

## La première civilisation, 2011

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### **Kura Shomali**

*La première civilisation*, 2011

Ink, pigment and pencil on paper

56,6 x 42,9 inches

Signé et daté

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Courtesy Galerie MAGNIN-A, Paris.

INV Nbr. KS1311010

#### Description:

Portrait after an original photograph by Carl Fischer "Muhammad Ali as San Sebastian" 1967. The photograph represents the boxer as Saint Sebastian to underline the status of martyr of this athlete that converted to Islam. He will refuse to go fight in Vietnam in the name of Islam, and will pay the severe consequences of this decision.

The work by Carl Fisher also inspired Samuel Fosso with his work "Self-Portrait (Muhammad Ali)", African Spirits series, 2008.

On October 30, 1974 "the greatest fight of english box in history" was held in Kinshasa: Goerge Foremann against Mohamed Ali. It durably marked the spirits.

Mobutu Sese Seka (President from 1965 to 1997) agrees to fully cover the expenses. He sees in this fight a way of promoting his country.

"A meeting between two black men in a black country organised by black people and followed in the whole world: that is a victory of Mobutu".