHABITING THE WORLD



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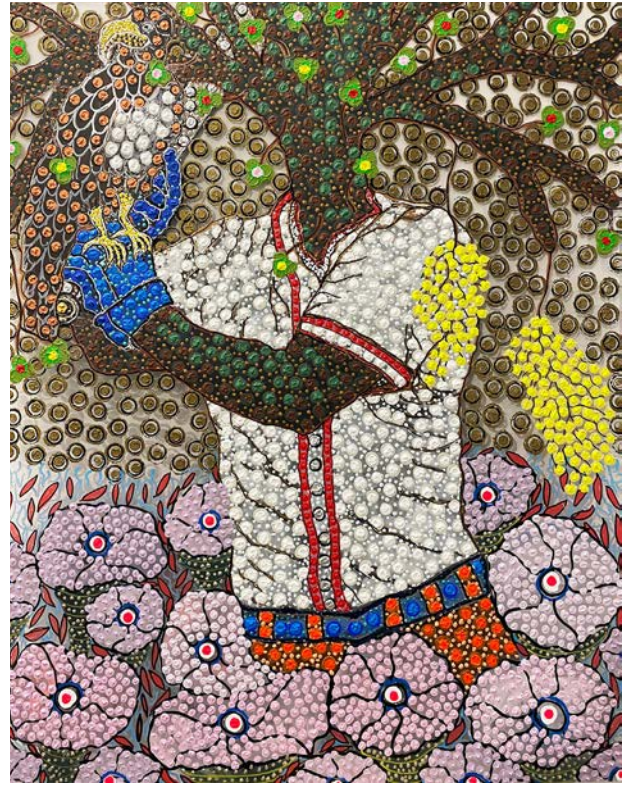
4.

1. Eva Obodo, *Memory*, 2024. 200x99x4 cm
2. Mouhcine Rahaoui, *Lumière obscure*, 2023. 100x100 cm
3. Ozioma Onuzulike, *Styled Blouse with Front Pockets*, 2024. 122x102x10 cm
4. Jean David Nkot, www./ReposDuMineur#cobalt, 2021. 200x200 cm

INHABITING THE WORLD



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1. Saïdou Dicko, *Dior Princess ACT1*, 2024. 75x100 cm

2. Ousmane Niang, *Le baseballeur de la forêt*, 2024. 120x100 cm

3. Salifou Lindou, *La famille réunie*, 2023. 160x200 cm

4. Matthew Eguavo, *Nothing New Under the Sun*, 2023. 130x100 cm

5. Emma Odumade, *Sun's Core II*, 2023. D : 100 cm

INHABITING THE WORLD



Installation views of *Inhabiting the World*. July 2024
Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay
Courtesy of AFIKARIS Gallery and the Artists.

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Installation views of *Inhabiting the World*. July 2024
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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

NASREDDINE BENNACER (b. 1967, Algeria)

Nasreddine Bennacer is a self-taught artist. His latest artistic research is directed towards a goal of simplicity. Nasreddine Bennacer's work crystallises something deeply intimate, a quest for identity in a pendulum movement. He paints inwardly, letting himself be guided by the pictorial gesture and the response of the material to give life to works in black and white, bordering on abstraction. The result is a sensitive, introspective painting that reflects the artist's emotions, recalling natural forms and exalting the beauty and poetry of the passing of time.

FARIBA BOROUFAR (b. 1975, Iran)

A weaver and fibre artist, Boroufar imbues her art with the traditions and culture of her homeland, focusing mainly on Iranian architecture. Her works unfold as woven memories, born from the sensory experiences she has gained during her travels while encountering Iranian architecture from past centuries. The forms and colours she uses embody the decaying beauty of these abandoned structures, creating a sharp contrast with modern architecture.

SAÏDOU DICKO (b. 1979, Burkina Faso)

In his works on paper and in his painted photographs, Saïdou Dicko captures a moment of play. When children embark on an adventure, their imagination reigns supreme and everything becomes possible. It is this multitude of eventual futures freed from any constraints that Saïdou Dicko magnifies. The wall of cans behind them becomes the stage for a fashion show on which his nephews and nieces parade in turn.

MATTHEW EGUAVOEN (b. 1989, Nigeria)

Depicting faces with a stress expression and a piercing gaze, Matthew Eguavoén portrays Nigerian society. Staged in a familiar interior, his models mirror social issues. In the work presented within the exhibition *Inhabiting the World*, he evokes depression and regrets that mental health has been for a long time - and still is - neglected, stigmatised and made invisible on the African continent. He underlines the importance of a listening and support system – physical and spiritual – to cope with depression. Eguavoén's painting insists on the strong relationships between individuals and stresses how these spiritual and human bonds - family and friends - lead to healing through freedom of speech and breaking away from taboos and stereotypes surrounding mental health.

SALIFOU LINDOU (b. 1965, Cameroon)

Salifou Lindou addresses the question of the exodus related to the geopolitical and economic situation in Cameroon. Observing the genesis of uprooting, he illustrates the notion of departure, showing the challenges faced by families when they leave and the differences that emerge when they return.

OMAR MAHFOUDI (b. 1981, Morocco)

Omar Mahfoudi's liquid works blur the line between dream and reality, figuration and abstraction. Through the figure of a swimmer, the artist signifies a break outside of the world's madness, an instant of communion between oneself and nature. His landscapes are cleared of any human presence. Nature seems to have taken over and appears like an invitation to admire the world's beauty.

JEAN DAVID NKOT (b. 1989, Cameroon)

Jean David Nkot's work puts forward the invisible figures of the market economy. He recalls the fight between bodies over the territory. He explores and documents the life trajectory of people working under the ground, seeking the ores that will give life to the technological goods distributed over the world. The artist links the ores and the bodies he presents as objects of contemplation. He magnifies their strength and resilience defying their instrumentalisation. By confronting viewers with these bodies, turned into tools for a capitalistic economy, Jean David Nkot invites them to face the violence standing behind mining. He underlines the underlying economic, political and environmental motifs.

OUSMANE NIANG (b. 1989, Senegal)

By painting on plexiglass, Ousmane Niang projects his utopian universe - in which the man-tree takes care of nature and the balance within the living - in the physical reality. In that way, he anchors his message in the contemporary world, conveying to his audience an incentive to protect and question their current behaviour toward their environment. Whereas Niang's man-animals once signified a sharp dichotomy between the strong and the weak, these hybrid beings now evoke the need for a renewed harmony between human beings and nature.

EVA OBODO (b. 1963, Nigeria)

By incorporating discarded materials such as charcoal and jute fibre, Eva Obodo creates visual narratives that evoke the complex socio-political and economic structures that underpin contemporary culture. He tells the stories of societies, emphasising the relationships between individuals and the social hierarchy.

EMMA ODUMADE (b. 2000, Nigeria)

Emma Odumade connects the past - symbolised through the elements of collage showing old artefacts - to the future - embodied by a futuristic imagery - and to the present world, represented by the Earth that the character seems to be willing to catch. Through this self-portrait, Odumade depicts a changing world and presents artists as a witness to the passage of time.

OZIOMA ONUZULIKE (b. 1972, Nigeria)

Ozioma Onuzulike explores the notion of social elevation and weaves the hope of a more egalitarian world. The prestigious garments he recreates from the fusion of ceramic and glass beads, assembled with copper wire, reveal a desire to change an entrenched hierarchy. Onuzulike's blouses become the privileged witnesses of an era in the throes of mutation.

MOUHCINE RAHAOUI (b. 1990, Morocco)

Mouhcine Rahaoui develops his visual vocabulary from the lexical field of the miner, intrinsically linking the worker to his environment, inextricably crossing their destinies, just as, visually, wax mingles with coal. The miner is reincarnated in the object, caught up in the reality of his condition. Rahaoui constructs a poetic and social documentary on the human condition, on the future of man plagued by the curse of resources, and his desire to turn away from a fate that nevertheless seems inevitable.

HERVÉ YAMGUEN (b. 1965, Cameroon)

Hervé Yamguen transcribes the forms of the universe. These multiple shapes, which mutate and combine in an infinite movement, demonstrate the connections between human beings and the cosmos. They exist through each other. The Ubuntu philosophy "I can't be without you" infuses Yamguen's art, attesting to the intimate bounds existing within creation.

NANA YAW ODURO (b. 1994, Ghana)

Nana Yaw Oduro creates images embodying his inner fictional stories. The composition is not pre-planned and emerges spontaneously from a conversation with what surrounds him at the moment of the photo shoot. He plays with the contrast between the skin of his models and the objects scattered around, revealing surrealist scenes.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

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 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. By extending its range of artists to the Middle East, the gallery is confirming its commitment to highlighting artists who have little visibility on a global scale.

AFIKARIS' programme includes group and solo exhibitions, art fairs, publications and institutional partnerships. In 2023, the gallery opened its artist residency on the outskirts of Paris. The residency is a place dedicated to creation, at the disposal of the artists working with the gallery or who wish to develop a project for a future presentation with the gallery.



Au-dessus. Vue de la galerie AFIKARIS située au 7 rue Notre-Dame-de-Nazareth.
Courtesy de la galerie AFIKARIS.
Crédit Photo : Studio Vanssay

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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

Tuesday – Saturday
11 AM — 7 PM

PRESS CONTACT

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