

William Bakäïmo

Cameroon

Biography

A view from the outside: "THE MAN OF SKINS: You cannot reduce an artist to his work, to his sole motivation, without trying to grasp his personality. William Bakäïmo is not one of those people you can see through in five minutes, and even five years would not be enough to grasp him. Everyone carries within himself a part of the secret, his secret garden, and that is just as well. So we will take the time to discover him on his brilliantly begun path. Since he was five years old, he drew continuously, building his own world. By the time he entered secondary school, he was already designing greeting cards to sell to his classmates.

After successfully completing secondary school, he earned a bachelor's degree in private law and a master's degree in business law. In the process, he overlooked a burning desire to live out his creative streak. In 2017, he earned a degree in design engineering in fine arts and decided to dedicate himself to painting for good. With that, he had completed his first molt.

He knows the road will be difficult, but so what! The difficulties? Young William learns very early what the word means because he experiences them every day. As the third child of a family of eight children, he bears responsibility even though he is plagued by an unspeakable fear of tomorrow, which consists of fighting to meet his constant needs. In the extreme north of Cameroon, William Bakäïmo suffers from isolation, which, while encouraging creative work, proves to be an obstacle to an artistic career.

Another molt is announced, rich, luxuriant and astonishing. The one in which the young man transforms reality into a world created from scratch, into a labyrinth where doubts stand next to contradictions and hope triumphs over fears.

2017 and 2018 are hinge years in which he creates his first masterpieces outside the school academic way of painting. In these years he tries to free himself from his inner self, from the fear of not being able to adapt to the needs of life. Then begins the great molt, the transformation of the young man into an artist with numerous messages in which hope triumphs over darkness.

The artist William Bakäïmo is born.

Exhibitions

2018

La Cyrde Gallery, Aix en Provence, France

2019

Annie Kadji Gallery, Douala, Cameroon

Espace Bolo Art, Douala, Cameroon

Douala Art Fair, Douala, Cameroon

2020

Carthage, Carthage, Tunisia

Claire Corcia Gallery, Paris, France

Wemah Art Project, Douala, Cameroon

Douala Art, Douala, Cameroon

The artwork: aesthetic positions

THE LIZARD THAT SLUMBERS WITHIN ME....

The work of William Bakaïmo is a great dreamlike bestiary in which people are no longer people and animals are no longer animals. In this strange Noah's Ark, the imaginary and the dream occupy a considerable part to describe a reality that increasingly eludes the artist. But what his subconscious dictates is mastered much better than one might think. Therein lies the genius of the artist: he blurs the tracks to give us images that ask us questions.

These hybrid figures, half human, half bird or other rare species, belong to the fantasy garden of their creator. As he says himself, "The lizard in me sheds its skin every time to become a new man". In this sense, the small reptile will often appear in his paintings as a symbolic animal of hope, of rediscovered happiness and of the painter who is ceaselessly renewing himself.

For the observer and art lover, a painting by William Bakaïmo offers numerous readings, because the most secret thing he carries within him is surprisingly closely linked to his immediate environment or to current events that influence his life and his pictorial universe. In the strange bestiary we find what lives and pulsates in his heart and soul, but also other dramas that crush the African continent. He reconciles the inner revolts with other, more conscious struggles. For example, the terrorist attacks of Boko Haram deeply impressed and outraged him, as did the fate of children on the African continent.

This world he has built has not locked the artist into a watertight bubble. Instead, he acknowledges the influence of other Cameroonian artists such as Joel Mpah Dooh and Hako Hankson, whose finely cleaned figures are surprisingly

spontaneous, but also Basquiat, whose work has that authenticity that William seeks.

The artist continues to evolve over time, in more recent paintings such as "Freedom" or "Bororo am" William Bakaimo expands his project and explores different painterly approaches, but always remains in tune with his world. One senses that he is driven by creative impulses, by a new joy in painting, despite the difficulties he faces. These are technically demanding works, which are already among the most important of his works. They are harbingers of other works whose surprise he will reveal to us in some time. Together with his friend Moustapha Baidi Oumarou, William belongs to a new generation of emerging talents that make Cameroon one of the leading countries in the field of contemporary art.

The artworks

Le Gardien de L 'Amour

Acrylic, drawing pencils on canvas

2019

Size: 160 x 180 cm

Èphémère Semences

Pencil, collage on paper

2020

Size: 29,5 x 42 cm

Passe Temps 1

collage, acrylic, pen on paper

2021

size: 29,5 x 42 cm

True Love

materials, drawing pen, collage on quality paper

size: 29,5 x 99 cm

On the Road

Acrylic, drawing pens and ink on canvas

2019

Size: 130 x 150 cm

Work comment by kukutana

Cameroonian artist William Bakaimo shows a multiform, multicolored, multi-moving fantastic world deeply rooted in everyday life, everyday experience. People and animals and plants or things are alike, are connected, resemble each other, form the world of his paintings. It is about scenes and articulations of the human: Real Love, On the Road, Letting Time Pass and Taking a Break - but also reaching into another universe: ephemeral seeds and the guardian of love. These are some of the titles of his works, which can be attributed to fantastic realism. Inner images are recorded and made to appear, the world behind the world becomes visible. The works seem cheerful, joyful, even if they show potentially threatening things: Life goes on.