



fondation**Blachère**

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URBAN AFRICA AND ITS MARGINS

MARCH 26TH – SEPTEMBER 26TH 2015

FONDATION BLACHERE – APT (FRANCE)

On March 26th, Fondation Blachère hosts an exhibition with 15 major, renown and emerging contemporary artists from Africa: *Visibles/Invisibles*.

Painters, photographers, video makers and sculptors will present works about contemporary urban Africa and its “invisible” minorities.

The Internationally renown Artists South-African William Kentridge, Congo photographer Sammy Baloji with younger confirmed talents photographer Nyaba Léon Ouedraogo and painter Dawit Abebe made the choice to question the concept of “margin” in Africa.

Africa is understandable also through its minorities, its “margins”. Contemporary artists invite us to change your perception, to “re-learn” to see the daily reality that some media contributed to hide from us or to present as “clichés”.

African contemporary art thus plays the role of a revealing: it gives life, form, word and dignity to the people made invisible who inhabit the Continent.

Modest everyday people, informal sector workers, disabled persons, prostitutes, homosexuals, street children, all those who never make the cover of “moving forward” Africa.

Visible and invisible: what is there, in the shadow, not really hidden but not much considered, not much convened. The artist as a seer, the one who looks and makes us look.

The representation of the disabled in Africa by Malik Njemi, grandmothers playing football from Orange Farm Township by Andrew Esiebo, women accused of sorcery and banned from their village then revealed by Nyaba Léon Ouedraogo, prostitutes from Addis Abeba by Michael Tsebaye, imprisoned then liberated female bodies by Tunisian photographer Mouna Karray, Felix, the South-African anonymous militant by William Kentridge... All these portraits question the spectator.

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“You are the only one seeing us, because nobody cares about us”, is said to Burkinabe photographer Nyaba Léon Ouedraogo.

Facing the institutional operators, many artists and citizens form autonomous networks connected to a renowned professional activity, as waste sorters, musicians, informal shopkeepers... These networks develop their own alternative codes to dominant ones.

Especially made for this exhibition, these works and installations echoe Fondation Blachere’s principles, launched 10 years ago: to shown Africa and its artists in a resolutely contemporary way, without any fatalism or do-gooding.

Photographers: Sammy Baloji (Democratic Republic of Congo), Jodi Bieber (South Africa), Andrew Esiebo (Nigeria), Mouna Karray (Tunisia), Nadja Makhlouf (France/Algeria), Malik Njemi (France), Nyaba Léon Ouédraogo (Burkina-Faso), Michael Tsegaye (Ethiopia).

Painters: Dawit Abebe (Ethiopia), Deborah Bell (South Africa), William Kentridge (South Africa), Ransome Stanley (Germany/Nigeria).

Sculptors / video makers: Clay Apenovon (Togo), Berry Bickle (Zimbabwe), Alex Burke (France), Nadja Makhouf, Nyaba Léon Ouédraogo.

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