

Memoria: accounts of another History

Enam Gbewonyo, The Oculus/The Third Eye, 2019. Image credit: artness

Exhibition

5 February
21 August 2021

Frac-Nouvelle Aquitaine MÉCA

5, Parvis Corto Maltese
33800 Bordeaux - France

*This exhibition is part of the Saison
Africa2020 Women Focus.*

artness - art projects agency

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Beyond testifying to the central role of memory in our history, *Memoria: accounts of another History* reveals the essence of the works of artists from Africa and its diasporas – artists committed to their practices, strong in their narrative power, and anchored in their fluctuating geographies and in their time.

The exhibition presents the idea of a collective memory made up of a myriad of narratives, stories, histories, questions, and experiences, scattered throughout our individual, personal, and intimate recollections. It is revealed through the works of fourteen artists that refer to the (re)construction of a common whole, a universal whole, which renews our view of contemporary creation from Africa and its diasporas.

The selected works traverse painting, textiles, sculpture, video, and even performance. They make up a sequence, echoing on the one hand a demystified reading of parts of history and commonly disclosed beliefs about the African continent and, on the other hand, the way in which the devices of imaginary stories are still in action, particularly regarding economics and the redistribution of resources.

The common thread running through the exhibition is that of memory; a thread that unfolds throughout shared narratives, across the three themes addressed: *From the Intimate to the Universal: Rewriting a Shared History*, *When Memory Becomes Politics*; and, *Fabulations, Fictions, and Other Fantasies: Memory on the Move*.



Gosette Lubondo, Imaginary trip II 2017. Image credit: musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac

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The exhibition was devised as a story in three chapters. Each of them explores, from different angles, the personal progression of memory present in the works of each artist.

From the Intimate to the Universal – Rewriting a Shared History: Mary Sibande, Georgina Maxim, Tuli Mekondjo, Enam Gbewonyo, Myriam Mihindou, Dalila Dalléas Bouzar. This first chapter of the exhibition explores the different paths taken by artists to write their personal experiences and make their stories heard.

When Memory Becomes Politics: Otobong Nkanga, Ndidi Dike, Bouchra Khalili, Gosette Lubondo. The second chapter questions memory in its critical dimension; the way in which artists use it as a method of denunciation, particularly regarding the redistribution and

exploitation of human, natural, and material resources.

Fabulations, Fictions, and Other Fantasies - Memory on the Move: Josèfa Ntjam, Na Chainkua Reindorf, Selly Raby Kane, Wangechi Mutu. The third and last chapter lifts the veil on a creative, uninhibited future, strengthened by a memory that is acknowledged and celebrated. An infinite dialogue is established between art, science, new technologies, and a form of social activism – fertile ground for writing innovative and subversive narratives.

List of exhibited artists:

DALILA DALLÉAS BOUZAR, NDIDI DIKE, ENAM GBEWONYO, BOUCHRA KHALILI, GOSETTE LUBONDO, GEORGINA MAXIM, TULI MEKONDJO, MYRIAM MIHINDOU, WANGECHI MUTU, OTOBONG NKANGA, JOSÈFA NTJAM, SELLY RABY KANE, NA CHAINKUA REINDORF, MARY SIBANDE.



Na Chainkua Reindorf, Bomi, 2020. Image credit: artness

Nadine Hounkpatin & Céline Seror

Curators

Memoria: accounts of
another History

are independent consultants and curators, specialising in contemporary art from Africa and its diasporas. In 2013, they founded the cultural agency, artness, and invested in the development of the IAM - *Intense Art Magazine* (2014-2018), the first platform dedicated to contemporary artistic creation by women in Africa, and then created the print and digital platform, *The Art Momentum* (2018).

They share a common vision – placing the voice of the artist at the centre of the art world – and defend the values of collaboration and transculturality through an extensive network of artists, authors, art critics, and curators.

For almost ten years, the duo has actively participated in the promotion of new voices and narratives from the African continent through their publications and the artistic and

cultural projects they have designed in Africa and the rest of the world.

From *Le Havre-Dakar, Partager la Mémoire* (Muséum d'histoire naturelle du Havre, 2016) to *Memoria: accounts of another History* (Frac Nouvelle-Aquitaine méca, 2021), the duo continues to explore the theme of the reappropriation of the narrative, the rewriting of history, and the constitution of a universal memory.

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Memoria: récits d'une autre Histoire

Dalila Dalléas Bouzar
Ndid Dike
Enam Gbewonyo
Bouchra Khalili
Gosette Lubondo
Georgina Maxim
Tuli Mekondjo
Myriam Mihindou
Wangechi Mutu
Otobong Nkanga
Josèfa Ntjam
Selly Raby Kane
Na Chainkua Reindorf
Mary Sibande

*Au-delà de témoigner
du rôle central de la mémoire
dans notre Histoire,
Memoria: récits d'une
autre Histoire révèle
l'essence d'œuvres d'artistes
originaires d'Afrique
et de ses diasporas. Artistes
aux pratiques engagées,
fortes de leur pouvoir de
narration, ancrées dans
leurs géographies fluctuantes
et dans leur temps.*

Fr^oc
Nouvelle-Aquitaine
MÉCA

ACTES SUD

Exhibition Catalogue

Memoria: accounts of another History

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Beyond testifying to the central role of memory in our history, *Memoria: accounts of another History* reveals the essence of the works of artists from Africa and its diasporas. Artists with committed practices, strong in their narrative power, and anchored in their fluctuating geographies and in their time.

Authors:

Valerie Behiery, Chris Cyrille, Dominique Fontaine, Oulimata Gueye, Nadine Hounkpatin, Claire Jacquet, Ashraf Jamal, Ladi'Sasha Jones, Martha Kazungu, Nadia Yala Kisukidi, Anne Lafont, Rafael Lucas, Bernard de Montferrand, Sonia Recasens, Céline Seror.

"It's not that colonial times are haunting us, it's our counterpoint stories that carry on haunting them."

CHRIS CYRILLE

"To shift the gaze to become the subjects of our own story."

OULIMATA GUEYE

"To think about Black and African worlds is to think about this roaming of memory."

NADIA YALA KISUDI KI

"Defy amnesia. Make visible the struggles and rebellions, historical or current, by anchoring them in the present."

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