

YÉANZI

Born 1988 in Katiola, Ivory Coast

Lives and works in Bingerville, Ivory Coast

Lanin Saint-Étienne Yéanzi, Ivorian artist, is a rising star on the African art scene. He graduated from ENBA (École Nationale des Beaux-Arts) in 2012 as best of the class and has won several art competitions (Nairay Grand Prize 2013 and Bene Hoane Prizes). His works are exhibited in Abidjan and internationally in galleries and at art fairs (London, New York, South Africa, Dubai, Dakar). Today, Yéanzi lives and works in Bingerville, a suburb of the economic capital Abidjan in the Ivory Coast.

The theme of identity is central to Yéanzi's work. Since 2013, the artist has been working with plastic, which he melts and lets drip onto the surface without using a brush in order to make faces and human forms appear. This choice of media limits the artist's control of the process, the dipping of the plastic highlights the tension between intention and chance, which is inherent to art and calls for reflection on this phenomena.

While creating his works, Yéanzi collects the stories of people who remain anonymous, thus challenging the established approach to the genre, the assumption that the person portrayed should be known. The discontinuity of his portraits, their subjective appearances are in harmony with his questions about identity, which is as unstable and as hard to capture as are faces and facial expressions of his models. Over time, Yéanzi's view widened and wandered from the individual to the group, which must be understood as a collective entity, an entity which also deserves to be portrayed. In his works, he also questions the concept of inheritance, and the form of amnesia associated with it, as well as its significance for identity formation.

AWARDS

2013

Nairay Grand Prix 2013

Bene Hoane Prix 2013

2012

Diploma of Honour of the National Order of Merit of Côte d'Ivoire

Major of the General Arts Diploma - Insaac

Official selection to represent Côte d'Ivoire at the 7th Jeux de la Francophonie in Nice, France

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017

projections, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

2015

persona, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020

Akwaba, Galerie Melbye-Konan, Hamburg, Germany

A Response in Uncertain Times, Lars Kristian Bode Galerie, Berlin, Germany

2019

In-discipline, Fondation Montresso, Jardin Rouge, Marrakech, Morocco

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, La Mamounia, Marrakech, Morocco

2018

Cape Town Art Fair, CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa

2017

Cape Town Art Fair, CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, United Kingdom

2016

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, United Kingdom

Une collection particulière, OFF Biennale de Dakar (12e édition), Dakar, Sénégal

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Pioneers works, New-York, USA

2015

Studio Lumière, Jack Bell Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Art Dubaï, Madinat Jumeirah, Dubaï, UAE

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, United Kingdom

Platform, Art Twenty One, Lagos, Nigeria

2014

AAA (Abidjan Arts Actuels), Fondation Donwahi, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, United Kingdom

2013

Jeux de la francophonie, Acropolis, Nice, France

2012

Abidjan on dit quoi ? Jeunes talents, Rotonde des arts contemporains, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

2011

La fête de la musique, Institut français, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Rentrée culturelle at Ministry of Culture and Francophonie, Palais de la culture, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Rentrée culturelle du Palais de la culture Bernard Dadié, Palais de la culture, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

La caravane des artistes, Palais de la culture, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

PUBLIC & PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

France

Collection Leridon, Paris

Morocco

Mohammed VI Museum, Rabat

Germany

Private Collection

Ivory Coast

Private Collection