

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. I

n 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 shepherd, 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.



artgenève art fair, AFIKARIS Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland

2022

The Prince of Shadows, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
Umrissene Welten, ARTCO Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2021

Shadowed People, Jackson Fine Art Gallery, Atlanta, USA

2018

Photo Folies, the Menuiserie, Rodez, France
The Shadowed People, ARTCO Gallery, Aachen, Germany

2016

Trans-Humance, Usanii Space, Nevers, France

2014

Le Voleur d'ombres, French institute of Roma, Roma, Italy

2012

Der Schattendieb, ARTCO Gallery, Herzogenrath, Germany

2009

Exhibition at the Franco-Mozambican Cultural Center, Maputo, Mozambic

2008

French Cultural Centre Georges Méliès, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
OFF Dak'Art 08, French Institute, Dakar, Senegal

2007

Biennale OFF Dak'Art 08, French Institute, Dakar, Senegal

2006

Chab Gallery, Bamako, Mali
Quinzaine africaine, La Vénérerie Espace Delvaux Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

2023

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

2022

Photo London, London, UK

artgenève art fair, Geneva, Switzerland

2021

La Poésie du Lien, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

Zone Franche, Institute of Islamic Cultures, Paris, France

1-54 New York, Online Art Fair, AFIKARIS Gallery

Art Paris Art Fair, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

Paris Photo Art Fair, Jackson Gallery, Paris, France

AKAA, ARTCO Gallery, Paris, France

2020

Your Shadows, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

2019

1-54 London, London, UK

Investec Cape Town art fair, Cape Town, South Africa

2018

AKAA, Paris, France

FNB Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa

Traversées photographiques africaines, Art Z Gallery, Paris, France

2017

UTOCORPIS : les Corps Utopiques, Paris, France

Fragile Beauty, Nelly Wandji Gallery, Paris, France

Pool Art Fair Guadeloupe, France

Bandjoun Station, Bandjoun, Cameroon

Art Paris, Paris, France

Itinéraires, Art Z Gallery, Paris, France

2016

Dakar-Martigny, Martigny, Switzerland

Le Sel sur la Mangue, La lune en Parachute, Epinal, France

The Expanded Subject : New Perspectives In Photographic Portraiture From Africa, Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, New York, USA

Cartes et identités, Art Z Gallery, Paris, France

Printemps des photographes, Sète, France

Cape Town art fair, Cape Town, South Africa

2015

L'Afrique a du génie, Attijariwafa Bank Foundation, Casablanca, Morocco

We, c'est moi, Goldenberg Gallery, Paris, France

Africa Development Forum, Casablanca, Morocco

2014

Still Fighting Ignorance & Intellectual Perfidy, Ben Uri Gallery and Museum London, London, UK
Marrakech Biennale, Marrakech, Morocco

Group Show, Cécile Fakhoury Gallery, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

One Game – Everywhere, ARTCO Gallery, Aachen, Germany

Kölner Liste, ARTCO Gallery, Cologne, Germany

2013

Art meetings of Africa-Middle Est, Casablanca, Morocco

Mes Amours, Bandjoun Station, Bandjoun, Cameroon

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

2012

Still Fighting Ignorance & Intellectual Perfidy, Museo Arte Contemporanea Ticino, Bellinzona, Switzerland

2011

Fronteiras, encontro de fotografia de Bamako, Calouste Gulbekian Foundation, Paris, France

Exhibition Centre Fernan Gomez, Madrid, Spain

Interpretations of Africa Football Art and Design, London Design Museum, London, UK

Regards sur cours, 8th edition, Gorée, Senegal

2010

Foto Museum, Antwerp, Belgium

Cultural Center Cajastur Palacio Revillagigedo, Gijon, Spain

Galery Momo, Johannesburg, South Africa

2009

8th African Photography Meeting of Bamako, Bamako, Mali

2008

Africa Now, World Bank, Washington DC, USA

2007

7th African Photography Meeting of Bamako, Bamako, Mali

CURATING EXHIBITIONS AND RESIDENCIES

2017

Curator and scenographer with the association Arkane Africa for the heritage days, Aït Ben Haddou, Morocco

2016

Curator Africa and scenographer for the Cop 22 with the association Arkane Africa, Marrakech, Morocco

Curator Africa for the Casablanca Biennale, Casablanca, Morocco

Curator Africa with the association Arkane Africa for the 19th African Film Festival of Khouribga, Morocco

Curator Africa and Scenographer for residence and exhibition with the association Arkane Africa, Casablanca, Morocco

Curator Africa of ART RIMAL 2nd edition in Oujda, Morocco

2014

Curator of the exhibition Télégramme with the artists collectif "Rendez-Vous d'Artistes", Pierrefitte sur Seine, France

2012

Co-founder of "Rendez-Vous d'Artistes"

AWARDS

2016

Award winner of Wings of Africa from Royal Air Maroc. Design of a Boeing 737 in collaboration with the artist Evans Mbugua

2014

International selection at the 3rd edition of the Addis Foto Fest 2014, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

International selection at the 6th edition of the ARTE video Night, Paris, France

International selection at the 2nd edition of the Casablanca Biennale, Casablanca, Morocco

International selection at the Gwanza Month of photography, Moonwalking, Harare, Zimbabwe

2012

Montréal International Festival of Black Film, projection of the video Gariibu during the program *l'Afrique en mouvement*, Montreal, Canada

1st edition of the Casablanca Biennale, exhibition at Arctua Art Space Regards Africains Croisés, Casablanca, Morocco

2009

International selection at the 8th African Biennale of Photography, les Rencontres de Bamako, Bamako, Mali

2008

Laureate of the Thamgidi Foundation Prize, 8th Dakar Biennale of Dakar, National Gallery, Senegal

Thamgidi Foundation Prize, 8th edition of the Dakar Biennale, Dakar, Senegal

2007

Award of the Francophonie : Best Francophone photographer, les Rencontres de Bamako, Bamako, Mali

2006

Award of the Blachère Foundation, 7th Dakar Biennale



LEFT
THE BUTTERFLY T GREEN, 2020

Painted photography
100x75 cm / 39x30 in



RIGHT
LE BIDON VERT T FEUILLES JAUNES, 2020

Painted photography
100x75 cm / 39x30 in

Who are these children who appear from one work to another? Where are they? What are they doing? It does not matter. Only creativity matters. Princes or sculptures, on their throne or traveling in business class, the malicious shadows inhabiting Dicko's art play an infinite number of roles, echoing their unlimited inventiveness. They start their journey in a raw picture, take place within the virtual photo studio that the artist creates with his digital brushes, then settle down on the white sheet before landing among the embroideries the artist makes on a handmade fabric from Burkina Faso.



LES BIDONS JAUNES T FEUILLES D'OR, 2019

Painted photography

75x100 cm / 30x39 in

The painted photographs by Dicko echo the photo studios from his childhood. Whilst they made the fame of contemporary African photography with major works by Malick Sidibé, Samuel Fosso and Seydou Keïta, to only quote them, studio photography remains a family moment of sharing. Wearing their best clothes and adopting a spotless smile, they pose in front of a background made of graphical fabrics or views from abroad. Dicko remembers:

"In these studios, we had the freedom to choose between several backgrounds: several drawn landscapes, in nature with wild animals, etc. We had posters with skyscrapers in New York. There were a lot of possibilities. So that is also what I try to share through my photos."



LEFT
HARIGATO T CHÂÎNES GREEN, 2020
 Painted photography
 100x75 cm / 39x30 in



RIGHT
HERE IS THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS T EYE GREEN, 2020
 Painted photography
 100x75 cm / 39x30 in



SUR LE TRÔNE ACT1, 2021

Painted photography

90x120 cm / 35x47 in

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?

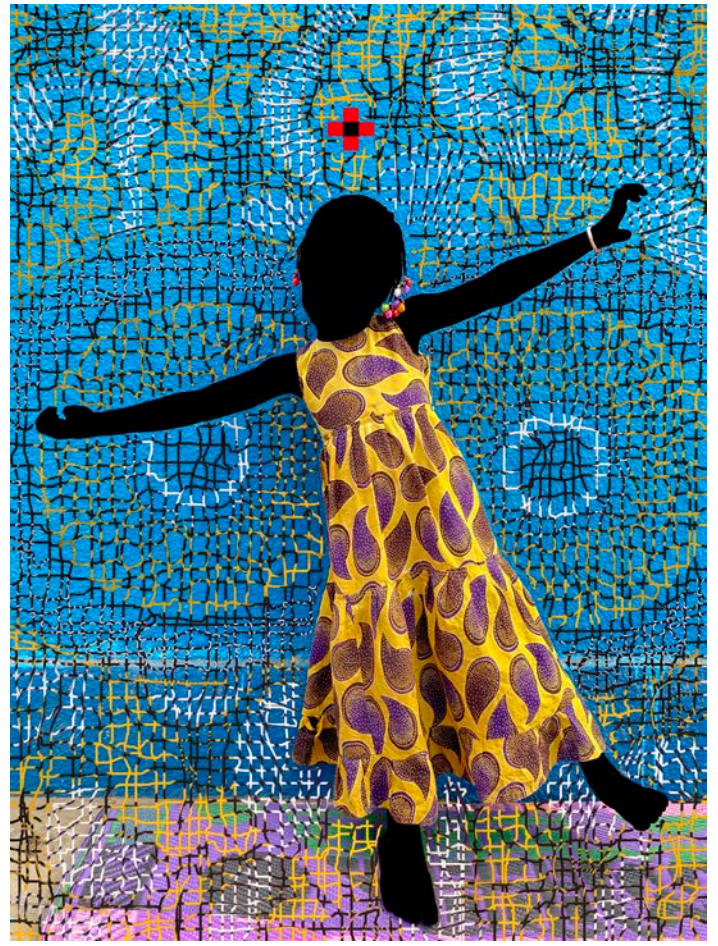
Why are we so alone in the middle of all ?

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

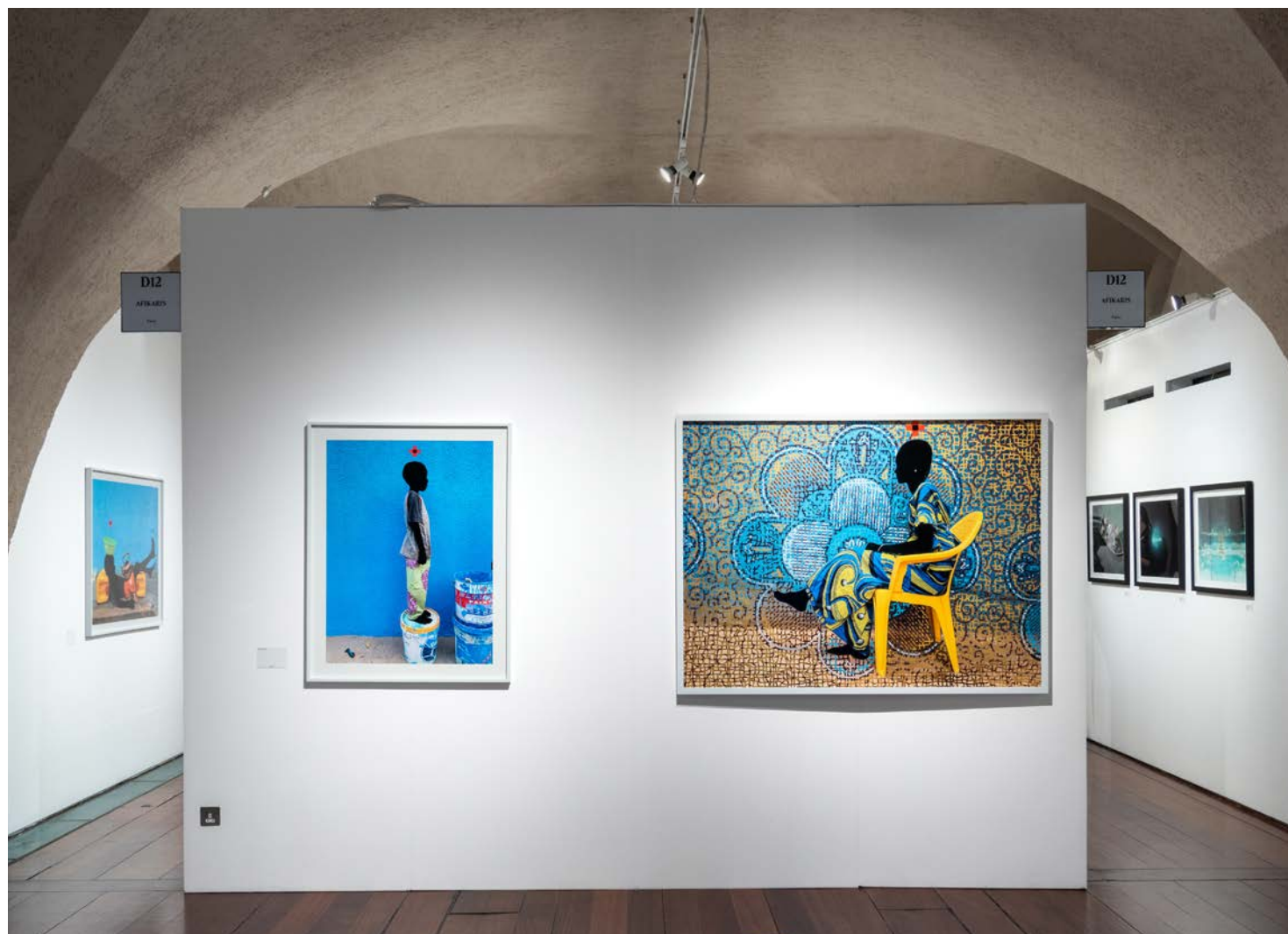
SAÏDOU DICKO



LEFT
SCULPTURE BERGER, 2021
 Painted photography
 100x75 cm / 39x30 in



RIGHT
THE YELLOW PRINCESS ACT 3 T 2DISK, 2021
 Painted photography
 100x75 cm / 30x39 in



EXHIBITION VIEW
Photo London, London, UK
May 2022

Photo Credit: Troika Photos



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

Painted photography
120x160 cm / 47x63 in



I LOVE MY PINK SHOES TMS11, 2021

Painted photography

120x90 cm / 47x35 in



WATER ACT1, 2022
Painted photography
75x100 cm
30x39 in



EXHIBITION VIEW
The Prince of Shadows, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
May 2022

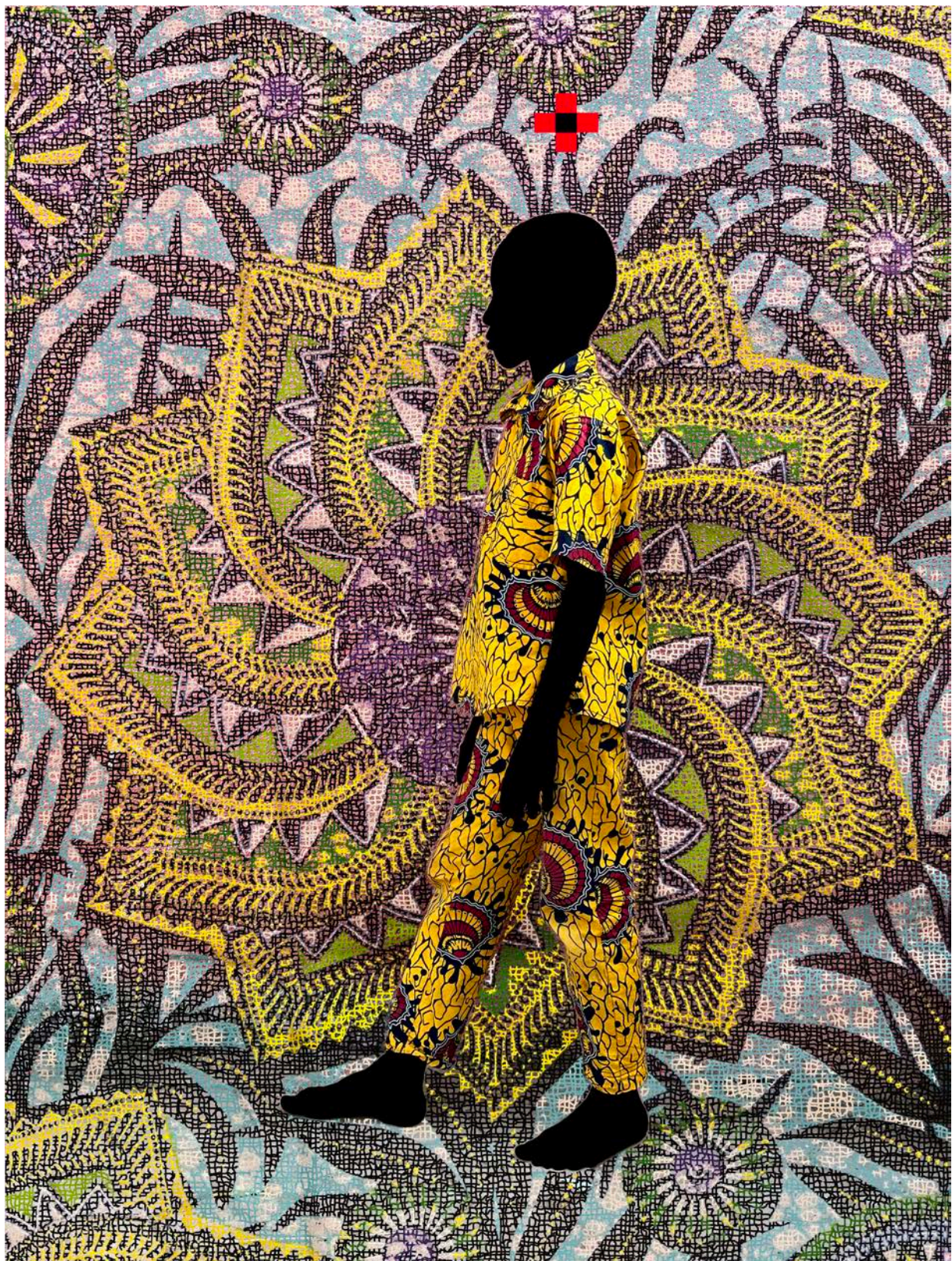
Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay



MOON PRINCESS TMS1, 2022

Painted photography

160x120 cm / 63x47 in



LOUDSPEAKER T BF LOTUS, 2022

Painted photography

120x90 cm / 47x35 in



RECYCLING PRINCESS DIOR BAG ACT1 T PARIS LOTUS, 2022

Painted photography

100x75 cm / 39x30 in



ICELAND IN MY YACHT ACT1 TMS VERT, 2022

Painted photography

75x100 cm / 30x39 in



EXHIBITION VIEW
artgenève, Geneva, Switzerland
January 2023

Photo Credit: Yosuke Kojima



BRAZIL, 2022

Watercolour on paper

30 x 40 cm / 12x16 in

In Saïdou Dicko's drawings, the characters in the centre of the blank page are left to their own devices. In a contemplative attitude, they talk about the world in which they have been left behind. It is 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. Plastic, the nerve of today's ecological war, feeds a reborn nature here and thus becomes a source of life.

It evokes renewal. How what belongs to the past can be reused in the present and participate in building the future.



LEFT
L'EMAIL, 2022
 Watercolour on paper
 40x30 cm / 16x12 in



RIGHT
L'ÉQUILIBRE, 2022
 Watercolour on paper
 40x30 cm / 16x12 in



SAME OBJECTIVE BUT NOT SAME DIRECTION, 2023

Watercolour on paper

30x40cm / 12x16 in

Dicko's 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 MY YACHT, 2023
Watercolour on paper
30x40 cm / 12x16 in



COMFORTABLE ON MY ISLAND, 2022

Watercolour on paper
103x152cm / 41x60 in



LA CHÈVRE, 2022
Watercolour on paper
135x151cm / 53x59 in



LE TAPIS PEUL, PRINCESSE BERGÈRE, 2022

Watercolour on paper
140x270cm / 55x107 in



EXHIBITION VIEW
The Prince of Shadows, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
May 2022

Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay



ENTA OMRI, 2021

Plastic on traditional organic cotton weaving, made in Burkina Faso

73x100cm / 29x39 in



EXHIBITION VIEW
The Prince of Shadows, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
May 2022

Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay



COMFORTABLE IN BUSINESS CLASS, 2021

Plastic on traditional organic cotton weaving, made in Burkina Faso
73x100cm / 29x39 in

Dicko's works on fabric put forward traditional handicrafts from Burkina Faso. They bear witness to ancestral craftsmanship. Dicko adorns with elements in plastic, these canvases handmade from organic cotton. Witnesses from the importance to reuse what already exists, the plastic refers to the cans they stage. If a long time ago, they used to contain gas, then water, they become turn by turn thrones or Business Class, reinvented by a vivid and unlimited imagination. The very notion of cycles is at the heart of Dicko's practice. The images he captures are given multiple lives and stories, from one medium to another - from photography to paper, from paper to fabric. The Peul cross always placed on top of the head of the characters becomes his signature. Alluding to the traditional decorative rugs from the Peul culture, the cross emphasises beauty and brings forward the human rather than the individual.