

# MAGNIN-A

## G rard Quenum

---

Born in 1971, Porto-Novo, Republic of Benin  
Lives and works in Porto-Novo

He left school early and worked, and then he began to initiate himself to the drawing in contact with other young artists in his hometown.

 « At the beginning, Gerard Quenum works with dark colors which he covers the canvas. His human figures are very expressive, flirting with a childlike style, claimed, with curved lines. Over time, especially since his encounter with the work of Jean -Michel Basquiat in 2007, his color palette is reduced, and we can see the use of black and primary colors. Human figures kept their curves but are deployed differently on canvas. For the most current works, G rard Quenum continues to explore this style while always evolving again and again. Colors disappear to give way to black. The figures shown are black silhouettes, occupying a little part of the canvas, which decompose and become like shadows. G rard Quenum described his painting as ghosting and shadows images that pass by their shapes, the emotions he feels when he paints: "I wanted to show pictures, but they are a little ghost pictures in fact [...] I represent the shadows. It is only recently, with his work on the "shadows", the artist began to use paintbrushes to be more precise. Previously he painted with his hands, a technique he judged the most effective for covering surfaces.  »  
Quenum references daily movement and interactions, such as taxis, school children, market women, and peddlers, as well as recreation and sports. In other works, he explores violence and corrupt political figures. Quenum adopts the role of the detached observer, depicting his surroundings not as a documentarian but in its immediacy and abstraction

(Source : Fondation Zinsou)

### SOLO SHOW

2016  
R ves et R alit s, Gallery 23, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2013  
Rupture, Fondation Zinsou, Cotonou, Benin  
Regards d racin s, Christopher Gerber Gallery, Lausanne, Switzerland

2012  
Dolls never die, October Gallery, London, UK

2010  
O drag o entre dois mundos, Museu Afro-Brasil, S o Paulo, Brazil  
Humeur d'artiste, R sidence Virchaux, Cotonou, Benin

2009  
Clandestins, October Gallery, London, UK

2007  
Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture, Fontainebleau, France  
R sidence et exposition aux Ateliers d'Allones, Allones, France

2004  
Exhibitions in Chalon-sur-Sa ne and Chagny, France

2000  
G rard Quenum, Treger Gallery, Art singulier, Rue Mazarine, Paris, France

1999  
Centre Culturel Fran sais, Cotonou, Benin

1998  
Voix int rieures, Maquis Dunya, Cotonou, Benin

### GROUP EXHIBITION

2018  
In-Discipline #1, Espace Montresso, Marrakech, Morocco  
Everyday Africa!, Zinsou Foundation, Cotonou, Benin

2017  
Stop Ma Pa Ta (Ma mati re premi re n'est pas ta mati re), Villa d'Arson, Nice, France  
G rard Quenum & Vanessa Rosa, Arts and Cultures Centre, Abomey-Calavi, Benin

2016  
Dreams & Realities, Gallery 23, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Foot foraine, La Villette, Paris, France

2015  
Folk Art Africain ?, FRAC Aquitaine, Bordeaux, France

2014  
1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, England

2013  
Sculpteurs bĀ©ninois contemporains -De la tradition Ā la modernitĀ©, Galerie Vallois, Paris, France  
Hommage, Institut FranĀais, Cotonou, Benin

2012  
BĀ©nin contemporain, Vallois Gallery, Paris, France  
Moving into space: Football and Art in West Africa, Exposition inaugurale du MusĀ©e National du Football, Manchester, UK  
No limit - Une oeuvre/un artiste, Imane FarĀs Gallery, Paris, France  
Inventer le monde : l'artiste citoyen, Biennale BĀ©nin 2012, Centre Kora, Cotonou, Benin

2011  
CrĀ©e la sculpture Aido Wedo pour Africa Museum, Berg en Dal, Hollande  
Āfrica ancestral e contemporĀnea, Centro Municipal de Arte H. Oiticica, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2010  
Fesman (Festival Mondial des Arts NĀgres), Dakar, Senegal  
Regard - BĀ©nin - 1.0 , Cotonou, Benin  
GĀ©rard Quenum et Dominique ZinkpĀ, Les Chailloux, St Boil, France

2009  
O Benin estĀ; vivo ainda IĀ, Museu da Cultura Afro-Brasileira, Salvador-de-Bahia, Brazil  
Artistes contemporains du BĀ©nin, ChĀteau des Gondi Gallery, Joigny, France  
Voo-Doo / Hoochie Coochie & the crĀ©ative spirit, Riflemakers, London, UK

2008  
BĀ©nin 2059, Ā Fondation Zinsou, Cotonou, Benin  
Bienal 2008, Ā Partilhar territorios, SĀ©o TomĀ© et Principe  
L'oeil de CaĀnĀ - Festival Sun'art, Lourmarin, France  
Angaza Afrika, African Art Now, October Gallery, London, UK  
BĀ©nin, corps et Āme, MĀ©diathĀque de Melun, France  
Benin, de corpo e alma, Bernardo Marques Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal

2007  
O Benin estĀ; vivo ainda IĀ, Museu Afro-Brasil, SĀ©o Paulo, Brazil  
Voyages - Crossing the Lake of Fire, October Gallery, Londres, UK  
Reflets Afrique, Ā l'Espal, Le Mans, France

2004  
Africas, Galerie Raquel Arnaud, SĀ©o Paulo, Brazil  
RĀ©alisation d'un atelier et d'une sculpture Ā Chalon-sur-SaĀne, France

2003  
Wall Creation, with the artists ZinkpĀ & Tchif, Limoges, France

2002  
Group CrĀ©ation with 8 artists, Pontigny, France  
Ewole, Fine Arts International Encounters, Togo

2001  
Boulv'art, La Ciotat, France  
Boulv'art, les artistes dans la rue, Cotonou, Benin  
Tchif, Quenum, ZinkpĀ, 3 jeunes bĀ©ninois, touring exhibition, Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast

2000  
L'harmattan 2000, 1er salon bĀ©ninois d'art contemporain, Cotonou, Benin  
Rendering visible, contemporary art from the Republic of Benin, October Gallery, London & Cambridge University, UK  
Boulv'art, les artistes dans la rue, Cotonou, Benin  
BĀ©nin, Mairie de Cergy-Pontoise, France

1999  
Boulv'art, les artistes dans la rue, Cotonou, Benin

1996  
Ewole, Fine Arts International Encounters, Togo

1995  
Art bĀ©ninois contemporain, Centre Culturel FranĀais, Cotonou, Benin

1994  
Festaco, Porto Novo, Benin

## Collections

The British Museum, London, England  
Collection Pigozzi, Geneva, Switzerland  
Museu Afro-Brasil, So Paulo, Brasil  
National Museum, Edinburgh, Scotland  
Estdio Buck, So Paulo, Brazil  
Galeria Bernardo Marques, Edinburgh, Portugal  
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France  
Afrika Museum, Berg en Dal, the Netherlands  
Benin government  
Private Collections