

SULGER-BUEL GALLERY



Steve Bandoma

Born 1981 in Kinshasa, D.R.C

Lives and works in Kinshasa, D.R.C

A graduate from the Academy of Fine Arts in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Steve Bandoma is an arts and political activist who speaks truth to power through his hard-hitting works. While his CV includes numerous exhibitions, prestigious awards, and residencies, he remains dedicated to furthering contemporary art in his home country.

As an art student, he co-founded *Librisme Synergie*, an avant-garde collective that challenged the conservatism of the Academy and Congolese art world. After graduating in 2004 he moved to South Africa to continue his studies and build his artistic career. Through determination and hard work, his works drew attention and were featured in group and solo exhibitions in South Africa and internationally. Returning to Kinshasa in 2011 he founded *Quoi de Neuf*, a platform for promoting contemporary art in the DRC.

Bandoma's art is at once a powerful mode of socio-political critique and a platform of conceptual exploration and formal innovation. Thematically his work addresses the intersections of global capitalism, consumer culture, identity politics and the scourge of neo-colonialism as it manifests in Africa. By citing imperial and religious history, classicism and myth, he uses intertextuality to reveal the complex relationships between the past and present.

The Loft, 51 Surrey Row, Unit 2 La Gare
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The artist predominantly works in mixed media on paper. Working as a subversive bricoleur, his sculptural and installation works are similarly assemblages of found and recycled objects.

The human form is central to Bandoma's work. The body is, however, never intact and might be read as a symbol of society, consumerism, power or of the contemporary psyche. He conjures distorted figures or monstrous hybrids from confluences of limbs, organs and facial features that threaten to explode or self-implode. Some works read like puzzles, with archetypal images and religious or consumer icons acting as visual cues. In his satirical paintings, the powerful themselves fall victim to the plagues of violence they've unleashed. The visible brushstrokes, ink dribbles, and paint splatters contribute to a sense of instability and underscore the artist's portent of our self-destructive world order. Other paintings overwhelm in their simplicity and striking combinations of the seemingly disparate: spiritual and materialistic, contemporary and traditional, beauty and horror. Even when they repel us, the tragic figures illicit pathos.

While working from an African context, his work addresses universal themes and speaks to the human condition. The significance of his contemporary artistic expression is recognised through his inclusion in such group exhibitions as *Beauty Congo* at the Cartier Foundation in Paris (2015), the 1- 54 Contemporary African Art Fairs in London and New York (2014, 2015), and the travelling exhibition *Kongo Across the Water* (2014-2015). His work featured in *Evora Africa* in Portugal (2018) and was most recently included in *Kinshasa Megapolis* in Leipzig and the Lubumbashi Biennale, Kinshasa. Bandoma has had several solo exhibitions in the DRC and South Africa, in Europe, the USA and the United Kingdom. He's received scholarships from Pro Helvetica, Greatmore Studios and Design Indaba and held residences at the Nirox Foundation in Johannesburg, the French Institute in Kinshasa and the International City of the Arts, Paris.

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Education

- 2018 Cultural Animation and Development Degree, I.N.A
- 2011 Introduction to Leadership in the Arts (Arts & Culture Trust), Cape Town, S.A
- 2008 Multi Mediations in Contemporary Art, City Varsity (School of Media & Creative Arts) Cape Town, S.A
- 2004 Bachelor of Fine Arts, (Painting), Academy of Arts, Kinshasa, D.R.C
- 2000 National Diploma (Ceramics) IBA (Institute of Fine Arts) Kinshasa, D.R.C

Scholarships & Grants

- 2011 *Wyss Scholarship*, Cantonal School of Art of Valais, Switzerland
Two thousand ten reasons to live in a small city (Visual Arts Network of South Africa)
Johannesburg, S.A
French Institute (IF), Pointe Noire, Brazzaville, D.R.C
- 2009 *Visas for Creation*, Africa and the Caribbean as Creation Cultures, Paris, France
Pro Helvetia, Swiss Scholarship for Culture, Zurich, Switzerland
Art Buzz Collection (Honourable Mention Award), U.S.A
- 2008 Greatmore Studios, Cape Town, South Africa
The Best Artreach, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Design Indaba, (Most creative Group Booth Award), Cape Town, S.A
- 2007 Winners of Table Mountain (Group), Cape Town, South Africa

Permanent Collections

- Pigozzi (CAAC) Contemporary African Art Collection, Geneva, Switzerland
- Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa
- New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA), New Orleans, United States of America

Artist Residencies

- 2019 *Future Genealogy*, Pisha, Lubumbashi Biennale, Kinshasa, D.R.C
- 2012 *Mutatis Mutandis*, French Institute, Kinshasa, D.R.C
- 2011 Nirox Foundation (With Geoffrey Hendricks and Lorenzo Fusi) Johannesburg, S.A
French Institute of Pointe, Congo Brazzaville, D.R.C
- 2009 International City of the Arts, Paris, France
Manpower, Creative Space and Citizen, Paris, France
Business Man, Infecting the City, The Africa Centre, Cape Town
F + F School of Arts, Pro Helvetia (Swiss Visa for Culture) Zurich, Switzerland
- 2008 Greatmore Studios, Cape Town, South Africa

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Solo Exhibitions

- 2017 *Possession*, Espace Texaf Bilembo, Kinshasa, D.R.C
2015 Swab Art Fair (Galerie Angalia) Barcelona, Spain
2014 *Kin la belle*, Jack Bell Gallery, London, U.K
2013 *Combat du siècle*, Galerie Antonio Nardone, Brussels, Belgium
Mutatis Mutandis, (CCF) French Cultural Centre of Kinshasa, Kinshasa, D.R.C
2012 *New Work from Kinshasa*, Jack Bell Gallery, London, U.K
L'heure des shocs, Wallonia Brussels International of Kinshasa, Kinshasa, D.R.C
2011 (CCF) French Cultural Centre, Pointe-Noire, Brazzaville, D.R.C
2009 *Feminism*, International City of the Arts, Paris, France
AVA Gallery, Cape Town, S.A
2008 *Contempocalypse*, Alliance Française, Cape Town, S.A

Group Exhibitions

- 2019 *Généalogies futures*, Lubumbashi Biennale, Kinshasa, D.R.C
Kinshasa Megapolis, Museum Grassi, Leipzig, Germany
2018 *Evora Africa*, Magnin-A, Portugal
2016 *Tomorrow Kinshasa*, (Exhibition as part of *Utopian Days*), Franco-German Cultural Heritage Program, French Institute, Kinshasa, D.R.C
African Artists Enlightenment, African Artists for Development (AAD), Abidjan, C.I
2015 *African Artists Enlightenment*, African Artists for Development (AAD), Paris, France
Towards Intersection, !Kauru Contemporary Art from Africa, Pretoria, S.A
African Imagined (ACT1), Sandton Art Gallery, Johannesburg, S.A
Beauty Congo - 1926-2015 - Congo Kitoko, Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art, Paris, France
Ostrale'015, 9th Biennale of Contemporary Art, Ostragehege, Germany
1- 54 Contemporary African Art Fair (Jack Bell Gallery), London, U.K
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, (Jack Bell Gallery), New York, U.S.A
Kongo across the water, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, U.S.A
2014 *Kongo across the water*, Princeton University Art Museum, New Jersey, U.S.A
Kongo across the water, Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium
2013 Art Paris Art Fair, (Magnin-A), Paris, France
OFF Art Fair, (Galerie Antonio Nardone) Brussels, Belgium
London Art Fair, (Jack Bell Gallery) London, U.K
Kongo across the water, Samuel P. Harn Museum, Florida, U.S.A
Kongo across the water, University Press of Florida, Florida, U.S.A
Maendeleo, Walloon Centre for Contemporary Art (CWAC), La Châtaigneraie, Belgium
Lubumbashi Inakaribisha Kinshasa, Dialogues ASBL, Lubumbashi, D.R.C

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- 2012 *The Ghosts*, Jack Bell Gallery, London, United Kingdom
The Menippean Uprising, Blank Projects, Cape Town, S.A
- 2011 Focus 11 (Contemporary African Art), Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Frech, Everard Read Cape Town, Cape Town, S.A
Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Two thousand and ten reasons to live in a small town, Goethe on Main, J.H.B, S.A
- 2010 Focus 10 (Contemporary African Art), Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Space: Currencies in Contemporary African Art, Museum Africa, Johannesburg, S.A
- 2008 *The Best Artreach*, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, S.A
Intervention, UNISA Art Gallery, Pretoria, S.A
Ambazonia, Nelson Mandela Museum, Cape Town, S.A
- 2007 *Human Trafficking*, Iziko Slave Lodge Museum, Cape Town, S.A
Cape Biennale (Blank Projects) Cape Town, S.A
- 2006 *Human Trafficking*, Iziko Slave Lodge Museum, Cape Town, S.A
- 2004 Artistic Village (Edition 1, 2 &3), Kinshasa, D.R.C
- 2002 Boboto Cultural Centre Gallery, Kinshasa, D.R.C
- 2000 Academy of Fine Arts Gallery, Kinshasa, D.R.C

Collaborations

- 2010 *HIV it happens* with Geoffrey Hendricks (U.S.A) and Anthea Moys (S.A), University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011 *Up and down* with Maurice M. Black, *Two thousand and ten reasons to live in a small city* (Visual Arts Network of South Africa) Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2009 *Home Affairs* (Site specific performance with Athi Patra-Ruga), The Africa Centre, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2008 *Soft*, (Multimedia performance with Kai Lossgott), 24 Hours Festival (PANSA), Cape Town, South Africa
- 2004 *Synergie Librisme* (Group exhibition of young emerging artists), CCF, Kinshasa, D.R.C
- 2007 X-Cape Festival, Cape 07 Biennale, Cape Town, South Africa

Workshops

- 2010 *Two thousand and ten reasons to live in a small town* (Visual Arts Network of South Africa) Cape Town, South Africa
Millennium 2010 (With Bettina Malcomess), Millennium Bar, Cape Town, S.A
- 2008 *Fundraising* (In partnership between Cape Africa Platforme and VANSA), Cape Town, South Africa
Writing (In partnership with Cape Africa Platforme and Greatmore Studios), Cape Town, South Africa

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Facilitator Workshop (Professional presentation, CV, Power Point), Cape Town, S.A
2007 Mural Workshop Facilitator, Spier Contemporary 2007, Cape Town, South Africa
ABAZOBIE atelier, Nelson Mandela Museum, Robben Island, Cape Town, South Africa

Publications

Kongo across the water, (Catalogue) Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium
Kongo across the water, (Catalogue) Samuel P. Harn Museum, Florida, U.S.A
Kongo across the water, (Catalogue) University Press of Florida, Florida, U.S.A
London Art Fair 2013 (Catalogue) Jack Bell Gallery, London, United Kingdom
Critical text on Contemporary African Art (Magazine), Third Edition of SAVVY Journal
The Shock Hour (Catalogue) Wallonia-Brussels International, Brussels, Belgium
Space: Currencies in Contemporary African Art (Catalogue book), Written by Thembi Nkosi Goniwe and Melissa Mboweni, Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa
POP (Book)
Intervention (Catalogue), UNISA Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa

Video

2019 Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, [*Megalopolis - Voices from Kinshasa: Steve Bandoma*](#)
2016 The Screams of Africa, [*Good Way Steve Bandoma*](#)
2015 Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art, [*Beauty Congo - Interview with Steve Bandoma - 2015*](#)
2013 Alqarra Tv, [*L'art contemporain version Steve Bandoma*](#)

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