

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

né. 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.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2023

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

2018

Photo Folies, La Menuiserie, Rodez, France

The Shadowed People, Galerie ARTCO, Aachen, Germany

2016

Trans-Humance, Espace Usanii, Nevers, France

2014

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

2012

Der Schattendieb, ARTCO Gallery, Herzogenrath, Germany

2009

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

2008

Français Georges Méliès cultural center, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso OFF Dak'Art 08, French Institute, Dakar, Senegal

2007

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

2006

Galerie Chab, Bamako, Mali

Quinzaine africaine, La Vénérie Espace Delvaux Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

GROUP SHOWS (SELECTED)

2023

Ce que nous donne la terre, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
Art Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
Artgenève, Geneva, Switzerland

2022

Photo London, London, United Kingdom

2021

Paris Photo, Paris, France
La poésie du lien, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
Zone Franche, Institute des Cultures d'Islam, Paris, France
Art Paris, Paris, France
AKAA, 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
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, Guadeloupe, France
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, United States
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, Fondation Attijariwafa bank, Casablanca, Morocco
We, c'est moi, Goldenberg Gallery, Paris, France
Africa Développement Forum, Casablanca, Morocco

2014

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

Biennale de Marrakech, Marrakech, Morocco
Group Show, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
One Game – Everywhere, Galerie ARTCO, Aachen, Germany
Kölner Liste, Gallery ARTCO, 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, Fondation Calouste Gulbekian, Paris, France
Centre d'exposition Fernan Gomez, Madrid, Spain
Interpretations of Africa Football Art and Design, London Design Museum, London, United Kingdom
Regards sur cours, 8^{ème} édition, Gorée, Senegal

2010

Foto Museum, Anvers, Belgium
Cultural Center Cajastur Palacio Revillagigedo, Gijon, Spain
Galery Momo, Johannesburg, South Africa

2009

8^{èmes} Rencontres de la photographie de Bamako, Bamako, Mali

2008

Africa Now, World Bank, Washington, United States

2007

7^{èmes} Rencontres de la photographie de Bamako, Bamako, Mali

CURATING EXHIBITIONS AND RESIDENCIES

2017

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

2016

Curator and scenographer for Cop 22 with the Arkane association, Marrakech, Morocco
Curator and scenographer for Biennale de Casablanca, Casablanca, Morocco
Curator and scenographer with the Arkane Africa association for the 19th African Film festival of Khourigba, Khourigba, Morocco
Curator of 2nd edition of ART RIMAL, 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 Royale 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

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.

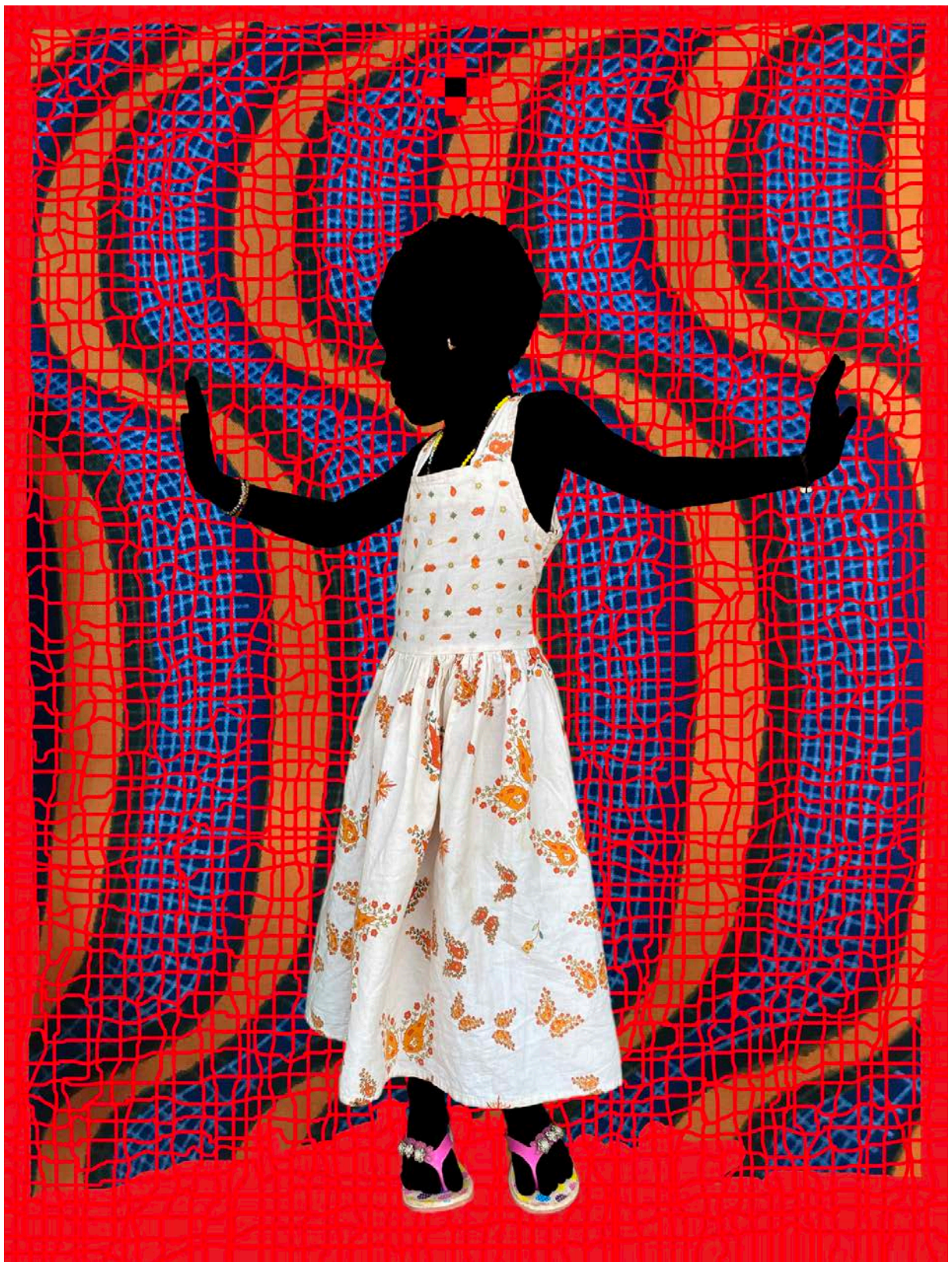
I am the shadow that navigates a virtual world that has become so real that my reality has become virtual.

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



THE BUTTERFLY, T VAGUES RED, 2020

Painted photography

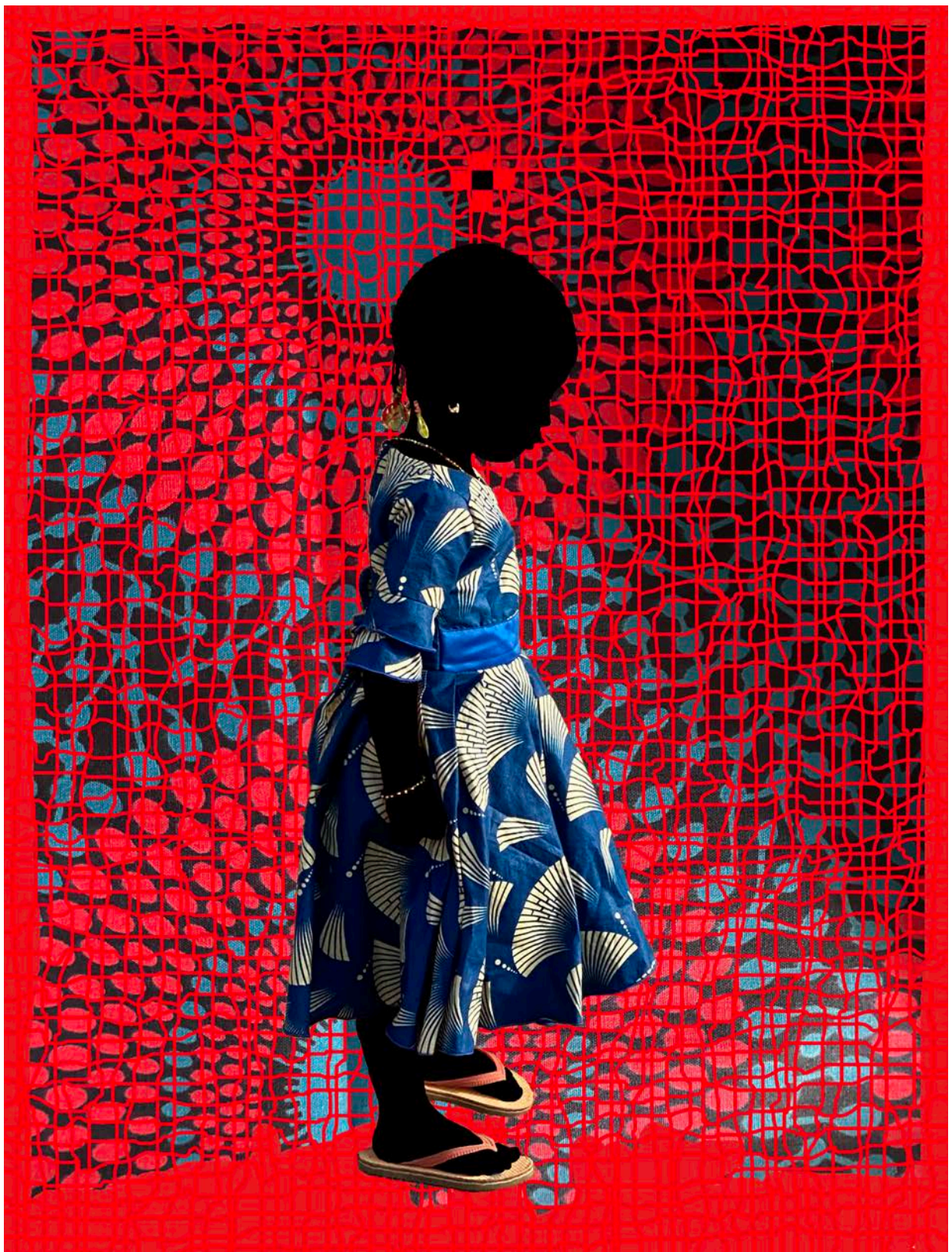
100x75 cm / 39x30 in



HERE IS THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS T DES FLEURS ROUGE GREEN, 2020
Painted photography
120x90 cm / 47x35 in



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



HARIGATO T2 DISKRED, 2020

Painted photography

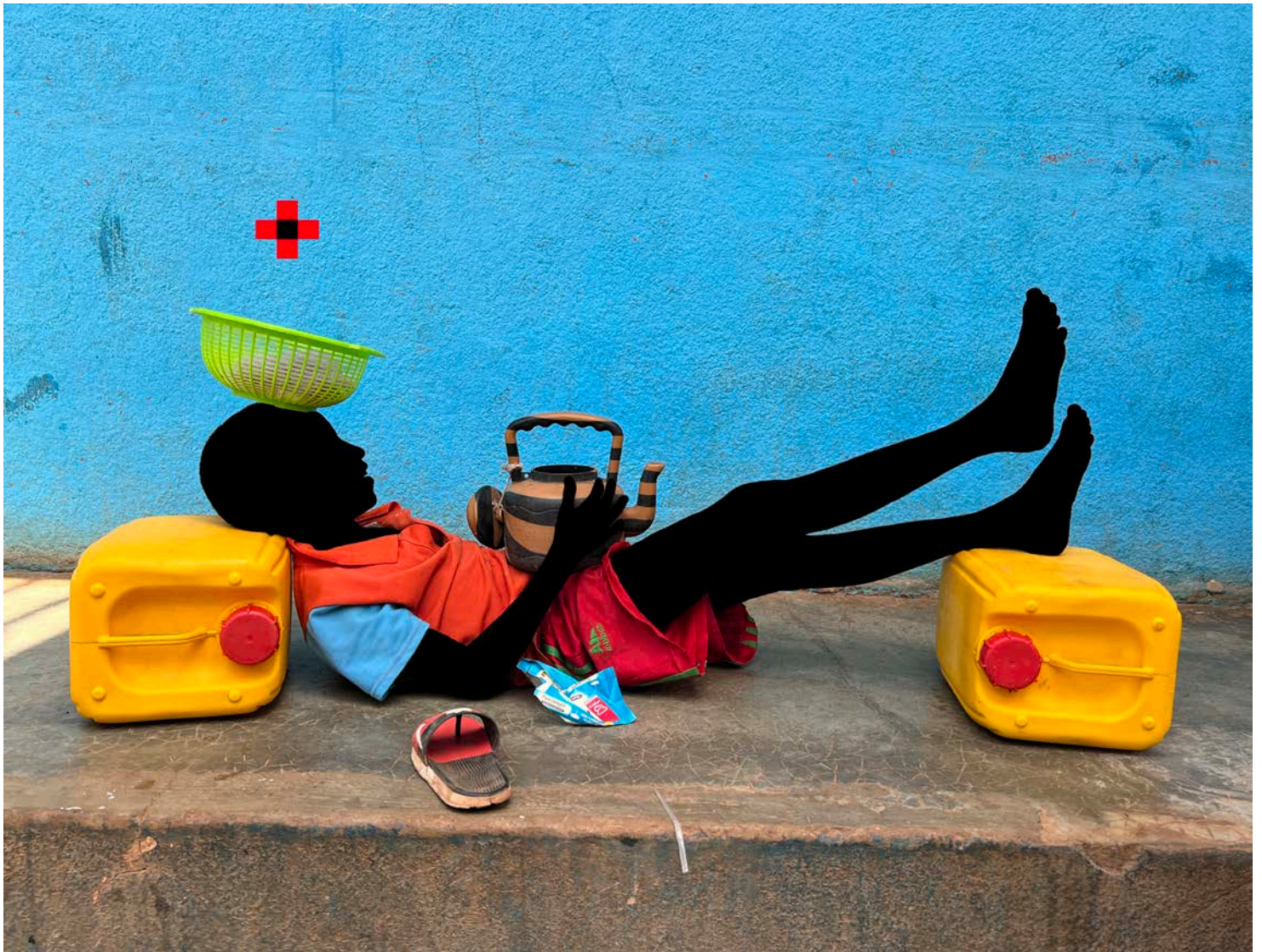
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WHAT COMFORT IN BUSINESS CLASS IN AIR FRANCE ACT1, 2021

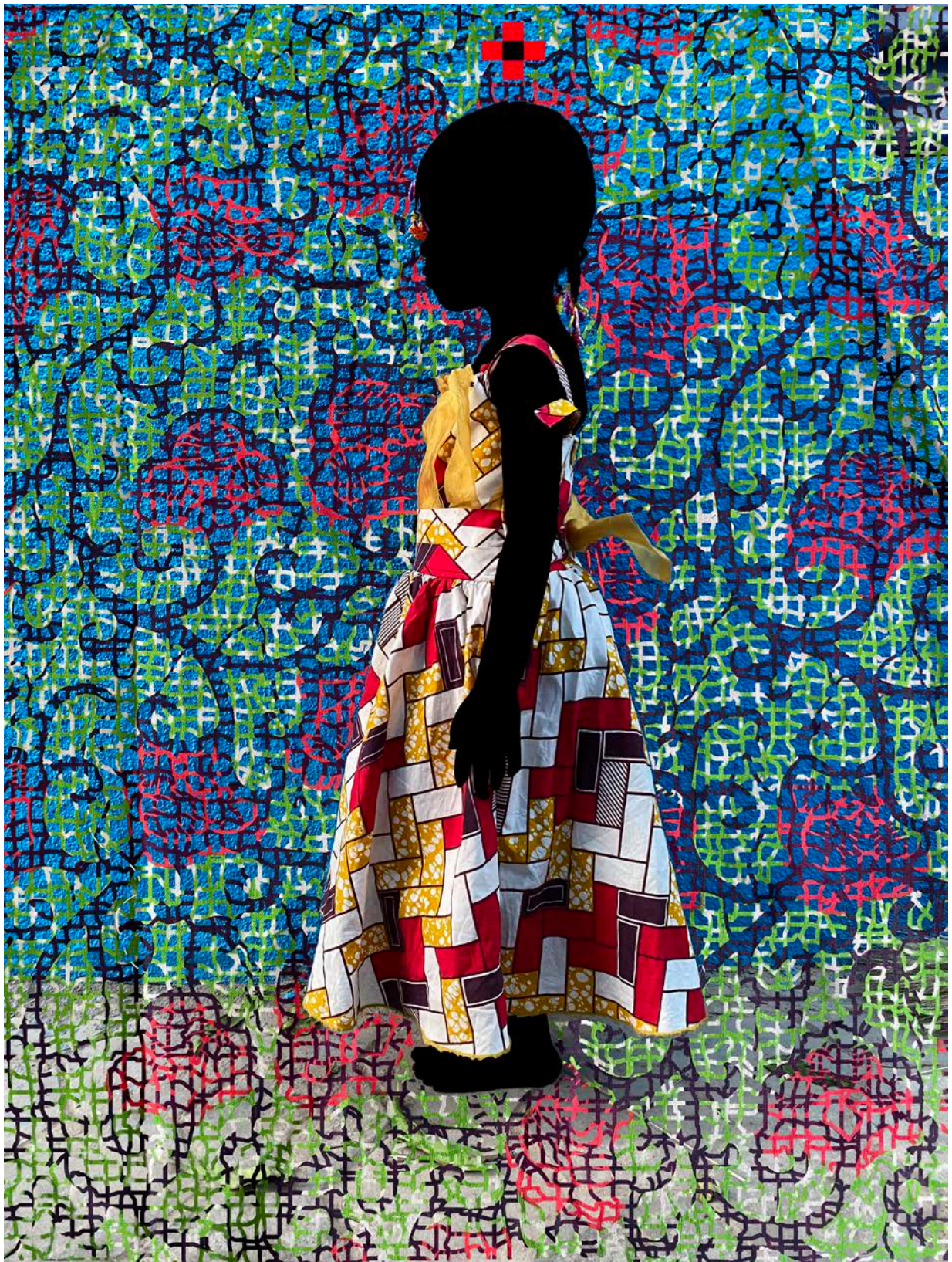
Painted photography
75x100 cm / 30x39 in

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.



COMFORTABLE IN BUSINESS CLASS IN QATAR AIRWAYS, 2021

Painted photography
90x120 cm / 35x47 in



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



ICELAND IN MY YACHT ACT1 TMS VERT, 2022

Painted photography
75x100 cm / 30x39 in



LA PLUME T PARIS LOTUS, 2023

Painted photography

90x120 cm / 35x47 in



RECYCLING PRINCESS DIOR BAG ACT1 T PARIS LOTUS, 2022

Painted photography

100x75 cm / 39x30 in



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

Painted photography

90x120 cm

35x47 in



THE BLUE PRINCE T BRODÉ (1), 2021

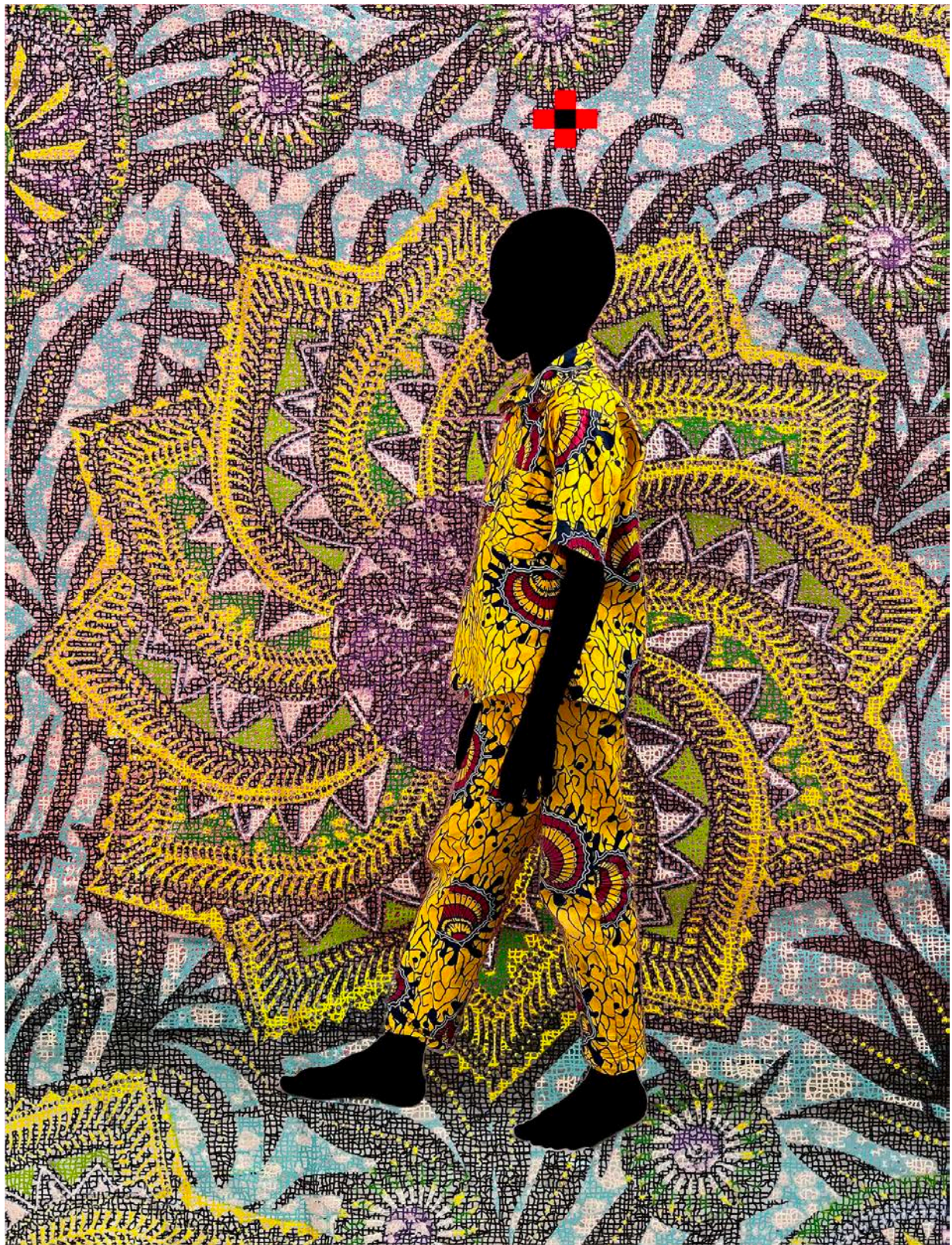
Painted photography

90x120 cm / 35x47 in



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

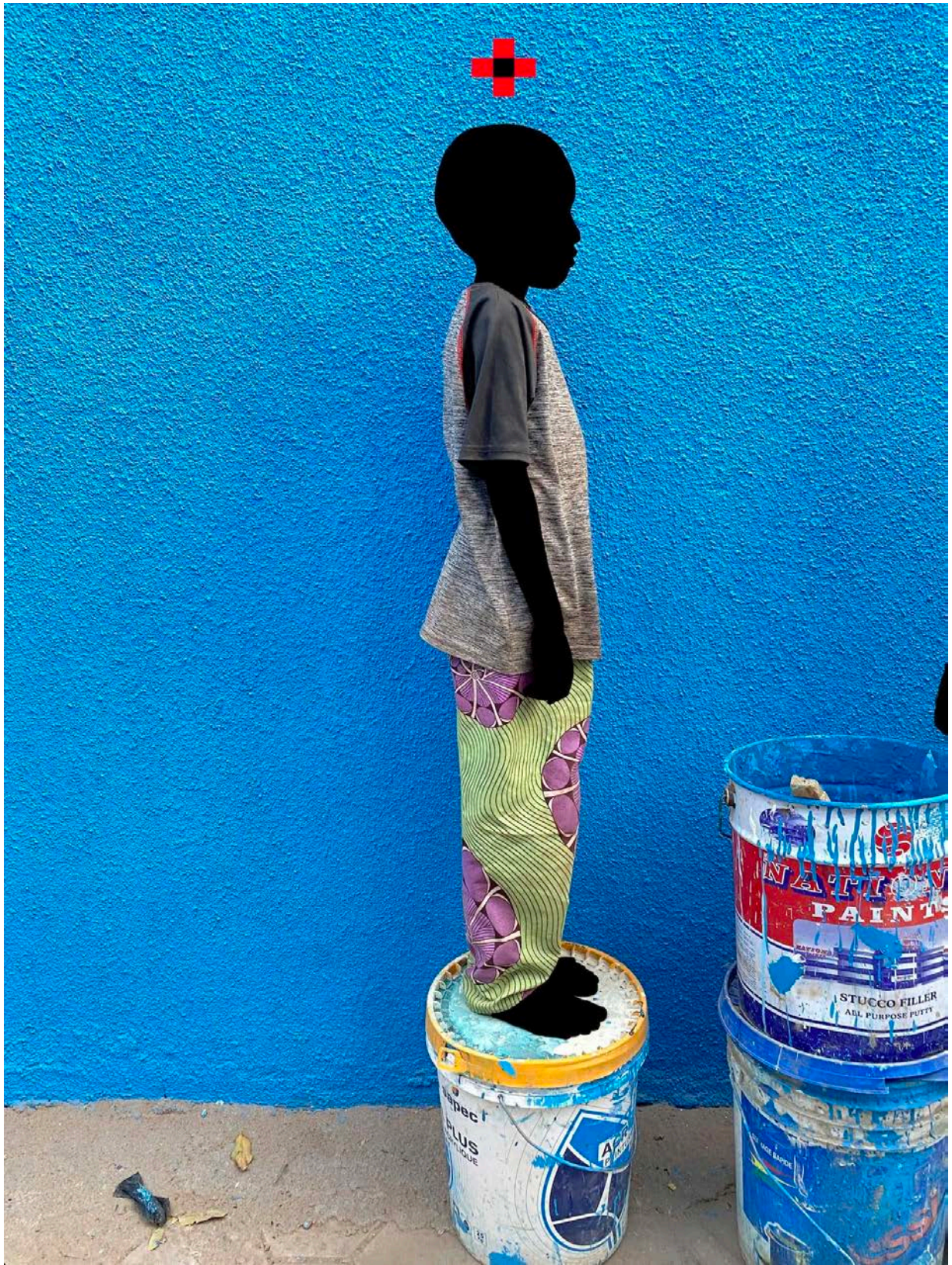
Painted photography
120x160 cm / 47x63 in



LOUDSPEAKER T BF LOTUS, 2022

Painted photography

120x90 cm / 47x35 in



LE PRINCE D'ARGENTINE ACT1, 2021

Painted photography

90x120 cm / 35x47 in



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



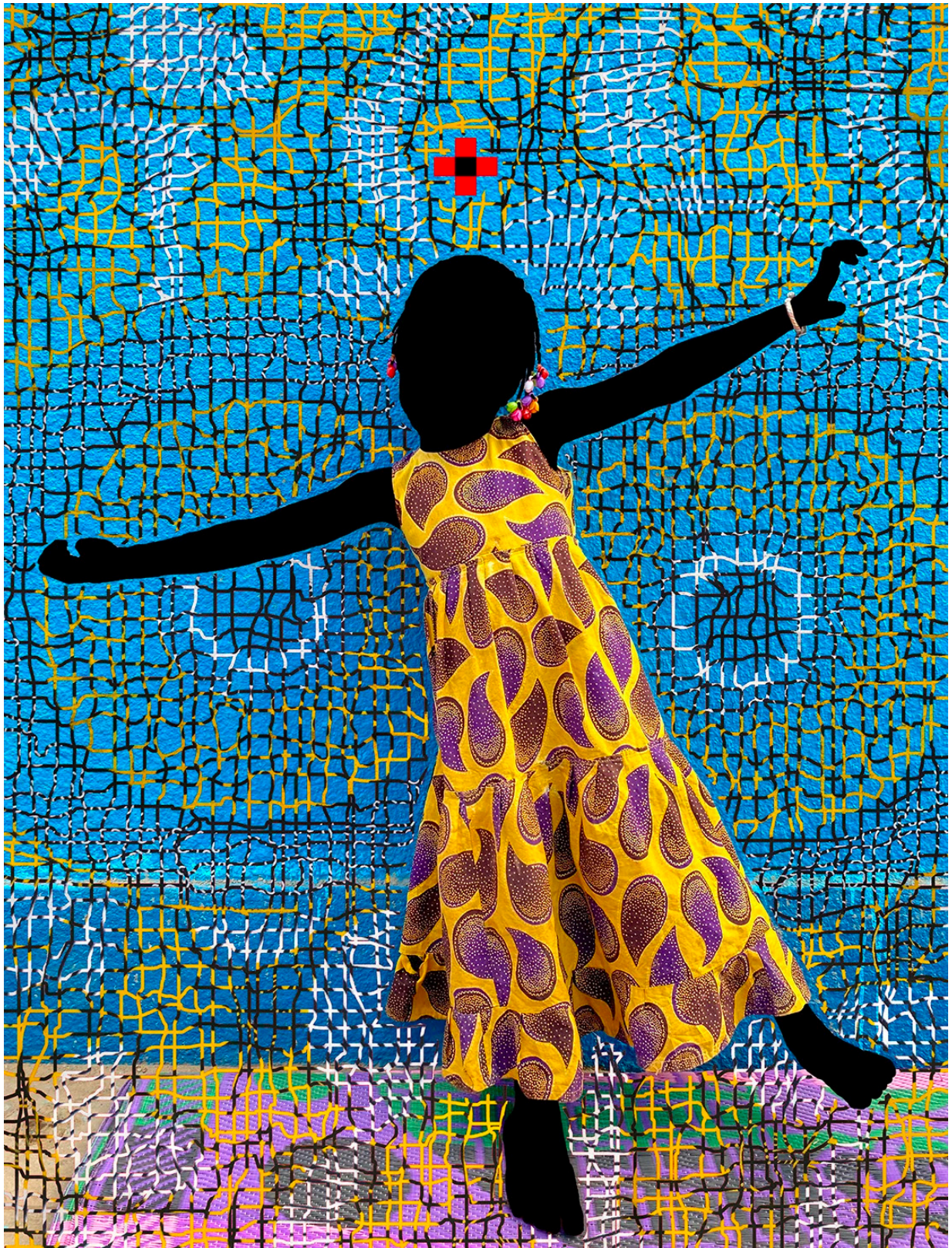
MOON PRINCESS TMS1, 2022

Painted photography

160x120 cm / 63x47 in



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



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.



I LOVE MY PINK SHOES TMS11, 2021

Painted photography

120x90 cm / 47x35 in



PINK WITCH CANS T BF BRODÉ, 2022

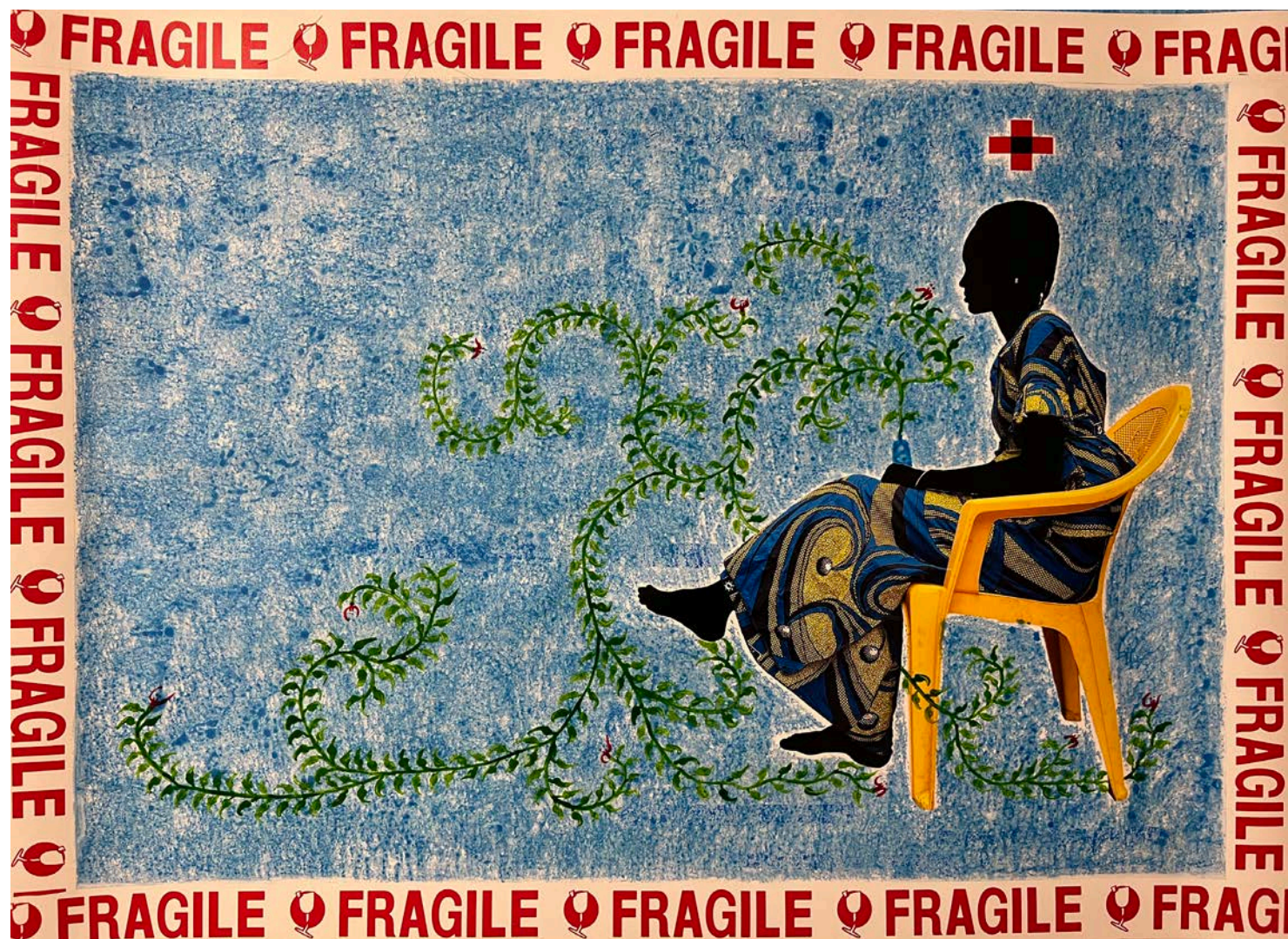
Painted photography

90x120cm / 35X47 in



LES BIDONS JAUNES T FEUILLES D'OR, 2019

Painted photography
75x100 cm / 30x39 in



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



MISS NATURE PEINTURE, 2022

Watercolour, ink and collage on photography

90x120 cm / 35x47 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



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



COMFORTABLE IN MY PRIVATE ISLAND, 2023

Watercolour on paper

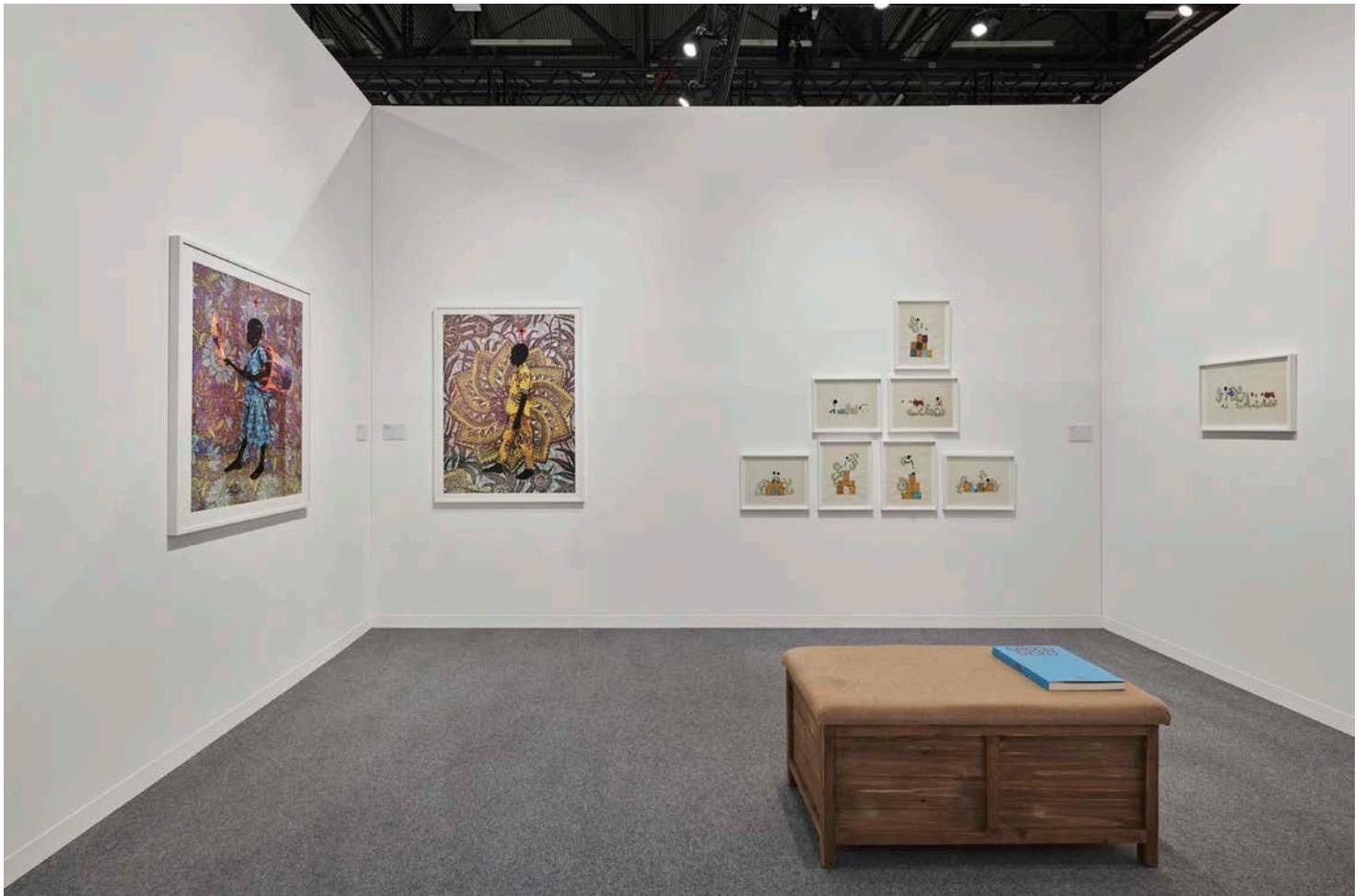
30x40cm / 12x16 in



LA PRINCESSE ET LA VACHE, 2023

Watercolour on paper

30x40cm / 12x16 in



EXHIBITION VIEW
artgenève, Geneva, Switzerland
January 2023

Photo credit: Yosuke Kojima

TEXTILES

Her 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.

«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 QUEEN OF WATER, 2023

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



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