

MAGNIN-A

Hilary Balu

Born in 1992 in Kinshasa, DRC.
Lives and works in Kinshasa, DRC.
Hilary Balu is exclusively represented by the gallery MAGNIN-A, Paris.

Born in 1992 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Hilary Balu lives and works in Kinshasa. Graduated from the Académie des Beaux-Arts de Kinshasa, Hilary Balu turned his research towards his culture, his country, and largely the History of the African continent to distance himself from an academic education that he considers too formatted by the aesthetic codes of Western art. His paintings show the transformation of the African society, subject to the consequences of globalisation and consumer society. Present in most of his works, the figure of Nkisi Mangaaka, ancestral divinatory sculpture, is the symbol of a collective memory neglected in favor of the new symbols of capitalism. In his latest series, Voyage vers Mars, Hilary Balu stages in a metaphoric way the tragedy of the contemporary migration, the escape of a population towards another continent, as cosmonauts leaving the Earth that has become unlivable to go to another planet, Mars.

His work was part of numerous international exhibitions such as « Fiction Congo » in 2019 at the Museum Rietberg, « Congo Stars » in 2018 at the Kunsthaus Graz, or « Kinshasa Chroniques » presented in 2018 at the Musée International des Arts Modestes in Sète, that will be shown at the Cité de l'Architecture & du Patrimoine in Paris from October 14, 2020. He took part to several artist residencies : at the Fondation Montresso in Marrakech, the Atelier Solar in Madrid, Pro Helvetia in Geneva and the University of Johannesburg.

EDUCATION

2014
Fine art degree, Académie des Beaux-Arts de Kinshasa, DRC

GROUP SHOWS

2020
AKAA, Paris
Galerie MAGNIN-A, Paris
Kinshasa Chroniques, Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, Paris (curators: Dominique Malaquais, Claude Allemand, Sébastien Godret, Eric Androa Minde Kolo, Fiona Meadows)
In-discipline, presented by the Fondation Montresso at 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Marrakech, Maroc

2019
Fiction Congo, Museum Rietberg, Switzerland (curators: Michaela Oberhofer, Nanina Guyer)

2018
Megalopolis, les voix de Kinshasa, Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig, Germany (curators: Freddy Tsimba, Eddy Ekete)
Congo Stars, Kunsthaus Graz, Austria (curators: Sammy Baloji, Bambi Ceuppens, Fiston Mwanza Mujila, Günther Holler-Schuster and Barbara Steiner)
Kinshasa Chroniques, Musée International des Arts Modestes, Sète, France (curators: Dominique Malaquais, Claude Allemand, Sébastien Godret, Eric Androa Minde Kolo, Fiona Meadows)

2017
Exposition et résidence Young Congo, Kin ArtStudio Kinshasa, RDC
Kinshasa 2050, Institut Français de Kinshasa, halle de la Gombe

2014 - 2015
Exhibition arts? pro Congo, Place des évolués, Kinshasa, RDC

2014
« Détermina-tion qui crée la liberté », exposition du groupe vision totale « vi.to », restaurant the Rives, Kinshasa / Gombe, RDC.

2013
« Les vécues », exhibition of the groupe vision totale « vi.to », private residency, Kinshasa / pigeon.

2012
Contest and exhibition Gouvern'art organised by the European Union. 2012
Art Pro Congo (2nd edition), UK Embassy, Kinshasa, RDC

RESIDENCIES

2019 - 2020
Fondation Montresso, Marrakech, Morocco

2019
Atelier Solar, Madrid, Spain
Pro Helvetia, Embassy of Foreign Artist, Geneva, Switzerland

2018
Faculté des arts de Wits, département d'histoire de l'art, Johannesburg, South Africa
Festival KLA ART, Ouganda
Vivre sur le seuil. Rencontre Congolaise, Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici Università della Calabria, Italy, en collaboration avec la mairie de Cosenza, Italy.

2017
Young Congo, Kin ArtStudio(KAS), Kinshasa, animated by the artist vitshois Mwilambwe Bondo

2013 - 2014
MASTER ART de Kin Art Studio (KAS), animated by the artist Mwilambwe Bondo Vitshois

COLLABORATION

Kin art studio (kas projet) Kinshasa, RDC