

Frédéric Bruly Bouabré

Born c. 1923, Zéprégüé, Ivory Coast

Died in 2014, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, where he worked and lived

The origin Frédéric Bruly Bouabré's work stems from a revelatory experience: on March 11, 1948, when "the heavens opened before my eyes and seven colorful suns described a circle of beauty around their Mother-Sun, I became Cheik Nadro: 'The one who does not forget.'"

The origin of all of Frédéric Bruly Bouabré's work stems from a revelatory experience: on March 11, 1948, "the heavens opened up before my eyes and seven colorful suns described a circle of beauty around their Mother-Sun, I became Cheik Nadro: 'The one who does not forget.'"

Since then, Bouabré compiled his research in manuscripts that deals with art, traditions, poetry, tales, religion, esthetics, and philosophy - revealing himself to be an astonishing thinker, poet, encyclopedist, creator. Searching for a way to preserve and transmit the knowledge of the Bété people and of the world, he invented a unique alphabet of 448 monosyllabic pictograms, an inventory of sounds that would allow to transcript all the languages in the world.

This endeavor earned Bouabré the legendary reputation of being another Champollion and translates the universal thought of Frederic Bruly Bouabré who since his vision, seeks to unite and pacify mankind. In the 1970s, he started to transfer his thoughts to hundreds of small drawings in postcard format, using a ballpoint pen and colour pencils. These drawings, gathered under the title of *Connaissance du Monde* (World Knowledge), form an encyclopedia of universal knowledge and experience. For Bouabré, his drawings are a representation of everything that is revealed or concealed — signs, divine thoughts, dreams, myths, the sciences, traditions — and he views his role as an artist as a redemptive calling.

EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2020

Scrivere disegnando, quand la langue cherche son autre, Centre d'art contemporain Genève, in collaboration with the Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland (curators: Andrea Bellini et Sarah Lombardi)

2018

CO-NAISSANCES, MAGNIN-A gallery, Paris, France

2018-2019

Cahiers écrits, dessinés, imprimés, Bodmer Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland (curators: Thierry Davila, Jacques Berchtold)

Talisman in the age of difference, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England (curator: Yinka Shonibare)

2018

The Quarries of Imagination, Stones between Art and Artifact, Grey Cube, Intermediatèque, Tokyo University, Japan

La Tempête, Centre régional d'art contemporain de Sète, France (curator: Hugues Reip)

African Passions, Palais Cadaval, Evora, Portugal (curators: André Magnin, Philippe Boutté)

Ivory Coast: identity and vitality of Contemporary Art, Mattatoio, Roma, Italy (curator: Massimo Scaringella)

2017

Art/Afrique : le nouvel atelier _ The Insiders : a selection of works (1989 to 2009) from the Jean Pigozzi collection of contemporary African Art, Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France (curators: Suzanne Pagé, Angéline Scherf, Ludovic Delalande & scientific exhibition council: André Magnin)

On aime l'art...!! Un choix d'Éric Mézil parmi les oeuvres de la Collection agnès b., Collection Lambert en Avignon, France

E-Mois, MACAAL, Marrakech, Morocco (curators: Othman Lazraq, Meriem Berrada)

Frédéric Bruly Bouabré & Serge Attukwei Clottey, Burning in Water, New York, USA

AFRICA. Raccontare un mondo, PAC Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milano, Italy (curator: Adelina von Fürstenberg)

2016

Vivre !! La collection agnès b. au musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, National Museum of the History of Immigration, Paris, France (curator: Sam Stourdzé)

Regarding Africa: Contemporary Art and Afro-Futurism, Art Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel (curator: Ruth Direktor)

Xu Bing Worlds of Words / Goods of Gods, Triennale of Milan, Italy (curator: Hans de Wolf)

2015

The Fantasy Factory, A perspective on the Ouidah Museum Collection, Fondation Zinsou, Bénin

Rituels, répétitions, contraintes, tentations - Plateforme Roven, Musée régional d'art contemporain du Languedoc-Roussillon, Sérignan, France (curators: Johana Carrier, Joana Neves, Marine Pagès et Diogo Pimentão)

Un regard sur la collection Agnès B., le LaM de Villeneuve d'Ascq, France (curator: Marc Donnadiou)

Chinese Utopias Revisited: The Elephants, Bozar, Brussels, Belgium

1:54, Contemporary African Art fair, New-York, USA

The Untold Want, Royal Hibernian Academy Gallery, Dublin, Irlande (curators: Patrick T. Murphy, Caroline Hancock)

The whole world, up today, Villa du parc, Contemporary Art Center, Annemasse, Switzerland

Pino Pascali, l'africano. Sirens Virginia Ryan e Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Museo Civico di Castelbuono

Drawing Now, Paris, France

ROC, Galerie du jour agnès b., Paris, France

Art Genève, Geneva, Switzerland

2014

Tribute to Frédéric Bruly Bouabré and Okhai Ojeikere, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

Une histoire, Art, Architecture et design des années 1980 à nos jours, nouvel accrochage, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

African Way, Chapelle de la Visitation, Thonon-les-Bains, France

Ici l'Afrique / Here Africa, Château de Penthes, Geneva, Suisse (curator: Adelina von Fürstenberg)

2013
The Solo Project Art Fair – Basel, galerie Magnin-A, St Jakobshalle, Basel, Suisse
Il Palazzo Enciclopedico, Biennale de Venise, 55ème édition, Pavillon Ivoirien, Venise, Italie
Art Paris Art Fair 2013, galerie Magnin-A, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Four Corners of the World, Hite Foundation, Séoul, Corée du sud (curator:Jonathan Watkins)
Focus sur la collection, Fondation Zinsou, Ouidah, Bénin

2012
The Imminence of Poetics, Biennale de Sao Paulo Bienal, 30ème édition, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Aujourd'hui je travaille avec mon petit fils Aboudia, Cécile Fakhoury Gallery, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
Art Brussels, 31th Contemporary Art Fair, Bruxelles, Belgium
Drawing Now, Salon du dessin contemporain 7ème édition, Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, France

2011
Le monde vous appartient, Palazzo Grassi, François Pinault Fondation, Venice, Italy (curator: Caroline Bourgeois)
Riad al Maaden, Marrakech, Morocco

2010
Frédéric Bruly Bouabre at Tate Modern, Tate Modern, Londres, UK
African Stories, Ancienne Banque du Maroc, Marrakech, Maroc
Bon Séjour, Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Galerie du jour agnès b, Paris, France
ARTPARIS+GUESTS ; André Magnin & Leridon Collection, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Frédéric Bruly Bouabre, Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland

2009
Una nuova storia, Complesso del Vittoriano, Rome, Italy
Against Exclusion, 3ème Biennale d'Art Contemporain, The Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscou, Russia

2007
Why Africa ?, La collezione Pigozzi, Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Turin, Italy (curator: André Magnin)
Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK
Musée d'art contemporain de Cocody, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

2006
100% Africa, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain
De ida y vuelta.África, La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain
Dak'art 2006, Biennale de l'art Africain contemporain, Dakar, Senegal
Musée des Civilisations de Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

2005
African Art Now: Masterpieces from the Jean Pigozzi Collection
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA (curators: Alison de Lima Greene; Alvia J. Wardlaw)
National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. USA
Arts of Africa, The Contemporary collection of Jean Pigozzi, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco (curator: André Magnin)

2004
Africa Remix (curators: Simon Njami, Jean-Hubert Martin, David Elliott, Marie-Laure Bernadac)
Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf, Germany
Hayward Gallery, London, Great Britain
Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2003
Transferts, Palais des Beaux-arts, Bruxelles, Belgium
Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Musée Champollion, Figeac, France

2002
Documenta 11: Platform 5 Exhibition, Kassel, Germany
Exposition inaugurale, Le Plateau, Paris, France

2001
Frédéric Bruly Bouabré & Acharya Vyakul, Galerie du jour agnès b. Paris, France
Istanbul Biennial (7): egofugal: Fugue from Ego for the Next Emergence, Istanbul, Turkey

2000
Voici, 100 ans d'art contemporain, Palais des Beaux-arts, Bruxelles, Belgium

1999/2000
Global Conceptualism: Points of Origin, 1950s-1980, Queens Museum of Art, New York, USA
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA
Miami Art Museum, Miami, USA

1998
Sydney Biennial (11): Everyday, Sydney, Australia
Dak'art 1998, Biennale de l'Art Africain Contemporain, Dakar, Senegal

1997
Johannesburg Biennale (2), Trade Routes: History and Geography, Johannesburg, South Africa
Gwangju [Kwangju] Biennial (2) Unmapping the Earth, Kwangju, South Korea

1996
Neue Kunst aus Afrika., Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
Sydney Biennial (10): Jurassic Technologies Revenant., Sydney, Australia
São Paulo Biennial (23): Universalis, São Paulo, Brazil
By Night, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France

1995

Galerie des 5 continents: Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Musée national des arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris, France
Big City: Artists from Africa, Serpentine Gallery, Londres, England
Baz'art du jour, Galerie du jour agnès b., Paris, France

1994

Worlds Envisioned: Alighiero e Boetti and Frédéric Bruly Bouabré. Dia Center for the Arts, New York, USA
American Center, Paris, France
Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Ginza Art Space, Tokyo, Japan

1993

Azur, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Jouy en Josas, France
Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Portikus, Frankfurt, Germany
Kunsthalle, Bern, Switzerland
Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany
Grapholie, Biennale des arts plastiques d'Abidjan, Ivory Coast

1992

Out of Africa: The Jean Pigozzi Contemporary African Art Collection, Saatchi Collection, Londres, England (curator André Magnin)
Resistances, The Watari-Um Museum for Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
A visage découvert, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Jouy en Josas, France
Oh! Cet écho !, Centre culturel Suisse, Paris, France

1991

Africa Hoy, Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas, Spain (curator: André Magnin)
Groninger Museum, Groningen, The Netherlands
Centro Cultural de Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City, Mexico

1989

Magiciens de la terre. Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou et Grande Halle de la Villette, Paris, France (curators: Jean-Hubert Martin, André Magnin)
WAAA, A fAr African Art, Courtrai, Belgium

ART FAIRS

2017

Art Paris Art Fair, Grand Palais, Paris, France

2016

Galeristes, Carreau du temple, Paris, France

2015

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, New York, USA
Drawing Now, Paris, France
Art Genève, Geneva, Switzerland

2014

Fiac Officielle, Paris, France
1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, England
Art Genève, Geneva, Switzerland
Drawing Now, Carreau du Temple, Paris

2013

Art Paris Art Fair 2013, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Yia Art Fair, Paris, France
1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, England

2012

Art Brussels, 31th Contemporary Art Fair, Brussels, Belgium
Drawing Now, Salon du dessin contemporain 7ème édition, Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, France

2011

Art Paris Art Fair, Grand Palais, Paris, France

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ecrire dessinant, quand la langue cherche son autre, under the direction of Andrea Bellini and Sarah Lombardi, Skira, Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, pages 112-113

2017

Les initiés, Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, Dilecta, pages 44 à 59

2014

African stories (catalogue), pages 10 à 13
Magiciens de la terre, retour sur une exposition légendaire, Centre Pompidou, éditions Xavier Barral, Paris, pages 72 à 78

2013

Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, édition établie par André Magnin et Yaya Savané, éditions Xavier Barral, galerie du jour Agnès B., Paris, coffret de 4 tomes regroupant les ouvrages suivants : Alphabet ouest africain (Le Bété) ; Le livre des lois divines révélées dans l'ordre des persécutés ; Bogoulago Barbu ; L'homme dans le monde, un géant touche le soleil

2009

Africa? Une nuova storia (catalogue), éditions Gangemi, Italie, p.30

2007

100% Africa (catalogue), Guggenheim, Bilbao, pages 72 à 77
Why Africa? , la Collezione Pigozzi (catalogue), Eclecta, pages 18 à 25

2005

Arts of Africa, the contemporary collection of Jean Pigozzi (catalogue), edition skira

Africa Remix (catalogue), Centre Pompidou, Paris, pages 164-165
2003
Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, une méthodologie de la nouvelle écriture africaine « bété », Ornestapress
1998
Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Knowledge of the world, Nexus press
1997
L'art africain contemporain, Christophe Domino & André Magnin, éditions Scala, p. 48
1996
Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Galeria DV, Espagne
1995
World's envisioned, DIA Art Foundation
1993
La grande vérité, les astres africains, André Magnin, Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Gunter Metken, édition Braus
1991
Africa Hoy, Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, pages 180 à 183

Collections

(SELECTION)

Contemporary African Art Collection - Jean PIGOZZI Collection, Genève, Suisse
Musée National d'Abidjan, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Fond de dotation, Collection Agnès b, Paris, France
Fondation François Pinault, Palazzo Grassi, Venise, Italie
MNAM, Centre Georges Pompidou en dépôt au Musée des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris, France
Groninger Museum, Groningen, Pays-Bas
Centro de Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico, Mexique
Galerie Tanya RUMPF, Haarlem, Pays-Bas
Tate Modern, Londres, Grande-Bretagne
Musée d'Art Brut, Lausanne, Suisse
Collection Lambert (LAC), Genève, Suisse
Collection Madame et Monsieur David-Weill, Paris, France
Collection Gervane et Matthias Leridon, Paris, France