

MAGNIN-A

Kura Shomali

Born in 1979, Kananga, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Lives and works in Kinsahasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

In 2001, Kura Shomali interrupted his medical studies, and integrated the Academy of Fine Arts of Kinshasa where he took part to the creation of the group EZA possible.

He creates works on paper in which he boldly mixes charcoal, ball pen, gouache, ink, marker and collage, which gives a unique aspect and texture to his work.

His first drawings, made in a hurry, are inspired by the bubbling city of Kinshasa and by the magazines that pass from hand to hand. His work is a reflection of the chaotic megalopolis where he lives and that he "digests" as he explains himself. In his most recent works, Kura Shomali appropriates images of well known African photographers and artists that he interprets with humor (Samuel Fosso, Sammy Balogi, Malick Sidibé, Jean Depara, ...)

He also creates puppets from recycled materials, that he stages in videos in which the puppets talk to expose corruption and conflicts that gangrene his country.

The group Eza Possible was created in 2003 at the Academy of Fine Arts of Kinshasa amongst a group of students. They come up with the idea of using what is roaming in the streets, what people don't want anymore, "stories", carcasses, scrap metal, leftovers from everyday life to transform them into installations and put them in the middle of the Academy. The exhibition "Kinshasa WENZE WENZE" is organized. WENZA means "small market" in Lingala, Kinshasa bric-à-brac.

"The team spirit is like scrap metal. As long as it's separated, it doesn't do anything. But when we assemble, when we weld together, it does something". After the exhibition, the collective establishes itself around 6 artists: Pathy Tshindele, Méga Mingiedi, Eddy Ekete, Kura Shomali, Kennedy Dinanga and Freddy Mutombo.

Eza Possible...

Trying to find a meaning where it seems to have disappeared, desire a free art, contemporary, far from the current norms and canons, enable artistic exchanges, the creation of pluridisciplinary artworks. Workshops and artist residencies mixing artists from different horizons, in connection with other forms of artistic expression: theatre, video, music, architecture, dissemination and sharing policy through exhibitions, performances, demonstrations in every shape, the organisation of courses for students, but also amateurs, young publics..

SOLO SHOW

2012
Kura Shomali: Cassius Clay Ali Boom Boom Ye, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK

GROUP EXHIBITION

2020
Power figures, MAGNIN-A gallery, Paris, France

2019
Na Kinshasa Eza Possible, Galerie MAGNIN-A, Paris

2017
Histoires congolaises, Robert-Desnos Library, Montreuil, France

2016
What about Africa ?, Witteveen Visual Art Centre, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2015
Congo Kitoko ? Beauté Congo, Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France
(curator: André Magnin)

2013
The power of paper, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
Kin-Babi, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

2011
Riad Al Maaden, Magnin-A, Marrakech, Morocco
African Stories, Magnin-A, Ancienne Banque du Maroc, Marrakech, Morocco (curator: André Magnin)
JapanCongo, Double regard de Carsten Höller sur la collection de Jean Pigozzi
Le Magasin, Grenoble, France (curator: Yves Aupetitallot)
Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, Russia
Group Show with Chéri Samba, Billie Zangewa?, Galerie Hussenot & Magnin-A, Paris, France

2010
African Stories, Magnin-A, Ancienne Banque du Maroc, Marrakech, Morocco
Emerging Art from Kinshasa, with Pierre Bodo, Amani Bodo?, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
Congo, Paysages Urbains Regards Croisés, La Halle de la Gombe, Centre culturel français, Kinshasa, RDC

2009

1, 2,3 BAMAKO, Centre culturel français, Kinshasa, RDC

2008

Biso Nyoso, avec le collectif Eza Possibles, organisée dans le cadre du 25e anniversaire du Festival de francophonies, Limousin, France

2007

Congo contemporain, Monos Art Gallery, Festival Yambi, Brussels, Belgium
Freddy Tsimba et Kura Shomali, Château Malou, Festival Yambi Brussels, Belgium
Congo en marche, Le Botanique, Festival Yambi, Brussels, Belgium

2006/2007

Artiste et organisateur de la troisième édition du Festival de scénographies urbaines, partenariat avec le collectifs Eza possibles et Sc'urk, Kinshasa, RDC

2006

Drawings Exhibition, Théâtre royal flamand (KVS), Brussels, Belgium
Performance, Fine Arts Academy, Kinshasa, RDC

2005

Fresco, with Vitshois Mwilambwe Bondo, Atelier du Plateau, Paris, France
Africa in part, with Fabien Verschaere, Musée de l'objet, Blois, Tours, France

2004

Exposition de la jeune création, Centre culturel français de Kinshasa, RDC

2003

Bong di ball Kinshasa Wenze Wenze, Fine Arts Academy, Kinshasa, RDC

FAIRS

2017

Art Paris Art Fair, Grand Palais, Paris, France
1:54, Foire d'art contemporain africain, London, UK

2016

1:54, Foire d'art contemporain africain, London, UK
1:54, Foire d'art contemporain africain, New York, USA
Art Paris Art Fair, Grand Palais, Paris, France

2015

1:54, Foire d'art contemporain africain, London, UK
1:54, Foire d'art contemporain africain, New-York, USA
Drawing Now, Salon du dessin, Paris, France

2014

1:54, Foire d'art contemporain africain, London, UK
FIAC OFFICIELLE, Les Docks, Cité de la mode et du Design, Paris, France
Drawing Now, Salon du dessin, Paris, France
Art Genève, Switzerland

2013

1:54, Foire d'art contemporain africain, London, UK
Art Paris Art Fair, Grand Palais, Paris, France

Collections

CAAC, the Pigozzi Collection
Collection Farida et Henri Seydoux
Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain
MACMA (Musée d'Art et de Culture de Marrakech)
Pizzuti Collection
Saatchi Gallery