

FINANCIAL TIMES August 7, 2015 4:41 pm

Fondation Cartier's showcase of Congolese art

This exhibition reflects the francophone world's complex relationship with its former colonies. The Fondation Cartier's exhibition *Beauté Congo-1926-2015-Congo Kitoko* offers an alternative picture of the war-torn former Belgian colony. André Magnin, its curator, discovered in Kinshasa in 1987 a thriving community of artists whose work defied perpetual crisis with wit, sensuality and creative freedom. They had started out as billboard painters, decorators and illustrators but turned to oil and acrylic on canvas to capture their city — its night bars, its rich musical tradition and its delight in colour and fashion



'La vraie carte du monde' by Chéri Samba (2011). Acrylic and glitter on canvas. Collection of the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris

©Florian Kleinfenn



Untitled work by Jean Depara (c1955-65). Gelatin silver print. Collection Revue Noire, Paris

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/40e71c6c-3ca4-11e5-8613-07d16aad2152.html#slide0>