

Abdoul Mujiyambere

Rwanda

Biography

Abdoul Mujiyambere is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in Kigali. In 2010, Abdoul was admitted to the National University of Rwanda to study Arts and Languages, where he discovered his passion for movement and became a member of a student contemporary dance company INSHOZA, before discovering his other passion for visual arts and fashion.

Abdoul Mujiyambere's work deals with various themes such as identity, body, beauty and memory. Since 2015, he has been more and more dedicated to promoting art through the mediums of fashion and visual arts, especially photography, film art and more recently his clothing line A&M. His recent works include KIGALI on the Horizon (2020), Focus (2020), Kigali Blues (2021), Kigali on the Horizon (2020), INTWALI SS21 and REBIRTH (2022). In early 2021, he was selected as one of the top Rwandan entrepreneurs for the 2021 RAI/ Imbutu Foundation Incubation Program. Mujiyambere was also selected to represent Rwanda in the Transfrontaliers project of the Artists Collective of French-speaking Countries (2021). In 2021, he also received the Prince Clouse Award.

The work: aesthetic positions

Abdoul Mujiyambere: "I am a Rwandan artist born and living in Kigali, working in different artistic disciplines.

My artistic work ranges from fashion to visual arts to performing arts. In the last five years, both as a learner and as an art maker, I have developed some themes that I identify with, such as: memory, beauty, body and identity. I have experimented with these themes and created various works including "Body Memories", "The Memories" and "Kigali body works" which were created using various mediums such as film, photography, fashion and dance theater.

My interest as a black Rwandan artist is to create new narratives that faithfully represent my personal values as well as those of my community and create a starting point for exchange with the rest of the world.

My artistic works are strongly influenced by the reality of the pandemic, of Covid-19, as it affected me in many ways: socially, mentally, economically, physically, and more.

This has led me to depict in my works my current situation during the crisis, which still weighs heavily on my shoulders.

I believe in the power of art as a path to positive social change for humanity."

The Artworks

Kigali on the Horizon

2020

Size: 140 x 100 cm

Limited edition: 12 pieces

Kigali Blues

2020

Size: 40 x 100 cm

Limited edition: 12 pieces

Kigali Pink Project

2020

Size: 42 x 59,4 cm

Limited edition: 15 pieces

Diego Angels I

2019

Size: 42 x 59,4 cm

Limited edition: 15 pieces

Diego Angels II

2019

Size: 42 x 59,4 cm

Limited edition: 15 pieces

Work comment by kukutana

Staged self-representations, foreign representations in front of the city view of Kigali, far away on the horizon, hidden in the haze. A man in a pink and white outfit with an object (box, helmet, TV set) on his shoulders with his head inside. He has

the "Kigali Blues", is lonely, sad, melancholic, just feels the blues. That's just the way it is; he stands there with his left leg slightly bent, making no progress, rooted to the spot in the current situation. That's just the way it is.

The artist has captured the standstill of the pandemic vividly. The same applies to the staging of "Kigali on the Horizon". With their faces turned away, the people covered by blue capes, a child and an adult stand in front of Kigali, which can be glimpsed on the horizon. The adult holds three balloons in his hand, the child one. Will they be released? Will they rise and fly? Frozen time here too - a farewell, an arrival, an in-between moment. Does the child have a future? Which one? The place of longing Kigali holds no answers, waiting is the order.

The "Kigali Pink Project" follows on from Kigali Blues. Four women in white and pink robes; here, too, the heads are hidden in a box object. Frozen, like statues, they stand grouped there. Waiting, but for what? That time will pass? That the virus will disappear? When will they come to life? A scene from a science fiction, beings from a distant planet, landed on earth - stranded in an unreality, an inhospitality. Hope, that it will pass? Strength to keep waiting?

The series "Diego Angels" shows other productions. Here, too, the faces of the protagonists (young men) are hidden. One of them stands with his back to the viewer, the others have shirts pulled over their faces and present their naked upper bodies. They are in the city, on the street. The light is clear, not blurred by mists. But even here the figures are statuesque, the moment is deliberately frozen. The protagonists radiate mute rage. When will the young people be given back their lives? Can they take on the world? Is their strength enough?