

## Frédéric Bruly Bouabré

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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 transcribe 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)

2018-2019

Cahiers écrits, dessinés, imprimés, Bodmer Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland

Talisman in the age of difference, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England

2018

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

La Tempête, Centre régional d'art contemporain de Sète, France

African Passions, Palais Cadaval, Evora, Portugal

Ivory Coast: identity and vitality of Contemporary Art, Mattatoio, Roma, Italy

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

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

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

AFRICA. Raccontare un mondo, PAC Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milano, Italy

2016

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

Regarding Africa: Contemporary Art and Afro-Futurism, Art Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel

Xu Bing *Worlds of Words / Goods of Gods*, Triennale of Milan, Italy

2015

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

Un regard sur la collection Agnès B., le LaM de Villeneuve d'Ascq, France

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

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

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

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  
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  
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  
National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. USA  
Arts of Africa, The Contemporary collection of Jean Pigozzi, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco

2004

Africa Remix.  
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  
Guangju [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  
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  
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  
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

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Drawing Now, Salon du dessin contemporain 7ème édition, Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, France

2011  
Art Paris Art Fair, Grand Palais, Paris, France

## 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